Occasion; **Wedding: Amy Bahr and Jon Nillis** (Wedding date is May 26, 2013 -- day before Memorial Day Holiday)

Tone: Funny, romantic, sentimental

How Amy and Jon met:

* Amy and Jon lived in same neighborhood growing up ---with houses across the street from one another.
* Jon’s mom (June) was one of Amy’s childhood babysitters.
* Carol was Jon’s substitute computer teacher (and she did not anything about computers, and one time he asked for help, and she proceeded to accidentally erase all Jon’s computer homework.
* Jon sat behind Amy on the school bus and would try to make her laugh to get her attention.
* Amy and Jon’s first date was in high school dance. He picked her up in a big pick-up truck. He was gentlemen –she was wearing long gown, and he literally swept her off her feet and placed her in passenger side of the truck.
* Amy and Jon dated through high school and college at University of Illinois.

Family Background / Attributes:

* Amy’s Family – last name is Bahr (pronounced “Bar”); Amy’s parents Bob and Carol; Amy has 1 brother and 1 sister (Matt and Jessica).
* Amy’s dog – a female beagle named Madison. Madison is high spirited, high energy, and mischievous. Amy loves Madison and coddles her like a baby.
* Amy loves to spend time with grandma watching “Dancing with the Stairs” while she sits in the massage chair
* Amy loves her all her cousins particularly her cousin Bryan; they have been close since they were young children.
* Jon’s family name is Nillis (short “I” vowel). Jon’s parents are Kurt and June. Jon has two brothers (Tony and Tim). Amy and Jon love to watch Tony’s children: Max and Anderson (girl)

Hobbies:

* Amy: loves to workout and run –she has run 16 Marathon races (26 miles) --- throughout U.S including Hawaii. Jon is Amy’s cheerleader at her Marathons.
* Amy also loves to watch reality television -- which Jon can’t stand
* Amy is also a fanatic on Facebook; Jon is a fanatic on Twitter and loves his cell phone; constantly tweeting
* Jon loves all sports, particularly bowling and golf. He is also into Fantasy football

Occupation:

* Amy is a nurse in labor and delivery at hospital …i.e. she delivers babies
* Jon was a television Sportcaster; he now is in Sales (at Career Builders) –and successful due to his friendly and outgoing personality

Characteristics / traits/quirks

* Perfect relationship -- Amy loves to laugh; and Jon enjoys making Amy laugh.
* Amy is crazy driver – she has crashed almost all the family cars – Suburban, Impala, and Honda
* Amy is very determined and drives to reach goals; she is perfectionist; she is also competitive –from the soccer field to playing board games. When she was on the 5th grade basketball team, she fouled out in every game in the first quarter. She was average ball player but a fierce competitor.
* Jon is patient, loyal, committed, witty and funny; He is an outstanding storyteller which Amy enjoys
* Amy and Jon keep apartments clean – but do not maintain their respective cars. Neither has room to carry a passenger in their respective cars because of all the junk

Amy growing up: Valedictorian in middle school; Salutatorian in high school; she once ran off the run trying to study on the way to school – see reference on crazy driving; She was in dance and gymnastics – took very serious approach to getting every step correct.

Jon growing up: funny; class clown; good athlete

What Amy Loves about Jon

* Jon lovers her unconditionally –he thinks she is beautiful whether she is dressed in fancy gown or laying in a hospital bed. He is funny and makes me laugh

What Jon loves about Amy:

* Amy has wonderful sense of humor and loves to laugh’ and I love to make her laugh. She is also beautiful, sweet, smart, tough, and resilient

Life Changing Event (Recent)

* Amy hospitalized with serious illness. She almost lost her life and spent 6 weeks in the hospital, much of it on life support.
* **During this time, she learned to trust God. She saw God do a miracle as a result of the power of prayer from thousands of people.**
* She learned how much Jon, her family and friends love her.
* She described Jon as a warrior who stayed by her side, protected and supported her.
* She saw Jon demonstrate the meaning of the wedding vows, “for better or worse…in sickness and in health.” She knows that he loves her unconditionally and will never leave her side.
* Jon described event as something that helps you remember what is and is not important. And that God answered prayer and saved Amy

Nicknames

* Amy call Jon “bug” – “because he is as cute as a bug”
* Jon call Amy “bird” – because “she is as pretty as a bird”

Foods

* Amy’s favorite foods – all snack food – diet coke, orange tic-tac candy; skittles, and cotton candy)
* Jon’s favorite food – meat and more meat (steak, burgers)
* Jon and Amy love to try new restaurants
* Jon and Amy won the annual Nillis Barbeque (competition) their first time entering as couple…with a gourmet hamburger.

