

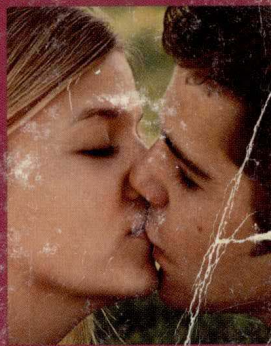
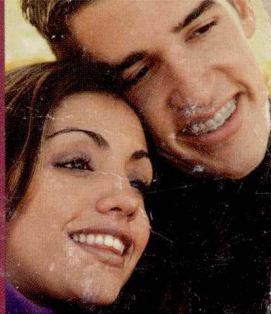
Teen
People[®]

LOVE stories

STORIES OF TRUE ROMANCE

Plus, Majandra Delfino, Seth Green
and other celebs share their first
crushes, worst blind dates and more!

EDITED BY JENNIFER SOONG



Teen
People®

江苏工业学院图书馆

藏书章

LOVE
stories

STORIES OF TRUE ROMANCE

Edited by Jennifer Soong



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AOL Keyword: Teen People

**To all the teens who have shared
their stories with us.**

Letter from the Editor

When I was fifteen, a guy in high school wanted to ask me out on a date, but my parents insisted on meeting him first. On the day he was supposed to come, we waited and waited. Finally I realized he wasn't going to show up.

I saw him at school the next day, and he told me he'd gotten lost. He didn't ask if we could reschedule the meeting with my parents. I felt hurt, embarrassed. I really liked him, and I took it personally.

Only years later did I realize how difficult it must have been for him to approach my neighborhood of big houses and manicured lawns. He was African-American, and I believe his fear of my parents and the recognition of our different lives is what really kept him away.

Everybody has a love story—or in my case, an unrequited love story. As the couples in *Teen People: Love Stories* show, a relationship often has to overcome a lot of obstacles before it can become a romance. Reading the story of Jamie Dwyer and Jamah Perry, two teens who overcame their different racial backgrounds to be together, reminded me of

what I went through. But these are different times, and Jamie and Jamah dealt head-on with an issue that I hardly understood years ago.

Your teenage years are usually when your first significant romantic relationship happens, and it doesn't always go smoothly. The roadblocks can be small: misunderstandings over money or a casual flirtation. Or huge, as in the case of Ann-Margaret Brannon and John Swearingen, whose love thrives despite the fact that John is battling cancer. Some of these stories are about the magic of instant chemistry and the more subtle rewards of friendships that evolve into something more. Above all, *Love Stories* proves that the power of love can help you through difficult times and complicated situations.

I hope they inspire you to write your own love story. So don't sit by the phone waiting for someone to call. Read this book and make the call yourself.

Barbara O'Dair
Managing Editor, *Teen People*

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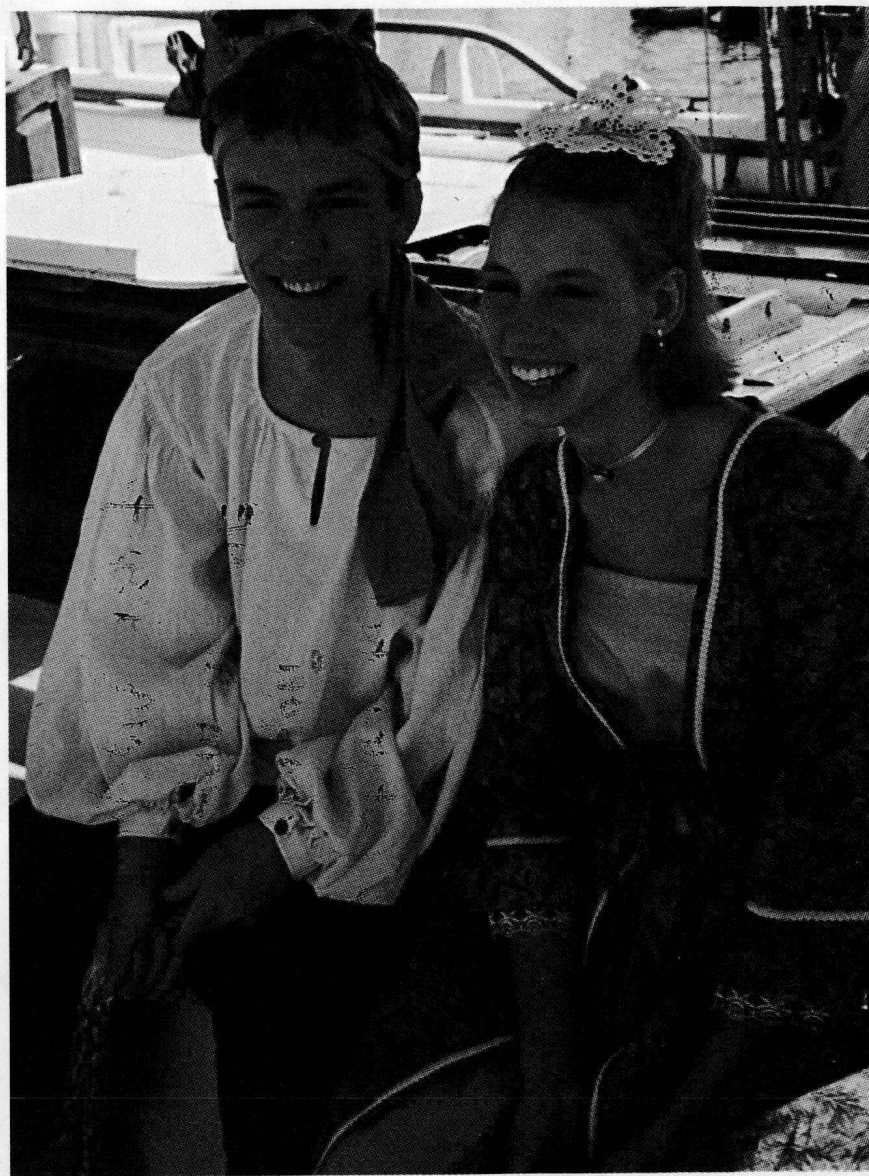
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Chapter 1

