

## **The Biggest Blessing That I Have Received**

When I was a young man, I was in country music and in bull riding. I figured if I was going to get famous, I would do it somehow. While music was my first love, I loved the bull riding for the adrenalin rush and the excitement.

I met and married a young lady, it lasted eleven years. I didn't feel the actual emotion of love, that my grandad described to me, but I did feel.....some attraction. After that, I dated, off and on, just could never grasp that emotion.

When I was just a young boy, I stayed with my grandparents most summers and holidays. My grandad was from Louisiana, so that's where we would go and spend our time. I loved it there. It was a very small town where everyone knew everyone. There were probably, only three or four hundred people there, if that. I fished and he taught me how to build crawdad traps, so I could catch a bundle of them and we would have them for supper. He told me they would taste better if I caught them myself. Somehow, he was right.

While we were building traps and fishing, he would always tell me that one day I would find a certain girl that was picked out just for me. I really didn't say too much

about it, but it had always stuck with me. He said that when you see that person that is made for you, for the first time, you will immediately know that she is who you are supposed to spend the rest of your life with. Somehow, that did not make much sense to me. I always thought you were supposed to just grow into someone, or maybe find one you liked and maybe, one day, you would fall in love. Throughout the years, that never happened. I would find people I like, but never loved. So, through almost fifty years, I never was able to experience that.

A little over three years ago, I was sitting in a hotel room in Greenville, TX. It was getting close to bed time and I was sharing a room with a friend of mine. I was laying on the bed, scrolling through social media and came across a picture. I looked for a second and kept scrolling. I thought about it for a second and scrolled back. I saw a profile picture of the most beautiful woman I have ever seen. My mind immediately took me back to the conversation that me and grandad had. Without a doubt, this was her. I had never felt anything like this before, the funny thing was, I had never even met this woman. This was absolutely crazy.

I turned my phone to, my buddy, Joe and said, “ I’m gonna marry that woman.”

I thought he was going to have a heart attack. He said, “I have never heard those words, even close to come out of your mouth.”

I laughed a little, but started going through her profile. I noticed that several of her posts were about Louisiana, or crawfish, or something of that nature. She was right up my alley. She was also very sarcastic, which, if anyone has ever met me, so am I.

I started liking some of her posts and commenting on a few of them. A few days later I got up the nerve to private message her. What it was about, I have no clue. After that, we started talking a little at a time. Finally, after a few weeks, we exchanged phone numbers and started texting each other. I would send her some of my music and she loved it. We had several mutual friends, but didn't know it. I have played in several different places, and found out, she had been there.....at the same time. We even hung out in a lot of the same places.

She lived a little over an hour away from me, but hung out in the same areas, most of the time. We like the same things, the same music (some of it). Our interests were the same. Everything was spot on.

I finally got the nerve up to ask if we could meet, she said she would love to, so we decided that we would pick a day

and get it done. She told me that she worked in Granbury, TX where she lived, but on Thursdays, she was in Burleson, TX, which was where I lived. She gave me the time and the address where she worked (Only on Thursdays, mind you) It was literally only a few doors down from where I had a radio show.....Only on Thursdays.

I couldn't wait, so I showed up early, apparently, I wasn't supposed to, but I did. She wasn't quite ready, yet, but she came out and I spoke, only a few words and turned and left. That was it???? All that.....for that???? Shae was stunning to me. I had never been shy about anything in my life, until that point.

I felt horrible so I called her that next day and told her that I was going to my dad's boat that weekend and would like for her to come out. I also told her to bring a friend so she wouldn't be uncomfortable, at all.

She showed up at the boat, with her friend and we had an absolute fabulous time. We talked, I played guitar and sang, we ate, just had the best time. It could never have gone any better. Since that weekend, we have only spent a very few days apart.

One Thanksgiving, she invited me to go to Louisiana with her and meet her family. On our way, the road looked very familiar. When we got on a certain freeway, I looked

over and described the old metal bridge that we would cross on this specific road we were on, several miles down the road that we were on. Sure enough, a few miles down the road, we crossed the old bridge. She asked me how I knew about that old bridge, I had told her about my time in Louisiana, when I was younger. Wasn't very far into Louisiana, that we turned off to go to her mother's house. I knew this area very well.

We pulled in to her mother's drive way and went in the house. Not much was mentioned about where I grew up, except a few questions, here and there. The next evening, we were all sitting at the island, in the kitchen, and her mother asked me what my family's last name was. I told her and she looked extremely surprised. She asked me if I knew a Donice Perkins. I told her that was my aunt. Apparently, they were like sisters growing up. They graduated, together, in the same school in a class of, less than, twelve people. Our families had grown up together, in the same town.

We got married on November 22, 2022. Now I know what, the emotion, love is. And now I finally found the one that was picked out, just for me.