

# Michaela & Mark

Michaela Vaughan to Mark Venable

May 22, 2010

County Avenue Baptist

## How It Started...

The first time Mark and Michaela met in person was after many emails, IM's, texts and long phone calls. The two had chosen the date that they would meet in a parking lot of the University of Central Arkansas in Conway.

Michaela was a freshman there and Mark lived in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Mark and Michaela's first date consisted of Mark coming up to Michaela and her best friend, Jeri's, dorm to hang out a bit. Jeri had to give her approval before Michaela could go out on the town with Mark!

After the three all watched a movie, Jeri and Michaela both agreed that Mark was harmless, so then began Mark's first date with Michaela! They agreed upon Chili's for dinner. To this day, Michaela remembers what they ordered: quesadillas and cheese dip! After a great dinner, with no awkward moments (thank goodness), Mark and Michaela began driving back to her dorm, but it was around Christmas time and the lights were so beautiful that the two just drove around for what seemed like hours, looking at lights and listening to music and talking.

Some may see this first date as simple, but it was the best date Michaela had ever been on. "He made me laugh the whole night, and it was an overall amazing time," Michaela remembers. When they got back to the dorm, Michaela and Mark could not seem to stop talking about everything there was to talk about.

By the end of the night, Michaela went back to her dorm and shared with Jeri all of the details of the evening. Michaela told her friend that she could see herself with this man for the rest of her life. Jeri could already tell!

After Michaela moved back to Texarkana, Mark was still in North Little Rock. Around a year after dating long distance, Mark moved to Texarkana to live with a friend.

After three and a half years of dating, Mark asked Michaela to marry him! It

did not take them over three years to know they would spend the rest of their lives together, but Mark waited for the perfect time!

## The Proposal...

On Saturday, June 20, 2009, Michaela had to work all day. At the end of the day, she walked out to her car and found an envelope in her seat. After opening up the envelope, Michaela realized this was the first of many clues for an amazing scavenger hunt. Each clue had a memory on it of when she and Mark had gone to each particular location and what the places meant to them.

The last clue led Michaela to where Mark was living. When she walked in, Mark had

dinner ready for them. Michaela thought that was the surprise, and she had just had a fun hunt. Dinner was a walk down memory lane. Mark had made the meal he and Michaela ate at Chili's on their first date, quesadillas and cheese dip!

As they ate, Michaela found what she thought was one more clue laying on the table. She opened the letter and read the sweetest, truly best love letter she had ever seen! At the end of the letter, Mark said for Michaela to close her eyes and make a wish. As she closed her eyes, Mark walked behind Michaela, got on one knee, turned her around, holding her hand, and asked her to marry him.

As soon as Michaela said yes, she wanted to tell everyone! The first person she called was her best friend in the whole world; her mom. Of course, she had already known, because Mark had asked permission, but Michaela had to go show off the beautiful, dream ring!

## The Wedding...

Michaela says, "I can't say the wedding planning began that day, because I had dreamed of my wedding day since I fell in love with Mark. I knew it would come one day, and when it did come, it was more than anything I had ever dreamed of. It was perfect!"

## Wedding Party...

**Matron of Honor:**  
Jeri Ward

**Bridesmaids:**  
Jackie Garrison  
Rachel Begoon  
Kristi Lee  
Meghan Davidson

**Best Man:**  
Joe Venable

**Groomsmen:**  
Steven Nauman  
Michael Nauman  
Lance Harris  
James Pennington







**Photography:**  
Image Forward Photography  
[www.imageforwardweddings.com](http://www.imageforwardweddings.com)

**Cakes:**  
Silver Spoon

**Catering:**  
Gourmet Girls

**Rentals:**  
The Big Event

**Florist:**  
H&N

**Wedding Dress:**  
Low's Bridal  
Brinkley, AR

**Bridesmaid Dresses:**  
Bridal Castle

**Tuxes:**  
Bridal Castle

