

(Entrants: Ricque Morrow, Harvey Greer)

Changing Lives on October 20

October 20, 1992 was a day that changed the life of my fiancé Ricque Morrow forever. Prior to that day, Ricque was the daughter of a single mother struggling to make ends meet. Ricque's mother Jean had endured her share of tribulations after having Ricque in 1987. She met her husband, Mark Morrow, while they were both earning their master's degrees from Edinboro University. On October 20, 1992, after Mark and Jean said "I do," Ricque was finally part of a complete family.

October 20, 2008 was also a day that changed the life of my fiancé Ricque forever. That was the day I took her on our first date. We met while working together at Starbucks Coffee in Erie, PA. I convinced her (after a fair amount of persuasive tactics) to give me a chance.

We met at a local El Canelo restaurant because we both love Mexican food. A sudden blizzard had rolled in that night. Snow in October isn't very common, but it certainly isn't surprising in Erie! Despite the heavy snowfall, we both risked the slick roads for our date. Ricque could tell I was nervous, but I did my best to play it smooth.

After our meal and lengthy after-dinner conversation, we said our goodbyes in the parking lot. The snow was coming down in Erie's typical lake-effect fashion, heavy and strong. As we embraced in the first of many subsequent hugs, lightning flashed and thunder crackled down around us. How distinctly unusual, I thought to myself, to have thunder and lightning during a blizzard!

The sparks from the lightning were like the sparks I was feeling about Ricque. I knew right then and there I had found someone who was worth pursuing. And that's exactly what I did.

October 20, 2009 was a day that changed my life forever. I had moved from Erie in August to attend graduate school at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. Ricque and I were faced with the extremely difficult challenge of long-distance dating.

She surprised me with a visit to West Chester that weekend. She drove the seven hours, through the night and across Pennsylvania, to see me. I was not expecting her, and when I saw her beaming (but understandably tired) smile that October 20 morning, I knew she was the one I was going to marry.

When Ricque's parents told us about Media One Bridal's 2012 Destination Wedding contest, the importance of October 20 had never occurred to me. Looking back, I was astounded to see this date come up again and again!

On October 20, 2012, the same day as Ricque's parent's 20th wedding anniversary and the anniversary of our first date, what better way to celebrate the meaning of this day than by truly expressing our love through marriage.

Ricque and I both hope that October 20, 2012 will also be a day that will change both our lives forever.