



MEXICO wedding magazine

SECRETS OF DATING:
GET HIM TO PROPOSE
BY SAMANTHA DANIELS

trash
the
dress

*get inspired by a
real underwater
photo shoot*



SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Charm of Tuscany and Provence, with a Mexican Soul...

AUTUMN
2013


GET FROM DATING
TO ALTAR IN A
Global Society

BY RAMINTA LILAITE






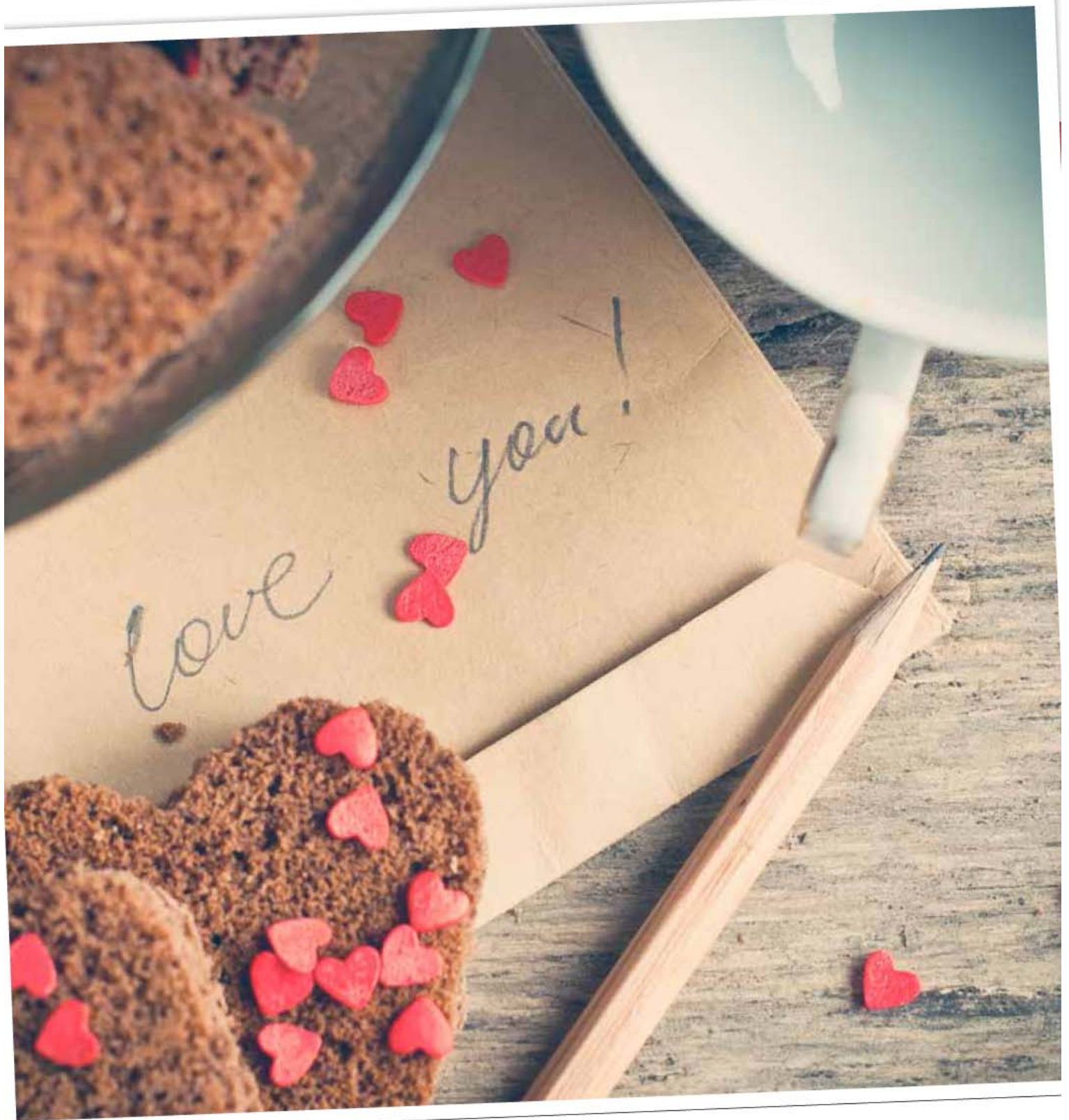
With Professional Matchmaker,
Romance and Relationship
Expert, **Samantha Daniels**

