

It all began when I received an Instant Message from a stranger one afternoon my senior year in high school. Little did I know, seven years later, that stranger and I would be saying, "I do".

How We Met and Our Relationship

While Justin and I talked online for months, we didn't meet until a couple of weeks before I left for college in upstate New York. After seeing each other almost every day before I left, saying "good bye" wasn't easy; it made us realize just how much we had already fallen for each other in such a short time.

Jodi (Schryer) & Justin LaMarche

*Photography by
Great Impressions Portrait Studio*

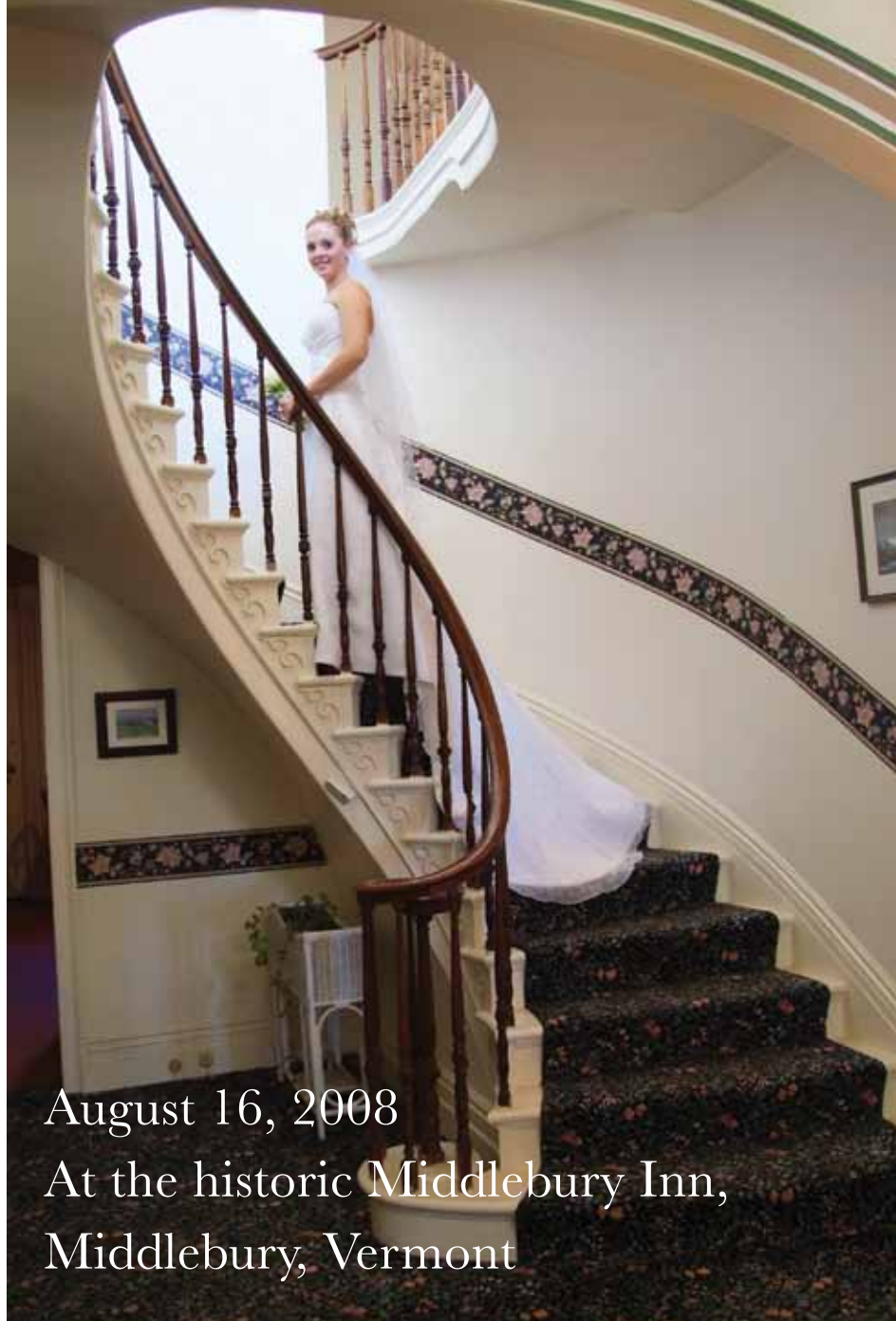


At first, we were unsure about pursuing a relationship with me in college hours away. However, we quickly decided that the distance was not going to prevent us from being together and began dating.

