

Him: 'Will you marry me?' Her: 'No way'

THE INTRODUCTION: Markie and Paul met in middle school, while they were both students at Red Lion Christian Academy, where they also attended high school. But they didn't start dating until after graduation in 2006, when both were 18.

THE FIRST DATE: The 2006 University of Delaware Fourth of July fireworks. They spent the rest of the night talking, sitting on the hoods of their cars in the McDonald's parking lot.

THE WEDDING
BETSY PRICE

THE FIRST KISS: A few dates later, outside of their friend's house where they'd been watching a movie. It was raining, and they ran to her car, where they kissed quickly. She was headed to Virginia Wesleyan College in Virginia for a criminal justice degree, and Paul to the University of Delaware in economics. They continued to date casually. But at Dewey Beach, during the summer of 2007, Paul asked her to be his girlfriend. Minutes later, they saw a shooting star. Paul put a lot of miles on his car to keep the romance going. He would work out surprise visits with Markie's roommate, occasionally coming down for only a few hours. "Somehow I would never know; they surprised me every time," Markie says. One night she and friends decided to go ice skating for her birthday. She talked to Paul on the phone before leaving, thinking he was still at work. But when she finished tying her skates, she looked up and there he was. "We had one of the best nights - ice skated all night!" she says. After two years in Virginia, she decided to move back to Delaware for financial reasons, finishing her degree at Wilmington University.

THE PROPOSAL: On March 18, 2012, they decided to take a hike, a common activity for them. Paul gave an unsuspecting Markie several places to choose from, knowing she would pick Fair Hill Nature Center in Maryland. They walked for a while and took their dog, Kali, to play in the water. Paul asked her if she wanted to hike up to one of her favorite spots, and she naturally said yes. "Apparently, I am predictable because he had planned this whole thing out," she says. They

Markie M. Hewlett and Paul M. Mitchell
Sept. 14, 2012



COURTESY OF DAVE SHOEMAKER/LIFE IMAGES

hiked on to a place where trees surround two broken down stone houses, a quiet place Markie likes to go just to escape daily stresses. Sitting on a fallen tree that overlooks one of the houses, she snuggled up to him with her back to his chest and mentioned how much she loved that spot. "I know you do and I want you to remember this spot as the place I asked you to marry me," he said. She didn't pick up that he was launching into his prelude. She assumed he was hinting that some day he would ask her to marry him right there. She turned to face him, and he pulled a beautiful pear-shaped ring out of his pocket and said, "Will you marry me?" Stunned, she kept saying, "No, no, no way." She could not believe he had managed to surprise her. "I always thought I would be able to know because he would be so nervous - but he wasn't. He pulled it off perfectly," she says. After the shock subsided, she did say yes. And then

she was speechless. **TELLING THE PARENTS:** Paul had already talked to her parents and both sets knew the plan. Afterward, she and Paul drove to her parents' house, where she got another surprise: Both of their families and some close friends were there to celebrate, even her grandparents, Treva Hewlett of Newark and Walter and Faye Michaloski of Middletown.

HAVING A WEDDING PLANNER FOR A MOTHER: With only seven months to plan the wedding - all while Markie was finding a job and getting settled in - it was great to have a wedding planner mom, JoAnne Hewlett of Make a Memory. While they didn't always agree on things, they never fought, and her mom let Markie take the lead when she wanted, but could easily pick up the slack when Markie needed help. Wedding planners are used to running the show, so on the wedding day, JoAnne didn't wear a watch so

she wouldn't be tempted to worry about the schedule - her assistants did that - and so she could enjoy the day as the mother of the bride.

THE CEREMONY: Markie and Paul married Sept. 14, 2012, at the Stone Barn at The Mill in Kennett Square, Pa. They wanted a rustic barn-type atmosphere, and the rolling hills, pasture and ponds with wooden water wheel were perfect for their casual, light ceremony. It was held in an old barn with wooden rafters and wood floors, surrounded by huge windows and double doors at the front of the aisle. With sunny weather and a light breeze, they opened the doors, which created an outdoorsy feel. The bride's father made a four-foot wooden cross to hang at the altar on the stone wall. The flowers by the bride's friend, Elana from Elana's Broad Street Florist, included baby's breath hanging from the rafters and Mason jars filled with white baby's breath

lining the aisle. Two friends, Alton Haynes and Adam Cooke, sang and played guitar and the African drum. And everyone enjoyed Markie's 18-month-old nephew, Cayden Alexander, who practically ran down the aisle, pushing a toy walker that said, "Here Comes Aunt Markie."

THE DRESS: Markie had been in the bridal industry for a bit, and the last thing she wanted was to try on a million dresses and be confused. She went to Claire's Fashion in Wilmington, where they helped her narrow her choices to two polar-opposite gowns. One had a sweetheart neckline and fell to midcalf. The other was more traditional. After sleeping on it, she went with the long, ivory Allure Bridal gown in a semi-mermaid style with a sweetheart neckline and lace detail from the waist down. Its café color waist band with crystals gave a little pop.

SOMETHING OLD AND NEW: Markie wore a pin once owned by her great-grandmother Phyllis Kless, on the skirt of her dress, and carried a handkerchief her other great-grandmother, Treva Lou Hall, made for Markie when Markie was a child so she'd have it the day she got married.