 AFTER YOU MATCH TWO PEOPLE, HOW MANY COUPLES END UP MARRYING?

I have owned my bi-coastal professional matchmaking business, Samantha's Table, for 13 years. My business caters to busy, very successful professionals who have no trouble finding dates, but who have not yet found that perfect person who they want to marry. My clients work hard and play hard and when they are playing, invariably they are jetting off to some fabulous travel destination. I have helped close to 300 people get married and thousands of people get into long-lasting relationships.

 WHAT IS THE SECRET IN A RELATIONSHIP THAT LEADS TO A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE PROPOSAL? WHAT DO WOMEN NEED TO HAVE IN MIND?

When you are in a relationship, there are a lot of things that need to go smoothly before you end up with that proposal. If you are sure he is the one, the best thing you can do is let him see the "best of you" all the time, so he can envision what his life will be married to you. This means let him see how family oriented you are, how you are kind to his friends, how you care for him, how you get along with his family. These are all things that are important to him and will make him want to propose to you and spend the rest of his life with you.



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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO “TEST THE WATERS,” GO FOR IT.



IN THE CURRENT GLOBAL SOCIETY, THERE ARE MORE AND MORE INTERCULTURAL COUPLES. IS INTERCULTURAL DATING MORE CHALLENGING BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE, CULTURE, HABITS AND RELIGION? WHAT CAN COUPLES DO TO MAKE IT SMOOTHER? An intercultural couple can be more challenging on the dating front because of the many differences in their lives/their backgrounds, preferences, and expectations might not align. However, if two people love each other and make the commitment to work through whatever problems arise, then it won't matter if the people come from two different backgrounds.



SOME EXPERTS SAY IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO LIVE TOGETHER BEFORE GETTING MARRIED, OTHERS SAY IT'S NECESSARY. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

I think that whether or not living together is a good idea depends on the couple. There is no right or wrong answer here. If you would like to “test the waters,” go for it. Just make sure you don't get so comfortable with living together that you forget to take that next step towards marriage, if this is something that is important to you. Also, make sure that you don't end up staying in the relationship with someone just because moving out and finding a new place is inconvenient.



WHAT ARE CURRENT PROPOSAL TRENDS? DO YOU KNOW OF ANY ESPECIALLY INTERESTING OR EXTREME MARRIAGE PROPOSAL SCENARIOS?

These days, I am seeing a lot of destination proposals where the man will plan a lovely and romantic trip and enlist the help of a resort to create the perfect proposal. The problem with this type of proposal is that she is always “expecting it,” so the man needs to come up with a time during the trip when she wouldn't expect it, and do it then.



SO FINALLY THE COUPLE THAT YOU INTRODUCED DECIDES TO TIE THE KNOT. EVERYBODY IS HAPPY. WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS? WHAT SHOULD THEY HAVE IN MIND BEFORE THE BIG DAY?

The next step after an accepted proposal is getting down to planning the wedding. This can feel like a daunting process because there is so much to do. However, it's crucial to make sure you plan something that both of you will enjoy and that speaks to both of your personalities. Try not to get caught up with keeping up with the Joneses; just plan something that suits the two of you. If the wedding and the party reflect your true essence, everyone will see that and have a great time!



MANY NEW BRIDES TURN INTO BRIDEZILLAS. WHAT WOULD BE YOUR ADVICE TO KEEP CALM AND TO HAVE A FUN, RELAXED WEDDING PLANNING PROCESS?


