



Planning a wedding in just two weeks seems like quite a daunting task even for a seasoned wedding planner, but as many have said time and time again – love conquers all. For Ashley Covarrubias and Michael Garza, a couple who ironically enough dated just two weeks short of nine years before getting engaged, their love seemed to guide everything into place.


A CHILDHOOD ROMANCE: Micheal, 29, and Ashley, 27, first met in grade school when she was in 5th grade and he was in 7th. "He was my older brother's friend," she says. "I thought he was super cute, and he most likely didn't know who I was."

Seven years later, the two ran into each other at a young adult event at their church. "I asked my brother to come with me to play Ping-Pong at the table next to Michael," Ashley recalls. "I went to introduce myself to him, and my brother reminded me – out loud in front of Michael – that he was the same one we knew as kids." Despite the embarrassment, Michael had been interested in her as well and the two started dating shortly after when she was 17 and Michael was 19.

A TWO-WEEK ENGAGEMENT: Ashley, who is a pastor and worship leader at Mt. Zion in Clarkston, and Michael, who is the media manager at the same church, had talked about marriage for many years. When the time came for the official proposal, Michael took an approach that was straight to the point: He simply slipped the ring onto her finger. "I had just moved into my own house, so he came over and we were watching TV," Ashley recalls.

But what happened afterwards would be an unimaginable endeavor for many brides-to-be. "The most challenging part of the wedding planning was only having two weeks. The whole time we were dating I said I only wanted to be engaged for six weeks tops," Ashley explains. "About seven weeks before we were engaged, he asked me how fast I could plan a wedding. I said, 'Oh, I could totally plan a wedding in two weeks,' not thinking I actually would have to."

HAPPILY EVER AFTER: Despite the time constraint, Ashley and Michael's wedding came together seamlessly – including the bride's dress, which she had previously found while her friend was trying on dresses a little over a year ago. Ashley went back to that same boutique to see if the dress was still available. "They informed me that there were limited amounts of dresses that they could actually order and ship in time," Ashley says. "She took me to the 'express dress room,' and the dress was there!"

Ashley also had time to plan something special for her new husband, an avid lover of Guernsey Farms Dairy's chocolate milk. Ashley had arranged for the waiters to come out with champagne glasses full of Guernsey's chocolate milk to do a toast that was not only memorable for the bride and groom, but also for the guests. "I like to do things out of the ordinary. I like to be different, and I like to add shock value to my life, and my husband is the same way," Ashley says. "As I always say: 'The Garzas are a breed of their own' and now I'm a part of that." 

— Audrey LaForest

Vendors

Wedding Rings: Diamond Vault, Troy, MI

Wedding Dress: Macy's Bridal Salon by Demetrios, Troy, MI

Tuxedos: Black by Vera Wang at Men's Wearhouse, Orion Twp., MI

Hair and Makeup: Hair: Glitz NXT, Orion Twp., MI; Dior at Carson's, Rochester Hills, MI

Flowers: Parsonage Events, Clarkston, MI

Cake: Cupcakes from Just Baked, Troy, MI

Ceremony Site: Mt. Zion Church, Clarkston, MI

Reception Site: Lelli's, Auburn Hills, MI

Bridesmaid Dresses: Nordstrom, Troy, MI

Photographer: Sarah Sutherland, Rochester Hills, MI

Honeymoon: A cruise to the Bahamas