

# **For Officer Karen, wedding's a gas; Story of how he popped the question proves publicist, comic actor are well-matched**

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Byline: Diana Zlomislic  
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On her wedding day, Tara Spencer-Nairn happily stomped on almost every bridal tradition in the book.

She joined her groom, Josh Glover, at a bar in her gown hours before exchanging vows.

She passed on Pachelbel's Canon for the ceremonial introductions, selecting instead the acoustic version of a song by the Stars called "Your Ex Lover is Dead."

She dismissed the notion that wedding parties must be even-numbered, so one lucky groomsman escorted two bridesmaids.

There is one tradition, though, the feisty Canadian actor would not defy.

Her father, John Spencer-Nairn, had to walk his youngest daughter down the aisle.

Before she could say, "I do" to the man with whom she intends to spend the rest of her life, she needed that moment with the man whose patience and love got her there.

The man who picked her up from Crofton House School when she got expelled in Grade 10 for kicking a hole in the wall and calling the head mistress a bleep- ing bleep.

The man who cannot help but laugh when he tells that story because "that was Tara" and he adores every mischievous part of her.

The rest of the bridal party, her mom Lucie, Glover's parents Jim and Marisa, and all 150 guests had already taken their places in the balcony of the Capitol Event Theatre, leaving dad and daughter in verklempt silence.

"We were behind the curtains," John recalls.

"We were the last people to walk down and we just looked at each other. We both said 'I love you' at the same time and we burst into tears. It was a magic moment."

"My papa," Tara sighs.

Finding a husband whose sense of mischief is as wicked as her own involved a bit of good luck and great timing - two things the comedic actor, who plays police officer Karen Pelly on the sitcom *Corner Gas*, has enjoyed in her career.

Spencer-Nairn and Glover, a publicist for McClelland and Stewart, had known each other casually for years before getting past the polite "How's work?"-type questions.

One night, a mutual friend named Nug had dragged Spencer-Nairn and Glover out to The Red Lion pub on Jarvis St. for a pint. When Nug disappeared for a few hours to play a touch-screen trivia game at the bar, the couple had no problem filling the time.

"We took a bit of coincidence and progressed through the small talk pretty quickly," Glover says. "We were both pretty interested right away."

Soon they were dating. Six months into the relationship, he invited her to move into his condo in downtown Toronto.

Glover proposed just before Christmas, 2006. His set-up to the big question was dramatic, well-planned and even a little cruel. In another word, perfect.

"I knew he was the right guy because he knew how to screw me over," Spencer-Nairn says, laughing.

From the time she arrived home after a long day volunteering at a charity toy drive, Glover had devised a plan to throw her off every step of the way. First, he suggested they spend the night in. When she emerged from the shower, though, Glover had slipped into his dress clothes.

Changed my mind, he said. Let's have a nice dinner out. Try that place we saw on Restaurant Makeover.

"We go downstairs and all of a sudden, there's a Town Car waiting for us," Spencer-Nairn says. "And I was, like, 'All right, this is the night!'"

But dinner service started and ended with her left ring finger bare. She passed on dessert, feeling a little deflated, and they climbed back into the limo.

Just when she thought she had totally misread his signals, she opened the condo door to a room full of glowing candles and flowers. Two gift-wrapped boxes - a little one and a big one - beckoned from the table.

Glover excused himself to the washroom and returned wearing an oversized sweatshirt.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"Oh, I manscaped earlier and my nipples were chafing," he said.

Spencer-Nairn tore through the big one first. It was a cute underwear and bra set.

The little package kind of rattled. It wasn't a ring box. Her reaction?

"I'm trying not to look disappointed," she recalls now.

She turned to the mirror to try on the pair of sterling silver drop earrings.

"Do you like them?" he asked.

"Oh, I love them," she managed.

"Are you sure?"

She does her best to keep smiling.

"Inside, I'm just so mortified. As I turned back around, he's got this weird look on his face."

"So, you really like them?" he persisted.

"Yah, yah, yah - I love them! They're beautiful!! Thank you!!!"

"Good," he said. "Because she also designed you this."

"And that's when I just lost it," Spencer-Nairn recalls. From a bulge beneath his big sweatshirt, Glover pulled out a ring box with a beautiful diamond inside custom-made by Toronto jeweller Linda Penwarden. "He just knew me well enough to know how to get me. Smart kid, that one. I really lucked out."

On April 19, the couple gathered with family and friends at the Capitol Event Theatre at Yonge St. and Eglinton Ave. for the ceremony and reception. They had hired event planner Machel Reeves to help with details big and small. It was Reeves who convinced the couple to meet before the nuptials with their bridal party at Betty's on King St. E., one of their favourite bars.

"It always bugs me that the bride and groom miss their own cocktail party because the day goes so fast," Reeves says. So pictures became the first order of the day - some at the bar, more at The Brickworks on Bayview Ave.

After a heavenly dinner - each plate of beef tenderloin or Arctic water black cod was cooked to order - and a lot of dancing thanks to DJ Fase, guests raided the midnight candy buffet.

Since returning from their three-week honeymoon in Cartagena, Colombia, Spencer-Nairn and Glover have been doing marriage long-distance. While he's based in Toronto for work, she's in Regina until September, shooting the final season of *Corner Gas*.

"It's hard to be apart," she says. "We try to go no more than three weeks, four weeks at the utter, utter maximum. Unfortunately, Regina is one of the most expensive cities in Canada to travel to. A roundtrip flight from Regina to Toronto is about \$1,200. It's ridiculous."

She can hardly wait until this time next year.

"I've never spent a summer with my husband. Ever. We can go to a cottage! We can go on road trips! There are so many things I'm looking forward to."

Visit [thestar.com/living](http://thestar.com/living) for details on the bride's dress, the music, the full menu and more photos.

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