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A DOLCE

LOVE

story

A LOT OF LOVE AND SUPPORT MADE SONNY AND RACHEL'S LOVE STORY COME TRUE.

Ceremony Location: Oakville Sikh Temple; **Reception Location & Food:** Pavilion Royale; **Makeup Artist & Hair:** Rajvir Samra; **Wedding Dress:** Bombay Trendz; **Groom's Attire:** Charles le Golf; **Rachel's Ring:** Ron Pollock; **Photographers:** Dave & Charlotte Lifestyle Photographers; **Flowers:** www.weddingdecor.com; **Cake:** Made by Rachel's mom; **Cake Topper:** Lily Tsai www.weddingcaketoppersideas.com **Wedding Registry:** The Bay; **Transportation:** Caledon Carriages

PRODUCED BY MICHELLE ZERILLO-SOSA
WRITTEN BY MADELINE STEPHENSON

Love can happen anywhere and at any time. Throughout history, true love has proven to break the confines of culture, class, religion, race and age. Those who have experienced love know that the cliché of butterflies fluttering in their stomachs is as real as the air they breathe. They know that contrary to popular beliefs, feelings described in Harlequin romances actually hold insurmountable truths. They believe that while life is not always a fairytale, happy endings do exist. These people also know that you do not get to choose whom you fall for or where you meet – it sort of just happens. For Sonny Kohli and Rachel Ross, it took place under the fluorescent lights of a hospital cafeteria three years ago.



1. Sonny's Kohl's mother performs a cleansing ritual before the ceremony. 2. Sonny and little Rylee walk towards their transportation – a majestic white Percheron, accessorized with traditional attire. 3. Sonny and Rachel: the look of love. 4. Sonny and Rachel solidify their commitment by taking a slice out of their colourful cake. 5. Wedding guests enjoy a romantic ambience at Pavilion Royale. 6. Rachel and Sonny express their love with daughter Rylee at their wedding ceremony.

While there's no mentioning of an illustrious glass slipper in this story, Rachel's blond hair and piercing blue eyes play a striking resemblance to a familiar fairytale heroin. "I was carrying a tray of food and as I walked down the ramp my napkin flew off. As I turned around, Sonny was down on one knee picking it up for me," says the 31-year-old nurse. As an accomplished physician, Sonny was on his first day of a two-week rotation at the hospital. "There was an instant connection. I couldn't stop smiling and I just remember her brand-new white running shoes," laughs 36-year-old Sonny, who at the time was also an astronaut recruit for the Canadian Space Agency. They parted ways. It was only after some coaxing from a co-worker that Sonny gained the confidence to visit Rachel's floor on his last day to ask her out. She said yes.


When Rachel reached the destination for their first date, she placed one foot out of the car and said, "I have a three-year-old daughter named Rylee and we're a package deal! If you don't want to go out, I understand." Sonny was blown away. "I just love that she's a mom first," he says. Needless to say, the date took place.

As a single-mom living in a cramped space, Rachel often sought solace in a photograph of a tree she had bought years ago. On her second date with Sonny she told him that she dreamed of finding

it one day. Two years later, Sonny contacted the photographer, located the tree in New York's Central Park and took Rachel on a surprise trip. It was beneath its symbolic branches that Sonny dropped a napkin that read, "Will you marry me?" "I just kept yelling "yes!" she beams, adding that they both burst into tears moments after.

Sonny and Rachel had two weddings: an intimate ceremony atop a mountain in Banff, Alberta, and a lavish Indian wedding in July 2009. Over 250 guests watched as they danced to "Lullaby" by the Dixie Chicks with their daughter. "Now Rylee's fully my daughter. I can't fathom her not being in my life," says Sonny. The song's lyrics, "Is forever enough?" could not have been more fitting. "I'm dying with Rachel and that's it. It may not always be pretty, but we're going to make it work," he says softly as he reaches for Rachel's hand.

Oftentimes, people are so caught up in the idea of fairytales that they do not give someone a try if they don't fit into the tight mould of what they were looking for. "I broke Sonny's entire checklist. I was a different culture, race and I already had a daughter. We always tell people never to close doors," says Rachel with an inspiring tone of hope. "Continue doing the things you love," says Sonny, "because those things define you."

Do you believe in love? 





A Photo op with Dave & Charlotte

WRITTEN BY SIMONA PANETTA

Renowned Toronto engagement and wedding photographers Dave Biesse and Charlotte Leonard have a special way with the camera. Illustrating love stories where feeling and emotion heightens with the textures and colours of spectacular venues, couples around the world often request to have the coveted photographers capture their special day. Blending their love of the art with a talent of capturing lifestyle, Dave and Charlotte's photos last a lifetime.

AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVE BIESSE:

- Q:** Why do you interview couples before working for them?
- A:** We get to know our couples more than any other photographers. By the time the wedding rolls around, we're like two best friends with cameras.
- Q:** How has your work influenced your perception of love?
- A:** The main thing we've discovered is seeing the love connection. Looking through the lens, you're closer than anyone else. We get to experience expressions and subtle nuances, feelings and touches – this is what we always try to record. It's more about capturing feelings than capturing how people look visually.
- Q:** Tell us about a location you love shooting at.
- A:** My favourite engagement location is Toronto Brickworks. There are ponds, winding pathways, long grass, rolling hills and some really cool textured rustic walls. It's very urban and natural.
- Q:** Is shooting in the rain a nightmare?
- A:** There is something so romantic about kissing in the rain. We love heavy weather, because it gives us such unique opportunities.
- Q:** Do you and Charlotte have a love story?
- A:** Charlotte and I met briefly in a casual setting and we set up this date. We shared a glass of wine and we just chatted and chatted for three hours. I'm pretty shy, but near the end I just asked her if I could hold her hand. I think we just knew that we both found each other.

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Dolce was there

HEART and Music

Raising the Curtain on Ovarian Cancer

Artistic expression through music, dance and fine art graced the stage at the Betty Oliphant Theatre on Sept. 28th, 2009, when the curtain was raised to shine the spotlight on ovarian cancer and other gynecological ailments. www.heartandmusic.com



1. Jackie Bast and Darrin Bast 2. Katelyn Dawn (pop/country recording artist and former *Canadian Idol* finalist and *Canada's Next Top Model* semi-finalist) 3. Darrin Bast (founder & event chair of Heart & Music), Brandy Gale (artist) and Bobby Gale (Plug [Music] Inc) 4. Lee Poulin (the show's producer) and Darrin Bast. 5. Guest with Christine Cushing. 6. Performers.