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# Love: SHEILA REVERE & HASAN HEATH

## July 27, 2008, in Horsham

By Kellie Patrick Gates

Inquirer Love Columnist

### Hello there

Sheila and Hasan, now 26 and 30, respectively, met in September 2000 when both were students in the same computer class at the Community College of Philadelphia.

Hasan, immediately interested, began walking Sheila to her car after class. Sheila, recently out of a relationship, appreciated the escort, but said no when Hasan asked for her phone number six weeks later. Still, Hasan kept walking her to her car, and when he asked for the number a second time, she said yes - but they could only be friends, she said.

Hasan called, and there was still more talking - talking that really got to Sheila.

"He kept wanting to find out things about me. He would ask things like 'What do you want to do in your life?' - informative questions," she said.

### How does forever sound?

One day in October 2006, Sheila stayed home from work with a stomach virus, and the couple was watching the news from Iraq. Hasan, a production controller with the Pennsylvania National Guard and a member of the HHC 1-111th Infantry based in Plymouth Meeting, knew his unit would eventually be deployed to help.

"I don't know exactly when we're going to go," he told Sheila that day in their Southwest Philadelphia home. "But we're going to need to be married before I leave. We're going to get married soon."

"Is this a proposal?" Sheila asked.

"Kind of, yeah," Hasan said. But he knew he'd propose again, in a nice setting, with a ring, and when Sheila didn't feel ill.

Then the Saturday after Valentine's Day this year, they went to dinner at a seafood restaurant. After they ate, the couple's waiter told Sheila there was one other thing that "the gentleman" had requested for her.

He presented Sheila with a plate draped with a cloth napkin and a little black box in the center.

Hasan and Sheila set the wedding date for Aug. 31 and began planning and booking vendors. Then Hasan heard he would be deployed by October, and perhaps as soon as the first week in September.

The couple decided to push up their wedding date. Their wedding planner started calling vendors. "No one charged us a penny," Sheila said. "It was a blessing."

The months leading up to the wedding was the most bittersweet time in Sheila's life, she said.

Like most brides, part of her couldn't wait. "I wanted it to hurry; I wanted us to have our day," she said. "But I also thought, 'The sooner the wedding comes, the sooner he's going to be leaving. Why is time flying?' "

### **It was so them**

The couple had a military-style wedding. Hasan wore his Army dress uniform. Six of his fellow soldiers wore theirs too, and they held swords for the couple to walk beneath. The couple's son, Jamire, 4, was ring bearer. The song playing while Sheila walked down the aisle - "Make Me Whole" by Amel Larrieux - describes the way she feels about her new husband.

### **This didn't happen at rehearsal**

When the couple reached the end of the soldiers-with-swords tunnel, the last two men lowered their swords to stop them in their tracks. "Welcome to the Army, Mrs. Heath," Hasan's sergeant told her. "And then, when he lifted his sword back up, he tapped me on the booty!" Sheila said.

### **Awestruck**

During the ceremony, Hasan read a poem that he wrote for Sheila called "Dedication to My Wife":

*I knew we'd be the perfect pair, I knew you were a keeper/ As time went by, I remained your guy, my love for you grew deeper/ I'm truly blessed to have you, Boo. You made me who I am/ and without you in my life, I would have never become a man/ I dedicate these words to you to show you how I feel/ My better half, you make me whole/ My love for you is real/ I bet you never thought you'd be the one to save my life/ A home, a son, and seven long years. But now you are my wife.*

## **Discretionary spending**

Sheila, who is a patient-access representative at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, says the couple's biggest splurge was hiring a wedding planner, but the cost was worth it, because she helped them save money in many other ways.

"I really wanted calla lily centerpieces, but she told me they would have to be imported from Holland and talked me into a colorful medley of mixed flowers," for example, Sheila said. Such budget-sparing tips covered her fee - and freed up a lot of the couple's limited time together, Sheila said.

## **The getaway**

Four days in Mazatlan, Mexico. The bride's aunt let the couple use her timeshare as their wedding gift, and Hasan's brother, an airline employee, provided free airfare.

(After about six weeks of married life, Hasan left yesterday to begin training in Mississippi. He got to see Jamire off to prekindergarten. And he will return home in the days prior to Christmas for a week before flying to Kuwait and the war. His deployment is set to last 18 months.)

# **BEHIND THE SCENES**

## **Officiant**

**Rev. D.J. Lawrence of New Psalmist Baptist Church, Philadelphia**

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## **Venue**

**The Blair Mill Inn, Horsham**

## **Caterer**

**The Blair Mill Inn**

## **Photography**

**Bob Thomas Photography**

of Sewell

## **Music**

**James Fields, One 2 One Productions, Phoenixville**

## **Dress**

**Betty's Bridal, Clifton Heights**

## **Planner**

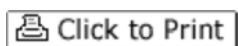
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## **Invitations**

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