

THE BAKERS

HOW IT ALL BEGAN....

Charlotte:

We met over 23 years ago. We were both working at the same company in Chicago. I had been working at the law firm for ten years and Darryl had been working for the company for three years. We barely noticed each other as our paths crossed in the hallways or at meetings. I thought he was kind of quirky. I only thought of him as just another employee at the company. Then one day that all changed.

Darryl:

I noticed her on occasion, but I didn't think about her at all initially. To be honest I thought she was weird. When we would see each other in the hallway it seemed like she would speed up in order to quickly get away from me. I thought, "What is up with this woman?" It continued that way for the first three years I worked at the company. Then it seemed to change in a flash of an eye.

One evening I went to an event with one of my buddies. Guess who I saw at the event? It was Charlotte. I was shocked to see her. I had no idea that she would be at this event. I pointed her out to my buddy and then said something strange to him. I said, "Hey do you see that lady? We work at the same company. She seems to be nice. Would you like me to introduce you to her? My buddy looked at me strangely and said, "No, I'm

not interested in a relationship at this time. Why are you trying to hook her up with me? Why haven't you approached her?" Then I remember saying to myself, "Why haven't I approach her, uhm.?" I left that event pondering that conversation. Over the next few days I couldn't stop thinking about it. When I saw her in the hallways at work she looked different to me. Then I finally decided. I was going to approach her. I decided to send her an email. In the email I asked her if she enjoyed the event. I also asked if she had access to some information about the event. She said she would check and get back with me. Then I asked the most important question, "Would you like to go out with me? I added an out clause by telling her she could bring someone with you if she liked. She didn't respond right away. Eventually she said, "Okay, but I don't need a chaperone." We scheduled a date for about a week later. We decided to go to Olive Garden. Things seemed to be going in the right direction. When I picked her up I was amazed! Somehow, we had coordinated our clothing. We were wearing the same colors, navy blue. In fact, when we arrived at the restaurant, people addressed us as if we were a couple. The rest of the evening went very well. In fact, after that first date we continued to see each other and the rest is history. We got married the next year and have been enjoying doing life together for over 23 years.