

A NEVER-ENDING *love*

Nicole and Sam met during a night out back in 2015 and were instantly
drawn to each other

Images courtesy of Dan Foley Photography



Nicole and Sam met during a night out in Coventry in 2015. "Sam arrived with a friend of mine, and we instantly clicked," says Nicole. "I was drawn to his upbeat personality and sense of humour. Sam was always the loudest in the room; he was never afraid to laugh at himself, and he was so kind. He was drawn to my smile and my sense of humour. He's always been able to make me smile. We talked all night and laughed a lot. Eventually we swapped numbers and started as friends before becoming a couple in June 2016."

Sam popped the question during a holiday in Wales. "Before we went, Sam told me not to get over excited as he wasn't going to propose while we were away," shares the bride. "We had just had our sixth anniversary, so I was hoping for a ring soon! We went on a walk down to a waterfall with our puppy, Albie. When we got there, he insisted on walking underneath it. Once under the waterfall, Sam got down on one knee and proposed!"

SETTING THE SCENE

"Initially, we had planned to have a big wedding in a marquee," explains Nicole. "Unfortunately, a few months later, I became very ill and was in and out of hospital for months. I ended up in a wheelchair with a feeding tube, so we cancelled everything. After a year, I was well enough to have the wedding. We booked Cheylesmore Manor House's Black Prince Room for our seventh anniversary, but as I'm still using a wheelchair and fatigued, we opted for a wedding reception in Sam's mum's garden. Cheylesmore Manor House was the perfect fit for us, as I have always loved wooden beams and old buildings. The décor felt right and fit the rustic, romantic look we wanted. My mother-in-law decorated the garden for the reception. We had games, plenty of seats, dancing, and so much fun."

For their favours, the couple gave their guests sweets, flip-flops, bubbles and activity packs for the kids.

"The Sugar Peony created our three-tiered cake, which was hand-painted and decorated with sugar peonies," recalls the bride. "We chose red velvet, white chocolate, raspberry, and vanilla. We also had a dessert table, vegan cupcakes, and plenty of party food."

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

"I wore a gown from Proposals Bridal Studio in Coventry," says Nicole. "Wearing the dress made me feel like a bride; I felt beautiful and confident in a way I never had before, and it felt like the perfect fit for a summer wedding. The lace straps were intricate but simple at the same time, with some sparkle but not too much. I accessorised with simple diamond earrings and a necklace from Twilight Designs."

"Sam chose a two-piece grey suit with a hunter green tie from Moss Bros," continues the bride. "My bridesmaid opted for a floor-length, hunter green dress with floaty short sleeves and a slit up one side."

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

"I had been worried about the wedding due to my health, but on the day I felt so calm and collected," shares Nicole. "I just knew that this was where I was meant to be. I felt completely serene. Sam's favourite moment was when I walked down the aisle. I've been in a wheelchair for six months and have only been able to go short distances with a crutch and support for three weeks after months of physiotherapy. Sam knew I would be walking down the aisle, but no one else did. The excitement and tears were incredible. My favourite moment was reading our vows, promising to support each other through sickness and health. After everything we had been through, it was so special, and I remember not noticing anyone but Sam once the ceremony started."

The happy couple's friends and family helped make their wedding perfect. "My bridesmaid was amazing," adds Nicole. "Anything I needed she'd planned for already; she kept me so calm and relaxed."



Our hair and make-up ladies were fabulous, but the hairdresser stayed late to help me into my dress due to my mobility issues; she told me when I needed a break and held my hand to support me while they were doing the dress up. She was beyond kind, and we couldn't have managed without her. Our photographer, Dan Foley, also deserves a huge mention. Not only was he hilarious and amazing, but he went above and beyond; he fit right in with our families, and everyone I've spoken to has said how lovely he was! His photos were amazing, and he helped do jobs at the reception. He got everyone involved and was very patient with others taking photos too."

HONEYMOON

"We went to Portugal for five days," recalls the bride. "It was a wedding present, and although we couldn't go far as access was limited, we loved spending quality time together and playing cards. We plan to have a big honeymoon somewhere once I'm better."





NICOLE AND SAM'S CONTACTS

Venue, Cheylesmore Manor House, www.ceremoniesinsidecoventry.co.uk/cheylesmoremanorceremonysuite | **Photographer**, Dan Foley Photography, www.danfoley.co.uk | **Bride's dress and alterations**, Proposals Bridal Studio, www.bridalgownsofcoventry.co.uk | **Bride's accessories**, Twilight Designs, www.twilightdesigns.co.uk | **Groom's suit**, Moss Bros, www.moss.co.uk | **Bridesmaid's dress**, JJ's House, www.jjshouse.co.uk | **Make-up artist**, Mili Fox Make-up Artist, www.milifoxmakeupartist.co.uk | **Hair stylist**, Imperial Hair, www.facebook.com/imperialhair247 | **Cake**, The Sugar Peony, www.thesugarpeony.com | **Dessert table**, Stoke Bakery, www.facebook.com/stoke.bakery | **Flowers**, Petals and Foxtails, www.petalsandfoxtails.co.uk | **Stationery**, Zazzle, www.zazzle.co.uk