

College sweethearts to marry in May

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Persistence may have pried open the door to Kirsten Block's heart.

Three years ago, the 2008 Gothenburg High School graduate was immersed in studies at Hillsdale College during fall semester of her senior year.

That was when fellow collegiate Trevor Anderson mustered enough courage to tell Kirsten he wanted to spend time with her.

Trevor

"It was really much more than that but you can only say so much in that first conversation," he said.

Kirsten

Kirsten said she was hesitant at first.

"It was the busiest semester of my college career," she said, noting that she was in the midst of graduate school applications, a senior thesis, a heavy load of classes and was working three on-campus jobs.

"I literally had no time to give him."

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Kirsten had actually met Trevor, who's from San Leandro, CA, the first day of her freshman year at Hillsdale, a small liberal arts college in rural southern Michigan.

Now they were both seniors.

"We really didn't run in the same circles through most of college so our friendship didn't get much farther than a friendly conversation once or twice a semester," she recalls.

Trevor

For Trevor, there was a specific moment his junior year when Kirsten walked into the college cafeteria.



"Love can apparently bloom in any locale," he said.

When he spotted Kirsten, Trevor said he knew he wanted to marry her.

"The way she walked, talked, dressed and held herself, it suddenly dawned on me that she was only slightly less than a goddess," Trevor remembers.

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Still, he avoided making any advances for a while because he was quite sure she would turn him down.

Kirsten

Kirsten said she always thought Trevor friendly and funny when she bumped into him on campus but she didn't really know him.

The two also studied in England the summer before their senior year and "we ran into each other several times."

When Trevor did approach Kirsten, she said he was straightforward about his interest.

"I was the one who was uncertain, feeling like I needed to get to know him before I could even entertain the idea of being interested in him in return."

She told him she was willing to get to know him better but didn't have time unless he wanted to study with her.

"He surprised me when he took me up on the offer and spent the rest of the fall semester getting to know me over little study breaks to get coffee or to walk around the quad before returning to the books," Kirsten said.

Once January rolled around, Kirsten said she was ready to tell Trevor she was quite interested and the two began to date.

Since graduation from Hillsdale in May of 2012, the couple has had a long-distance relationship.

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Kirsten is now in her last semester of a master's program in early Christian studies at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN, and Trevor is working on a master's degree in philosophy and theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA.

The proposal

On the day Trevor proposed, the couple was supposed to meet in Philadelphia for a conference where they would deliver papers.

Kirsten had a couple of classes to attend before flying out of Chicago.

"When Trevor knocked on my door at 7 a.m., before it was even light outside, I was completely taken off guard," she said. "At first I thought he had just rearranged his flights so that he could travel with me from Chicago to Philadelphia but when he told me that I needed to cancel my flight and be ready to come with him at 8:30 a.m., I sort of suspected what was up."

Incredulous that he had shown up unexpectedly, Kirsten reminded him of the classes she needed to attend.

"Trevor informed me that he had cleared everything with my professors," Kirsten said.

The couple then drove to Hillsdale, a couple of hours from Notre Dame, and Trevor proposed in a place on campus where they used to walk together.

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