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Brooklyn apartment-dwellers find love by the elevator

By Hollie Deese • FOR THE TENNESSEAN • December 26, 2010

Judging by any number of rom-coms where the leads "meet cute" (*It Happened One Night*, *Serendipity*, *Notting Hill*), all you have to do to meet your soul mate is ride a few elevators or hang out in the produce section — eventually you will find each other. Fruitless dreams for most, it is exactly what happened to Lauren Mann, 27, a city-savvy New York nanny, when she bumped into Colin Heston, 28, the new-in-town hunk, in the lobby of her new Brooklyn apartment building.

"I pushed the elevator button and out came six guys, and they were all quite attractive," Lauren says. "I was afraid I was going to move to Brooklyn and there would be no one. But six handsome guys coming out, I was like, 'Yes, it was worth the move!'"

The Nashville native had been in New York for six years but was new to Brooklyn. And with only a few people moved into the 80-unit building, it was odd she would run into someone at all.

"When he came out of the elevator, he spun around and said 'Hey, I'm Colin, 2-O,'" Lauren says. So she responded with her name and apartment number two floors up. And then they just kept running into each other.

"Even now, his schedule is so opposite of mine, we don't even run into each other now as much as we did those first few weeks," she says.

So she invited him to her housewarming party, he asked her on a date and within months Colin proposed.

Under the premise the two were hitting up a few birthday parties, he convinced her to stop into a touristy sushi restaurant, Ninja, to eat and kill some time. A previous visit had left Lauren unimpressed with the place, especially since it touted great interaction and ninja antics that never happened, along with an elevator that didn't work. Not to mention she doesn't eat sushi or seafood.

"So we go in and everything was working right," she

says. "At dinner, all you hear are people yelling out and ninjas yelling 'Hya!' It was cool."

Sitting in their private booth, surrounded by tall walls and bamboo, they began to talk about getting engaged. They had discussed it many times in the past, and Lauren had made it clear she wanted to be wearing something great when he did pop the question.

"I had told him I wanted a little bit of a heads up so I could wear this dress my mom wore to her rehearsal dinner, this amazing white eyelet dress," she says. "I am such a casual person I didn't want to be wearing a t-shirt and jeans. I wanted to look nice."

That evening, she was wearing an Anthropologie dress and told him that something like that would be appropriate as well.

Little did she know that Colin was planning on popping the question that night. Suddenly, she heard a loud "Hya!" and, looking up, saw their ninja waiter leaning over the wall with an extended sword. And on the end of that sword was a ring box.

"I opened it and there was nothing in there," she says. "And then Colin came around and got down on one knee and he proposed with another box with the ring in it. I couldn't breathe."

Ecstatic, she couldn't believe she had just been talking about it and then it suddenly happened. But that was just the beginning. After dinner, they got into a waiting car that took them to the Waldorf-Astoria. They went up to a room he had ready, and

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while she was adjusting her dress in a [mirror](#), she heard some rustling coming from the other room.

"In the [living room](#) of the suite were my parents and my sister and all of my friends, his sister and his best friend," she says. "They were all there to surprise me."

And exactly two years after their first date, the two tied the knot on Oct. 2 in front of nearly 100 guests. For Lauren, everything was just meant to be, even the scramble for a change in venues when her original location, Gaylord Opryland, was closed because of the flood.

"At Opryland, it was lovely but not meant to be," she says. "Governor's Club was private and intimate and perfect."



Lauren and Colin Heston married at the Governor's Club. (KEONI K PHOTOGRAPHY / SUBMITTED)

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