

# Will U Marry Me?

EBONIE KUNAUS & DANIEL CLARKE  
SAULT IN DAYLESFORD 18TH OCTOBER 2009  
Photography by RubiiDesign Story by Jacqueline Berthume

IT WAS THE MOMENT EVERY GIRL DREAMS OF, AND THE STUFF OF OLD MOVIE LEGENDS. AN UNSUSPECTING EBONIE KUNAUS WAS HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS WHEN HER PRINCE CHARMING ASKED HER TO PEER OUT THE WINDOW OF THEIR PRIVATE CHARTER PLANE. AND THERE, LIKE MAGIC, THEY WERE, SCRAWLED OVER THE GREEN FIELD BELOW:

*"Will U Marry Me?"*





As a result, Ebonie's engagement to Daniel Clarke made the front cover of the Bendigo Weekly and the romantic proposal will remain etched in local folklore. "Daniel had organised it all as a surprise which was so lovely," Ebonie said.

"The words were spelt out in 22 foot tall letters on a school oval in Strath, so it was pretty hard to miss!"

It was two days after Valentine's Day that the couple took their flight into a fanciful future. It was enough to make cupid consider changing the date a few days forward, in fact.

"Everyone knows that proposing is one of the most nerve-racking moments in a man's life," Daniel said. "So I thought I should just go all-out and show her how I feel!"

Little time was wasted in preparing for the wedding, with the date being set for October 18 - just over nine months after the engagement.

A ceremony and reception unfolded in the gorgeous setting of Sault in Daylesford, with beautiful sunlight ushering the bride and groom into marriage and spectacular fireworks capping off the night.

It was the first time the venue had experienced fireworks and, in the spirit of grandeur and romance, it was an idea the venue's owners welcomed. "We organised for the guests to be given sparklers and match books that are emblazoned with the words 'The Perfect Match,'" Ebonie said.

"We had to figure out a way to get everyone outside for the big surprise at the end of the night, so figured if we tell everyone we

are going to head outside to get a group shot with our sparklers, that no one would suspect anything." "It was the perfect finale to a perfect day," Daniel added.

Throughout the night, Ebonie's elegant hands sparkled with a diamond wedding and engagement ring ensemble from Tiffany & Co, while Daniel's classic wedding band was sourced from Cliveden Fine Jewellers in Melbourne.

The bride carried a bouquet of cream rosettes from Green Lily, matching her breathtaking, off-the-shoulder wedding gown from Bendigo Bridal and simple droplet earrings and necklace. "I loved my flowers!" Ebonie said. "I was so lucky with how all that panned out, actually," she said. "The flowers I wanted weren't really in bloom at the time, so Green Lily rang around everywhere to get them and as it turns out, I was the first bride in Victoria to get them!"

It wasn't the first mini-miracle in this romantic story.

"When we first called around during the initial preparations, we found that everyone we wanted was booked," Ebonie said. "Then one by one, a series of cancellations occurred and we ended up nabbing our first choice photographer, make-up artist and restaurant just a few days later. "Proof that it was meant to be," she laughed.

There was also a collective sigh of relief when the couple scored a booking at the highly reputed Sault Restaurant. "We couldn't have organised the day as well as we did if it hadn't have been for Jodie at Sault," Ebonie said. "She helped with the timeline of the day, gave us ideas on decorating and just made the whole thing



stress-free. She even organised the cake!"

After arriving in a stylish 1966 Mustang coup, followed by the bridesmaids in a 525i BMW, Ebonie walked herself down the aisle to the outdoor ceremony.

Ebonie sadly lost both her parents in an accident when she was young, and was raised by her grandmother. As such, it was a particularly emotional ceremony.

There to capture the special moments was Mel Plambeck of Rubii Design Photography. "Mel drove down to Daylesford with us to check out the location, share some ideas and get some inspiration for the day," Ebonie said.

"We are more than impressed with the result and were so humbled by how seriously she took the job of photographing our wedding."

Filling in the photo frame with their strapping good looks was Ebonie and Daniel's bridal party. They came dressed in dark hues, with the bridesmaids' frocks and creamy flower girl dresses tailor made in Bendigo, and the groomsmen's suits sourced from Calibre in Melbourne.

"I had found a photo in a magazine of a groom that I thought looked quite trendy," Ebonie said. "I showed it to Daniel and he loved the

look, so we ended up finding a fairly close match in Melbourne."

After two hair trials at Hair House, Ebonie locked in their services for the day, noting that the girls at the salon seemed just as excited about the wedding as the bride.

And Ebonie chose make-up artist Melinda Keighran, who came up with a natural look to complement her flowing hairstyle.

After a divine series of dishes served to the guests at the Sault reception, Daniel and Ebonie headed off to the Spa Villas in Daylesford where they were given star treatment on their first night as man and wife.

Like every pair of newlyweds, the couple deserved some respite following the grand occasion and flew off to Thailand for their honeymoon.

Three nights on the legendary Phi Phi Island were followed by a five-night jaunt in the jasmine-scented precinct of Phuket. The couple capped off their week of romance in Singapore before coming back down to the proverbial earth.

Aeroplane proposals, fireworks, flights to Oriental wonderlands... this couple sure know how to pronounce their undying love. We can only imagine where their imaginations will take them each anniversary.



**ADDRESS BOOK** GOWN: Bendigo Bridal Collections 03 5441 8055 \* PHOTOGRAPHER: RubiiDesign 0403 281 680  
\* RECEPTION: Sault Daylesford 03 5348 6555 \* FLORIST: Green Lily 03 5441 6450 \* HAIR: Hair House  
03 5441 7999 \* MAKE-UP: Melinda Keighran 0439 205 406 \* INVITATIONS: RubiiDesign 0403 281 680  
\* TRAVEL AGENT: Flight Centre 03 5442 7688