To avoid turning into a bridezilla, make sure you don't take any of it too seriously. You have to keep in mind that you are planning a wedding for your own enjoyment, so make sure that at the end of the day, you are still having fun. Remember that this is hopefully a one-time event, so make it be something special and right for you.






DO A SWEET
LITTLE THING FOR
YOUR SPOUSE AT
LEAST EVERY WEEK.




 HOW MUCH SHOULD THE GROOM BE INVOLVED IN THE WEDDING PLANNING PROCESS? SHOULD HE PARTICIPATE EVERYWHERE HALF AND HALF? SHOULD HE STAY ON THE SIDELINES AND LET THE BRIDE AND HER MOTHER HANDLE EVERYTHING?

There is no right or wrong formula for how much a groom should be involved with the wedding planning. Most men seem to prefer leaving it to their wives-to-be. If your guy prefers you plan it and isn't very interested or good at planning things of this nature, don't be upset; just accept it. There will be other things in the marriage that he will be good at and you will not; it's a trade-off. And if you have a guy who actually wants to participate, the best thing you can do is give him some specific action items so he knows upon what to focus his energy and then you and your posse can stay focused on everything else without interference.

 THE TIME COMES TO PICK THE PLACE, THE VENUE, DECOR. WHERE SHOULD THE COUPLE TURN TO, IN YOUR EXPERIENCE?

If you are planning a destination wedding, you need to pick a place that is easy to get to, has good weather most of the time, and has a venue that just makes you feel happy. A place like Mexico is perfect in this way. It's easy to get to, the weather is great throughout all four seasons, and there are so many magnificent places to choose from. One of my favorite wedding destinations is Playa del Carmen, specifically the Banyan Tree Mayakoba hotel. They have a wedding consultant on staff who will help you with everything from soup to nuts.

 WHAT IS YOUR RELIGIOUS BELIEF? IS YOUR ALIEN? Sometimes wedding do etc. My ac breath, rer the event t and then c the destin or you kee makes you the planni



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WHAT IF A COUPLE DISAGREES ABOUT DESTINATION? THE TYPE OF VENUE? CEREMONY OR JUST CIVIL? WHAT ABOUT CIVIL? WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PHASE?

Couples will disagree about the destination, the venue, the ceremony, and the civil. In this instance it is to take a step back and remind each other that you are having a wedding to celebrate your love for each other. Compromise. Perhaps you get to pick the ceremony and he gets to pick the venue, or you compromise until you find a place that both are happy. The key is not letting a disagreement phase ruin the wedding.



HAVE YOU BEEN TO MEXICO YOURSELF? WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS ABOUT GETTING MARRIED THERE? AND WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES?

I have been to Mexico many times. I grew up going to Acapulco almost every year, first staying at my Uncle Donald's villa, then staying at a variety of villas at Las Brisas and also at the Pierre Marques in the Princess Hotel complex. As an adult, I have traveled to Playa del Carmen and thought it was breathtaking. Next, I am interested in heading to Cabo and to Zihuatanejo as I think both of these are very romantic destinations.



AND FINALLY, SINCE WE HAVE YOU WITH US, WE HAVE TO GET TO THE HAPPY END. WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE? WHAT IS CRUCIAL FOR THE COUPLE TO KNOW WHEN MAKING THIS BIGGEST COMMITMENT THEY WILL EVER MAKE?

My advice for a happy marriage is to do a sweet little thing for your spouse at least every week. I would like to tell you to do it everyday, but in our busy lives, this isn't realistic. You can do something as small as paying them a compliment, putting one Hershey kiss on their pillow or cooking them dinner to planning an elaborate romantic weekend away to the blue seas of Mexico when they least expect it. Any little gesture shows your spouse that you love them and that you care and that is vital in a long-lasting relationship. ■

