

LAURA ON LIFE

Oh, happy day! She said yes...

She said yes? What a miracle! My son finally asked the girl of his dreams to marry him!

This girl is a dream come true for me as well. If I could have fashioned another daughter, I could not have done as well. She is perfect for my son.

So how did this perfect girl get hooked up with my not-so-perfect son? True, he gets more perfect as time goes on, but I'm his mom. I know the boy he used to be.

This is the same boy who, at three years old, turned the garden hose on his 70-year old grandfather and chased him around the yard with it. Is that imp still inside him? I still see it in his eyes. I suspect, however, that if he turned the garden hose on his fiancé, she'd probably take it a little better than his grandfather did.

In fact, she may even get him back by pouring a bucket of cold water on him while he's in the shower.

He is the same boy that at 10 years old tortured his little brother by sitting on him and not letting him up until he ate the skin that's left on the side of a pot after boiling noodles.

He probably wouldn't do that to his fiancé, though. With age has come a bit more... restraint. He knows that his body wash would be laced with jalapeno pepper juice if he was to torture her in such a way. Did I mention how perfect she is for him?

This is the kid who snuck downstairs one Christmas morning before dawn and opened every present under the tree before his parents woke up.

This is the boy that climbed up my

hallway walls by straddling it in bare feet, made forts out of my lawn chairs, piled the sofa cushions up and balanced himself on them, and would only eat peanut butter and jelly and macaroni and cheese. To be fair, I have not seen him do any of these things in many years.

The guy whose greatest wish at Halloween was to scare the pants off little kids by sitting on the front porch and pretending to be a monster, now has a softer side. When he spies a sweet little toddler with big blue eyes dressed in a princess costume, he is careful to take off his mask, greet her with a smile and dole out double the candy. He just can't stand the thought of that sweet little face running from him in fear now. That change can only be the influence of his



Laura Snyder

future wife. She makes him want to be a better man. He has empathy now where before there was only derision.

This is the same guy who said, not that long ago, that he would never marry, didn't want kids, and would be just as happy as a bachelor. As his mom, I knew that kind of life would never make him happy. He needed only to meet the right girl and she would convince him otherwise.

My son has his fair share of testos-

terone... and then some. He's all macho and full of bravado and hard edges. But he's in love, and that makes all the difference. He shows his softer side more often now and, for those of us who love him, that is a side we are delighted to see.

I once thought he would wait too long to ask this treasure to marry him, and that she might get tired of waiting. I should have given her more credit, though. She's here to

stay and I couldn't be happier about it!

When he called to announce that he'd asked his lady to marry him, my 12-year old daughter asked what we all were thinking: "And did she say yes?"

Indeed she did. Oh, happy day!

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