

love stories

Five couples share the sweet stories that led them to “I do.”

BY CAROLYN MEERS



melyssa & darren • Venice Beach

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHANIE MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

After a chance meeting (Darren left his phone number at a sports bar—and Melyssa called!) and three years of dating, Darren added an extra celebratory moment to a party for Melyssa’s daughter’s first dance recital. “We were getting ready to take pictures, and he lowered himself to the ground,” she says. Thinking her daughter’s dress needed adjusting, Melyssa started to kneel down too. “It turns out he was getting down on one knee to propose to the both of us,” she says. “My daughter was jumping up and down, and I was speechless.” *The ring: private designer >>*



Pauline & Eddie

Mill Valley

PHOTOGRAPH BY ORANGE
TURTLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Pauline met Eddie at a coffee shop in Walnut Creek for “what was supposed to be a quick are-you-a-crazy-person coffee date,” she says. It turned into an hours-long conversation, as they bonded over their love of books and travel. On a clear night two years later, Eddie surprised Pauline with an evening cruise to Tiburon. “The view was breathtaking,” Pauline says. “The San Francisco skyline was to our left, the majestic silhouette of the Golden Gate Bridge was to our right.” Eddie presented Pauline with a handmade scrapbook of their memories together—photos, movie and concert ticket stubs—before asking her to be his wife. *The ring: Chabo’s Jewelry*

Allyn & Jonathan

Sacramento

PHOTOGRAPH BY VALLEY
IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY

A few months after their two year anniversary, Jonathan and Allyn traveled to London and Paris, where Jonathan secretly planned to pop the question. He hid the ring in a messenger bag, which he carried the entire time, waiting for the right moment. “He told me he thought it made him look more European and less like a tourist,” Allyn says. On their last day in the City of Light, Jonathan found his moment at the top of the Sacré-Coeur, and Allyn turned from admiring the view to see him on one knee. *The ring: Certified Jewelers Replacement Services Inc. >>*



laura & aaron

Palm Springs

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHLEEN
GEIBERGER ART

Ten years after Laura handed Aaron her AIM name on a Domino's Pizza box scrap at a pool party, Aaron halted her birthday festivities for what guests thought was a welcome speech. As guests circled around the couple, Aaron's brother and best friend lifted him out of his wheelchair and helped position him on one knee in front of Laura. "Aaron told me, 'We've been through so much together,'" Laura says, a nod to their meeting shortly after a wrestling injury that left him paralyzed. He continued: "You're my best friend and always will be—will you marry me?" The crowd went wild when Laura said "yes." *The ring: Macy's*



michelle & kenneth

Anaheim

PHOTOGRAPH BY PRISCILLA
FREY PHOTOGRAPHY

Nearly three years after meeting at a Hollywood nightclub, Michelle and Kenneth took a trip to New York City. Upon arriving at Central Park for "a formal dinner," Kenneth led Michelle to a quiet area where a musician was singing. When the performer began belting out the couple's favorite song, "Hard to Concentrate" by The Red Hot Chili Peppers, Michelle knew something big was about to take place. Kenneth proposed and, according to plan, had a photographer capture the moment. *The ring: James Allen*