friends FIRST

These couples started as friends,
but soon discovered something more—love.



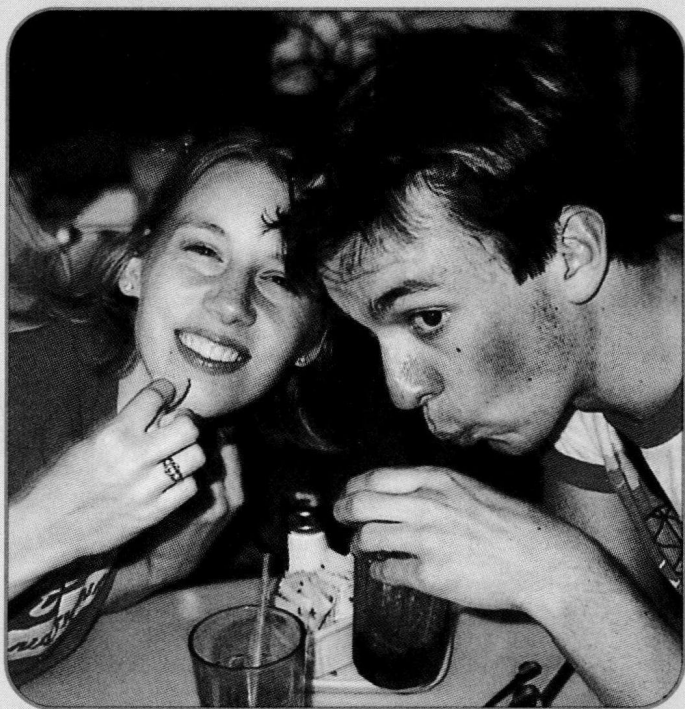
Emily Johnson, 19

Josh Peck, 17

DUVALL, WASHINGTON

Emily knew that Josh was the right guy for her even before they met in person. She got a positive vibe simply from seeing his photo at her friend's house. "I don't know why, but I thought he looked like someone who could be my best friend," she says. When she found out that he was going to an upcoming Halloween party, she was determined to find out if there was more to her feeling.

The night of the party, Emily made an entrance that caught everyone's attention, though it was definitely not by design. As she was walking down the stairs, she lost her balance, tripped on the steps and slid all the way to the bottom—landing right at Josh's feet. Turning a deep shade of crimson, Emily thought she



From the moment Emily and Josh met, something clicked.