THE RECEPTION: Cocktail hour was held on the deck that overlooked beautiful gardens and ponds, and the old mill wheel with water spilling through it. The reception took place in an old mill, with wood beams and wood floors, and a stone fireplace right behind the sweetheart table. Markie's mom had cut up her wedding dress and used lace from it as a table topper for the sweetheart table, as well as in the bouquets carried by Markie and her sister, who was also matron of honor, Jasalyn Alexander. The groom's parents let the couple use vases from their wedding. The wedding couple was announced first, running through a line created by the attendants. Then the five bridesmaids and five groomsmen came out two by two to "It Takes Two," each with a mini dance step. The funniest moment, though, might have been the father-daughter dance, which started to "Five More Minutes" and then the music scratched and Markie and her father finished with a much wilder dance to "You Dropped The Bomb on Me." Her father doesn't usually let loose like that,

and it surprised the crowd, particularly Markie's mom. "Being a wedding planner and knowing everything that is happening, it was a big surprise," Markie says. "We dropped the bomb on her!" Each centerpiece was different, with flowers topping wood slices from local trees. The bride's mother and godmother, Terri Dalton, made a cake stand from a 33-inch wood round that held 200 cupcakes and a cake for the bride and groom to cut, made by Sweet Melissa of Middletown. DJ Mike Simmons from "Must Be the Music" kept wedding-goers on the dance floor. The couple gave guests Mason jars filled with their favorite cookie mix, personally assembled by Paul's mother.

THE MOST POPULAR GIFT: A million coasters. "I don't know. I just don't know why," Markie says.

THE HONEYMOON: The couple went to the Excellence Resort in Riviera Maya, a secluded, tropical hotel that didn't feel commercial. The beaches included beds perfect for naps. They ate well just munching at the restaurants on site, and they went cave swimming, zip-lining and four-wheeling to celebrate Paul's birthday midweek. Even though they did not tell the hotel it was his birthday, when they returned, there was a birthday cake and candles waiting in their room.

THE FAMILY TREE: The bride is the daughter of JoAnne and Dale Hewlett of Newark. The groom is the son of Lee and Tom Mitchell of Newark.

WHAT'S NEXT: They bought their first home in Bear. Paul works at WSFS bank in Hockessin and Markie works at IFS Benefits in Newark as a broker. She also trains horses and teaches riding at Sugarland Stables in Warwick, Md. They hope to spend some time traveling and for the moment, say that their 3-year-old great dane-hound mix is all the baby they want.

Each week, Sundaylife highlights a wedding or civil union. To have your ceremony considered for this feature, you must fill out a questionnaire and send us a photo. To receive the form, please email Sundaylife@delawareonline.com with "wedding" or "civil union" in the subject line, or call 324-2884. Responses and photos can be emailed. This is a free service, and we cannot guarantee a specific ceremony will be chosen. Couples also may have their ceremonies appear in Celebrations (324-2781), which also runs weekly in Sundaylife.

Lord brings Caribbean voice to sci-fi in 'The Best of All Possible Worlds'

By Jennifer Kay
Associated Press

Science fiction gets a Caribbean perspective in Barbados-based Karen Lord's "The Best of All Possible Worlds." The ambitious novel

follows the plight of the male survivors of a superior human civilization, reduced to lonely refugees by the annihilation of their home planet. They settle on a galactic hinterland that's home to their very distant rela-

tives, along with pioneers and misfits making the best of homesteads, uncertainty and dismissal by supposedly superior societies.

Lord imagines the planet as an expanded Caribbean, a population

subtly divided by physical traits, lineage and language. She trades, though, the Afro-Caribbean folk traditions that influenced her first novel, "Redemption in Indigo," for the works of Ray Bradbury as in-

spiration for the quest at the heart of "Worlds."

The survivors must navigate tense conflicts over beliefs, social customs and the trafficking of goods and people as they try to find their place in a new world.

"The Best of All Possible Worlds" is overlong and its narration can be clumsy, but it poses an interesting question: What parts of you do you fight to preserve when everything you know suddenly changes?

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FAHEY - LECCIA
wedding

Pete and Stacy Leccia

Stacy Leigh Fahey and Peter Michael Leccia were married on November 10, 2012 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Wilmington, Delaware, with the Rev. Msgr. Charles L. Brown III, V.F. officiating. A reception followed at Deerfield.

The bride wore a Modern Trousseau Thai silk ruched trumpet gown with modified sweetheart neckline and covered buttons down the zipper with a Pronovias belt made of pearls and crystals at the waist.

The bride is the daughter of Mike and Debbie Fahey of Newark, Delaware. The groom's parents are Pete and Vicky Leccia of Newark, Delaware.

Jennifer Joyce was the Matron of Honor. The bridesmaids were Toni Soccio, Courtney Fry, Megan Racis and Laurie Edwards, cousin of the bride. Brian Betts was the Best Man. The groomsmen were Hugh Stephy, Joseph Beacher and Michael Fahey, brother of the bride.

Jacqueline R. Fahey, niece of the bride, and Kelsey Joyce were flower girls, and Caelan Joyce was the Ring Bearer.

The bride is a graduate of St. Mark's High School and received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Business Administration from Wilmington University. She is a Senior Auditor at Bank of America.

The groom is a graduate of John Dickinson High School and is employed by the City of Wilmington.

The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia.

AVA PAIGE
January 29th 2013

5 lbs.
5 oz.
18 1/2"

Daughter of Susan and Matthew Sullivan

We were blessed with a little bundle of joy!
Love,
Mommy & Daddy