Family:

* Amy and Jon are very close to their families. Fondest memories are family gatherings for holidays and vacations. Amy loves family vacations with his family and extended family – grandparents; aunts, uncles, cousins. She looks forward to future gatherings at Bentwater – water sports and golf

Amy Blog

I have to tell you what happened today. What hurt today. I haven't written since November, and when I looked back at my last post, it was haunting. My last post asked for prayers for a "health scare." Little did I know, I would need all the prayers I could get over the next four months. Because that last post was written right before something BIG happened. Before that post, I wasn't a person that had ever experienced something BIG. Now I'm a person with a BIG. I could go on American Idol and have a sob story and describe how I got through it and how it changed me. Before that, I could never have been on American Idol. Now I can... So, there's that.

But I digress. I'm not writing today to tell you about my something BIG. I promise you, it will come. I'm not sure yet how to write about my something BIG, because it deserves such BIG words and I can't find them yet. I've been asking God how I should go about telling you about my BIG, but He hasn't told me yet. I know that He chose me to go through this for a reason. And it's not so I can go on American Idol (honestly I can't sing, so it wouldn't work anyways). There's a purpose and I'm looking for it. When God gives me the words and the strength to write the words as BIG as they should be, I promise you I'll tell you about my BIG. Today I'm writing to tell you about something else.

My BIG hurt me in many ways. I'm forever changed because of my BIG. But one thing that my BIG can't change is my heart, and what is in my heart is my running. I'm a runner, a marathoner. It's who I am. It's part of me. It's part of me that I wouldn't recognize myself without. When I first got sick, my fiancé and my parents were told that I wasn't going to live. They were also told if I did live, I would definitely lose my leg.

My fiancé went through 48 hours realizing that if he was lucky enough to keep me at all, he was going to forever have a wife with one leg. I have a special hubs-to-be.....because my love wasn't worried about having a wife with one leg and how it would affect him....He doesn't think that way. My love is selfless. He'd love his wheelchair wife just the same. He was worried that if he was lucky enough to keep his wife alive, he would have a wife with one leg that also didn't have a heart anymore....because running is her heart and without a leg, she couldn't run, and therefore, she'd lose her heart.

You know what? God kept me alive. I could see him, you guys, I could. He turned my little butt right back around and put me back on earth. And guess what else? A million people prayed. And all of their friends prayed. And He listened. And He let me keep my leg. It's a different leg now. It's scars will forever remind me that I was insanely close to Jesus but He gave me more time. And I got to keep my heart too. My doctors at Loyola told my fiancé, family, and myself that if I work hard, I'll make a full recovery. I'll run. Dr. G told me he's coming to my next marathon. I told him it might be in Hawaii, because my leg deserves to run a marathon in a pretty place. That marathon will be hard on my scarred leg. Those 26.2 miles will hurt her, and she'll deserve something pretty to run on, like white sand. Dr. G said, that's ok. I'll come to Hawaii. Dr. G is pretty damn fabulous.

Today I saw a different doctor. One of the first surgeons that took care of my BIG. She tried to tell me that I need to dream smaller. She told me my leg won't be able to run a marathon. It hurt, you guys. My leg was pretty upset too. She knows deep inside, she's the same leg, she's just a little different now. She just looks a little different, and she's not quite so strong, but she's working so hard to get there. She knows, and I know, I'll run a marathon again. I'm the hardest worker there ever was. God kept me here, and He knows what's in my heart. He would never take that away from me. My other doctors and physical therapists tell me of course I'll run, and heck yeah I'll run a marathon. This doctor told me I shouldn't have such big goals. I left the office in tears.

I just wanted to write this down, because someday I'll be running a marathon on that leg that that doctor cut into and didn't believe in, and I want to print out this story and show it to that doctor. And tell her that she should never tell a girl with so much heart to dream smaller. I'll run that marathon....and I'll send her my race bib number in the mail to hang

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