

*Manhattan Bride's ...*

# Honeymoon Contest Winners

Bride- & Groom-to-be Rachel Epstein & John Eddey told us about their exciting proposal and their mutual support.

Now they'll honeymoon at Bucuti Beach Resort in Aruba.

(For our next contest, see the facing page, and for our complete online entry form, visit [www.manhattanbride.com](http://www.manhattanbride.com).)

John knew I wanted a big to-do when the time came for a marriage proposal. I hadn't said anything outright, but he observed my reaction to friends' engagements, and gauged that I would favor a public proposal over a private moment between us. We hadn't talked much about marriage, but after dating for almost three years, we knew it would happen. I was still blown away when it did.

## The (Very) Public Proposal

I'm in corporate philanthropy and John is vice president of a movie production studio. When word came that "Sex and the City" was shooting a scene on one of his sound stages, I begged for him to get me in as an extra. I am a huge fan of the show and love the thrill of production. He played it coy for days, finally saying that he pulled enough strings to get me a spot.

When the big day arrived, I was one of 300 background extras moving through hair, makeup, and wardrobe. We all made our way to the sound stage as production assistants gave us seating assignments. I got placed in the second row, right behind a famous female rapper who made a cameo, and all the "Sex and the City" women. I was so excited to have such a great spot.

After everyone was situated, the first assistant director came on the microphone and introduced John as a representative of the studio who wanted to welcome us on the first day of shooting.

John took the floor and, after thanking everyone for coming, said to the crowd, "Today is a special day for me. My girlfriend is in the audience. It was always her dream to be an extra in 'Sex and the City,' and now I hope she makes my dream come true and marries me."

Then, in front of all the actors, extras, and stagehands, he got down on one knee and pulled out a gorgeous ring.

It was such a surprise that I was shocked into silence. Women

around me were screaming, some were even crying, and my heart was going wild. I accepted the ring without saying a word, which prompted John to say into the microphone, "I don't think everyone heard your response."

"So that's a yes!" I offered to a roomful of applause.

The famous rapper and all the "Sex and the City" actors, not to mention almost all of the extras and the crew, offered congratulations and well-wishes throughout the course of the taping. And the whole engagement was caught by the camera crew!

It was an amazing experience that can never be replicated.

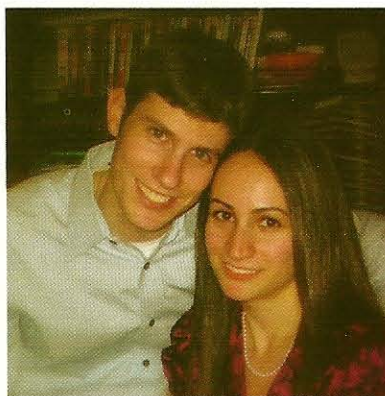
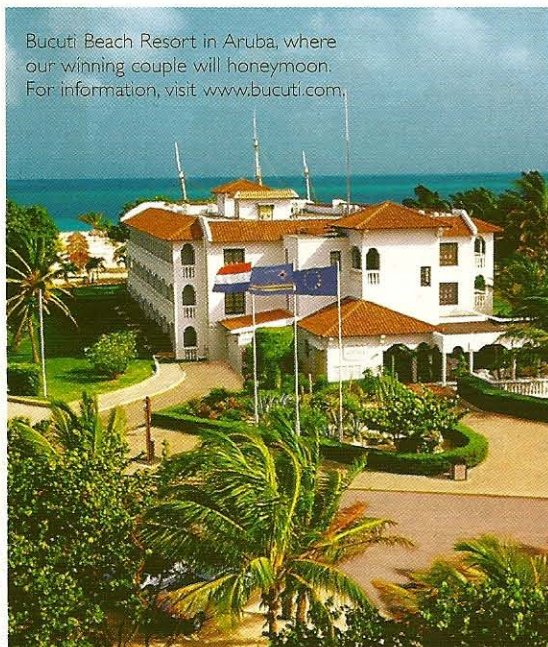
## How They Met

I was preparing to attend graduate school in Pennsylvania when, days before classes were to start, made a last-minute decision to try my luck at a New York City institution instead. I befriended a fellow student who knew John platonically through JDate, a Jewish online dating service. She arranged for us to meet based on one criterion: we were each newly single. Our status changed by the end of that first date.

John's surname, Eddey, has been in the United States since the 1600's, and he is the last in line to carry on the moniker. Earlier this year, I had an ovarian health scare and we were forced to face the possibility that we would be unable to conceive — a potential end to our vision of a large, vibrant family.

Minutes before receiving my test results, we agreed that no matter what the doctor said, we were committed to the institution of marriage and, more importantly, our love for one another. Fortunately, the results were favorable and we can remain committed to our dream of starting our own family.

John and I have found the balance in our lives where we care about not only ourselves and each other, but the health of our union. We challenge the stagnancy of a "committed relationship" by infusing fun, flirty elements to our everyday activities and aren't afraid to say, "Let me pamper you and give you my all." While marriage may be made up of compromises, we've learned that love can be easy. ♡



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**First Meeting:** Through a mutual friend, and indirectly, through an online dating service.

**The Proposal:** On the set of "Sex and the City."

**Backgrounds:** She's in corporate philanthropy, he's a vice president of a movie production studio.