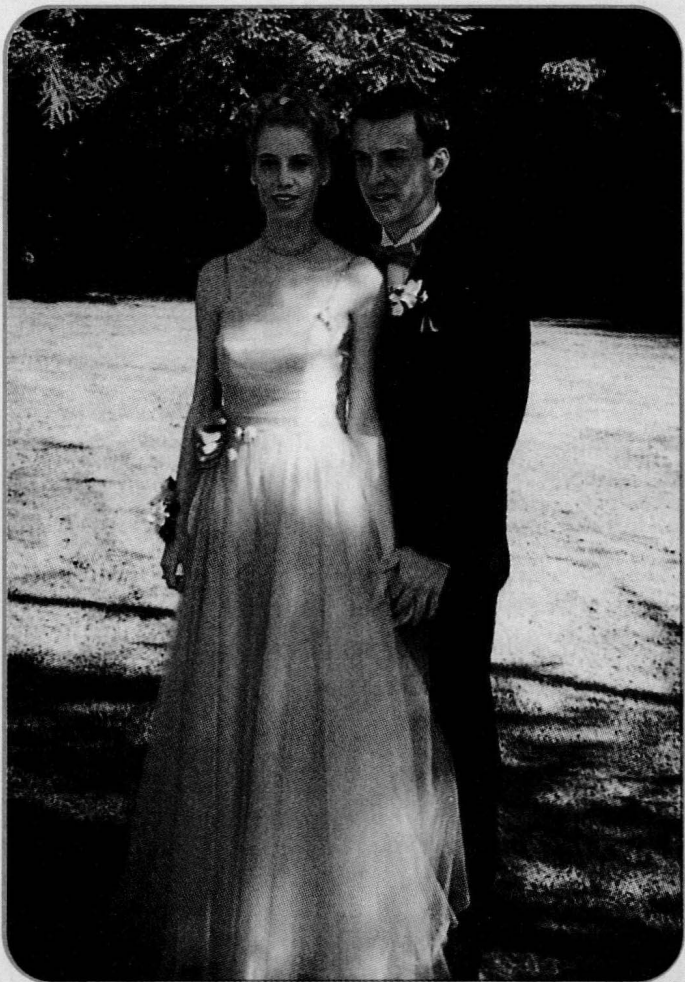
had blown her chance with him. But Josh was unfazed, and smoothed everything out; he helped her up, gave her a hug and introduced himself. "From that very second, I knew that we were meant to be," she says. "Love was not on my mind yet. I just knew that I had never felt such a strong connection to anyone before."

As soon as they started chatting, the two felt completely at ease and talked as if they had known each other their entire lives. "By the end of the night, it was pretty flirtatious," recalls Josh. "Everybody was noticing, and after she left, all the guys were coming up to me to see if I asked her out yet."

Josh wanted to get to know her better first. He suggested Emily and their friends go to the movies, so they went to see *The Waterboy*. Even though it wasn't an official date, something clicked. "We held hands and it was just so wonderful," says Emily. "Usually when you like someone, you don't know if it'll work. But after we held hands, it was kind of inevitable that something was going to happen."

Perfect Timing

On Christmas, Josh planned to ask Emily to be his girlfriend. "I was thinking long and hard if I was ready to make the commitment," he explains. "And I decided I wanted to. It felt right." He called



Emily says, "I like him because . . . he's not one of those big tough guys who like football and cars."

her up and, pumped up on nervous energy, blurted out, "Would you like to go out sometime?" She thought he just wanted to hang out, and responded, "Where?" He was thrown off by her reaction, but he repeated his question. She still acted confused. After a moment's hesitation—and wondering if he should change his tack—he asked her a third time. "Right after that, I realized what he was doing," she recalls. "Then I got all nervous. But I said yes."

Emily says that Josh is different from most guys she knows. "I like him because he's funny and cute," she says. "He's not one of those big tough guys who like football and cars." Josh says, "I wasn't really brought up like that. My mom had her own ballet school that she taught out of our garage studio. So I've been around girls all my life and never really got the macho guy thing."

As they spent more time together, their feelings grew more intense. "Neither of us had ever been in a relationship before, so we took things slow," says Emily. "But after the six-month mark, we both kind of realized that it was serious, even though we hadn't actually said the I-love-you thing yet."

One topic they discussed openly was whether or not they wanted to lose their virginity. "After we

became more serious, it was an issue," says Emily. "We talked about it and decided we wanted to wait to have sex." Adds Josh, "It's just not something we want to do right now." They reached this decision together, and their commitment has brought them closer. "While most couples think it's crazy, it only makes our relationship stronger," she notes.

"It's not like we walk around with a sign—'We haven't had sex,'" says Josh. "But when people are talking and it does come up, they're, like, 'How long have you guys been going out?' They're pretty amazed."

But the pair doesn't worry about what other people think. "It's like everyone thinks it's rare not to be having sex on a regular basis," she says. "But with us, we both feel lucky to have each other."

Pure Entertainment

The couple is constantly looking for ways to have fun together. "We both like to be dorky and funny," admits Emily. "We have the same sense of humor. And we laugh and joke around a lot." Often, they amuse themselves by sharing a pie at their favorite table at Frankie's Pizza and Pasta, or simply going to pick flowers on a nearby farm. Both dog-lovers, they enjoy taking Emily's puppy—a golden Lab named

Ruby—for strolls around the neighborhood dog park.

Since it was a photo that first brought the couple together, it's only fitting that they love to take pictures. A year ago, they discovered a black-and-



Together for two years, Josh and Emily share something special and make each other happy.