After college we moved in together and were enjoying our life together until our world was turned upside down. Just months before we planned to move to New Hampshire, where I would attend law school, a wall fell on Justin at his construction site, breaking his tailbone, two vertebrae, and his pelvis in four places. On top of that, he developed Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) in his right foot, a chronic, painful, and progressive neurological condition that affects the skin, muscles, joints, and bones.

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from **Vermont Bride Magazine**



August 16, 2008

At the historic Middlebury Inn,
Middlebury, Vermont



Love Story: Jodi (Schryer) & Justin LaMarche

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While Justin escaped being paralyzed by less than a quarter inch, he was bound to a wheelchair and faced the possibility of never walking again. We questioned whether I should postpone my plans to attend law school, but eventually decided against it because it would only further delay our plans to get married and start a family.

So, as I moved to New Hampshire, Justin moved into the Fanny Allen Hospital to start an intensive inpatient physical therapy program. We continued to support each other as best we could; Justin supporting my plans to attend law school despite being in one of the most trying times in his life and me supporting his recovery by traveling home and spending every weekend with him in the hospital.

After a couple of months of therapy, Justin left on crutches, still not walking due to the RSD. However, within days of leaving the hospital, he resorted to his own “therapy” by putting down the crutches and forcing himself to walk through the pain. Just over a year later, Justin made a full recovery. While the experience was a nightmare, it made us realize how much we loved each other and that we would always be there for each other no matter what.

Our relationship has overcome many obstacles.

But with each obstacle we have faced, our love for



one another has not wavered and our relationship has only become stronger. At the end of the day, no matter the distance or the challenges of day, we are happy knowing that we have one another.

Our Engagement

Justin's proposal took me completely by surprise. After thinking about it for a couple of days, Justin decided he couldn't wait any longer to ask me to marry him. He called my parents one night and asked for permission, which they granted. Then, when I returned home from work a few hours later, he immediately asked to see a ring that he had bought me as a Christmas present previously. Confused, I showed him. He then got down on one knee, took it off and put on another ring, and asked me to marry him.



Most Memorable Details

The fact we actually got married on August 16, 2008 was a memorable moment in itself. Just as our relationship had its challenges, so did our wedding planning.

After searching long and hard for the perfect venue to hold our wedding, we were shocked to find out the first one we picked the center of scandal and the owners “ran away” with our \$2,000 deposit.

With our wedding day roughly four months away, we were left without a location and a significant strain on our already tight wedding budget. For a while, it looked like we might have to cancel the wedding.

But then our venue disaster turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as we found the Middlebury Inn. The Inn and its event coordinator, Guy Rossi, came to the rescue and made all of our wedding dreams come true.

Besides the venue incident, there were so many wonderful memories that it's hard to pick just a few. However, the moments which stand out the most were those filled with meaning, such as our first dance and my cousin becoming an ordained minister to perform the ceremony. After being together seven years and engaged almost four, the day was long awaited. It was a celebration of our past and a welcoming to our future lives together.

Update

On July 7, 2009, we welcomed our son, Jackson, to the world at 8 lbs 1 oz and 19 inches long.



Photos by Great Impressions Portrait Studio

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Featured Vermont Bride Magazine Wedding Professionals Jodi (Schryer) & Justin LaMarche Wedding

Reception Site:

Middlebury Inn

800-842-4666 (ext #280) | 14 Court Square, Middlebury VT
middleburyinn.com

Photographer:

Great Impressions Portrait Studio

802-782-6561 | 351 North River St. Swanton, VT | greatpix.us

Bridal Gown & Bridesmaids Dresses:

Needleman's Bridal & Formal

Toll-Free 800-924-Gown (4696) | needlemansbridal.com
802-660-7212 | 570 Shelburne Rd Suite 2, Burlington, VT
802-527-1922 | 38 North Main Street, St. Albans, VT
802-334-8000 | One Main St, Newport, VT

Make-Up:

Waterfalls Day Spa

802-388-0311 | 14 Court House Square, Middlebury, VT
middleburyspa.com

“Given that much of our wedding planning was done from New Hampshire, we turned to Vermont Bride Magazine to help with the planning. It was a great resource, conveniently containing everything wedding related in Vermont all in one place. Beyond connecting me to a vast number of vendors, we also turned to Vermont Bride Magazine for ideas from wedding colors to flowers to centerpieces and so much more. “



Additional Professionals:

Ceremony Site: Middlebury Congregational Church

Cake: Bride and family

Tuxedos: Men's Warehouse &Tux

Hair: Cassie McLeod, Tango Salon

Flower Girls' Dresses: Tess Simmons

Jewelry: Kay Jeweler's

DJ: Absolute Entertainment

Floral: Fifty Flowers



Wedding Planning Resource: **Vermont Bride Magazine**

802-879-3157 | P.O. Box 413, Westford, VT | vermontbridemagazine.com