

# Prom, Pageant & Weddings

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## Boy meets Girl

A classic wedding story

How to describe the story of Mariah and husband Matt Durham? Well, it's simply the classic marry your high school sweetheart kind of love story.

**Boy meets Girl**  
 Mariah and Matt met when she was a freshman and he was a senior. In fall 2006 both were serving on student council at Franklin-Simpson High School. Mariah had to wait until her birthday in April for their first date, which they jokes is the first time he was allowed to come to church with her. The couple attended Matt's senior prom together and by December of that year were an official couple.

While Matt was in Lexington attending the University of Kentucky, Mariah was a finishing high school. The couple spent three years dating long distance, including time Matt spent in France studying international business at the University of Burgundy. Upon her graduation in 2010, Mariah joined Matt in Lexington when she became a UK freshman.

### Boy asks Girl

So you might wonder how a guy could ever surprise his would-be fiancé when they've been together almost a quarter of their lives. Turns out it takes a little help from family, a lot of patience and maybe a little bit of deception.

Matt was working in Louisville during an internship with Price Waterhouse Coopers. Mariah had come home to Franklin for the summer and they, once again, were dating long distance. He was preparing



Photo by Jena Johnson  
 Mariah Durham and her bridesmaids reflected her theme of "Country Chic" when they donned cowboy boots before heading out to the reception. The former Mariah Rowland married Matt Durham on Aug. 4

for a work trip to Miami and told Mariah that he wouldn't be home for the weekend because he had to stay in Louisville to prepare for his upcoming trip. She was disappointed, to say the least.

"Oh, I was depressed," she says, remembering. "I was so

upset all week that he wouldn't come see me."

What she didn't know was that Matt had been working on assembling all of her family here in Franklin that weekend. Many who live out of town come here in the summer anyway, they just made the trip

earlier than usual. Matt worked co-ordinating people, schedules and work behind the scenes, all of this unknown to Mariah.

So rather than spending the weekend in Louisville, Matt drove to Franklin and waited undercover until Saturday, when he knew she would be at

a wedding. Once she was out of the house, friends and family convened there, along with Matt, despite the fact that the wedding she was attending was "right across the road" from her parents home.

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## Isn't it IRONIC?

BY MARSHA HERNDON  
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"It's like rain on your wedding day," says Alanis Morissette in her popular song from the 1990s. You might agree with her that it is ironic if there's no rain for two months then it chooses to pour on the one day you'd like to see sunny skies.

For some, a bit of rain might spoil their wedding day fun and a downpour would outright ruin it. But what if the country is in the middle of a drought? And the bride and groom are both from farming families? Well, all farmers know you should appreciate a good hard rain—especially when you've been without for almost two months.

When Sarah Manda

planned her wedding to John Halcomb, son of Franklin's Don and Meredith Halcomb, the reception was planned to take place in the backyard of her parent's Pleasant Hill, Mo. home. She spent her childhood there, the Manda's property backed up to her grandparents and many family gatherings were held there over the years.

Missouri, along with most of the rest of the country, was in the middle of a drought. It hadn't rained in almost two months. So when mother nature decided to end the drought of 2012 with a rainstorm the Friday evening before their wedding, the couple had to scramble to find an indoor venue for the wedding and reception.

Meredith Halcomb says being farm families, their



Photo by Allison Marie Photograph  
 John Halcomb and his bride Sarah Manda were married on Sept. 1 at Pleasant Hill First Presbyterian Church in Pleasant Hill, Mo. John Halcomb is the son of Don and Meredith Halcomb of Franklin. Their outdoor reception was rained out, but the couple made the best of it by moving the party indoors to the Pleasant Hill Memorial Building. Their wedding party was so large to accommodate all of their friends and family. Sarah has 3 brothers and sisters-in-law while John has one brother and sister-in-law. All of their nieces and nephews were a part of their day as well.

rain on a wedding day, some say it is bad luck, but most are in favor of it being a good omen for the marriage. The Italians even have a saying for it, "Sposa bagnata, sposa fortunata," which means that a wet bride is a lucky bride.

There are many myths and legends surrounding

Rain is considered lucky

in many other cultures as well. This is possibly because rain is associated with a bountiful harvest, and thus, fertility. Some believe that the rainier the wedding day, the more children the marriage will produce. Others say rain on the wedding day means no tears

in the marriage. No matter the truth, couples like John and Sarah know that a little bit of rain can be a good thing. And that they can deal with whatever comes their way, just like the irony of a rainy wedding day in the middle of a drought.

Prom, Pageants & the Perfect Wedding ... in this issue!