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After the Aisle: She Set Him Up with Someone Else, but He Found His Way Back to Her

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Jen Betts '11 & Austin Reeves '11

She set him up with someone else, but he found his way back to her.

By Kate Dabbs '09

If it's true that a puppy prepares a young couple for the responsibility of one day raising a family, it is safe to say Jen and Austin Reeves have it down pat. What was once one rescue dog has now grown to four (plus a cat) because the Reeves could not leave littermates behind when they selected their second puppy.

"Jen has a huge heart for dogs," Austin laughs, but it is easy to tell she is not alone. How else would he be okay with coming home expecting one new puppy and finding three?

When they are not busy playing Dr. Doolittle, the Reeves are settling in to a new life together after marrying in

August of 2015. Both former Furman athletes (Jen, tennis; Austin, golf), their days are action-filled. Austin works as an associate coach for Furman's golf team, and Jen, in sales at ADP in Greenville.

"We love to work out, eat, go to concerts and sporting events—Clemson football in particular—and just playing together with our dogs," Jen says. Through her work, Jen has won several trips that enabled multiple honeymoons. "We've been able to travel to Maui, Barcelona, Whistler, and Cabo San Lucas all through work," she says.

The two met in a marketing class with Dr. Underwood and cemented their friendship over

a group project.

"We connected because we were the slower ones of the group," they insist, though their resume of professional successes would certainly suggest otherwise.

"Austin was red-shirted and I broke my foot, so our usually crazy practice schedules were on hold and we had more time to hang out," Jen reports.

The chemistry was instant but as Austin tells it: "We both maybe wanted to date, but Jen was shy and actually tried to set me up with one of her friends."

"Thankfully, that didn't work out," Jen laughs.

The friendship slowly grew into more after graduation, she says. "When we started hanging out, we struggled a little bit with how to not just be friends. But that didn't last long."

And on November 3, 2014, after dating for a little more than three years, it was time for more.

Austin surprised Jen with a proposal that didn't quite go according to plan (the perfect restaurant was unexpectedly closed for renovations and the cat escaped from Jen's house), but her answer was an unequivocal yes.

Reflecting on their young marriage, the chaos of raising puppies, and a combined energy that is palpable, the Reeves are even-keeled.

"I live with my best friend and every minute we spend together is doing something we both love to do," says Jen.

"I really can't even put into words how glad I am we are married," says Austin. "But the one thing that is an adjustment is the unknown of sharing your life with another person. There is always a potential new project that is never convenient. Or an 'I-just-need-your-help' moment.

"Or maybe a potential new pet," he jokes. ●

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS



Dan and Angie Sprouse '96, a daughter, Brooklyn Rebecca, October 7, 2014

Chris and Alison Cunnold '99 Boivin, a daughter, Megan Joy, September 28, 2015

Will '00 and Reid Breckenridge '01 Murphy, a daughter, Lindie Louise, May 23, 2015

Luke and Whitney Brown '01 Cawley, a daughter, Amelie Ann, December 3, 2014

Greg and Michelle Abraham '01 Curnutte, a daughter, Madeline Austen, September 28, 2015

Scott and Rebekah Tribble '03 Crenshaw, a son, Leighton Kellett, January 21, 2015

Ben and Lindsey Mecca '04 Nicely, a daughter, Kayla Grace, July 1, 2015

Sam '06 and April Raymer '05 Tooker, a daughter, April Dylan, January 19, 2016

Todd and Allison Arant '07, twins; a son, Perry Sims, and a daughter, Anna Rast, May 5, 2015

Ian '07 and Carolyn Stevens '09 Duggan, a son, Lane Jerome, October 24, 2015

Tanner '08 and Caroline Cates '09 Ivie, a son, Jackson Thomas, July 16, 2015

Jeff and Emily Grant '09 Smith, a son, Blaise Anthony, June 8, 2015