

Stepmom of Jessica Chambers on Arrest of Accused Killer: 'I Believe He's Killed Before'

Former *Bachelorette* Emily Maynard Johnson Opens Up About Battling Postpartum Depression As

**MOST WATCHED** Who Will Be on Michael Fassbender's Arm on Oscar Night?

**PEOPLE PREMIUM** Read the Cover Story: Elizabeth Taylor: Inside Her Private World

Indiana Man Convicted on Two Counts of Murder: Intentional House Explosion for Insurance Payout

**OFF SCRIPT** PRESENTED BY xfinity EXCLUSIVE ACCESS ON XFINITY.COM/LATINO [WATCH NOW](#)

People Exclusive

# Soldier Marries Sister of Man He Saved in Afghanistan: 'It's Such an Amazing Love Story'

1.3k SHARES

[Share on Facebook](#) [Tweet](#) [Pin](#) [+](#) [SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)



Samantha Dilberian and Staff Sgt. Chris St. Onge  
RICHARD HARRELL PHOTOGRAPHY

BY MICHELLE BOUDIN  
[@michelleboudin](#) 02/23/2016 AT 12:00 PM EST

Samantha Dilberian and Staff Sgt. Chris St. Onge of Tampa, Florida, say they didn't realize how special their love story was until they actually had to put it down on paper so that they could apply to win a dream wedding.

"We live it, so we don't really think about it," Samantha, 26, tells PEOPLE. "But everyone seems to have the same reaction, everybody thinks it's just such an amazing story."

St. Onge, 27, served in Afghanistan with Samantha's brother, Bryan Dilberian. The two were on a routine patrol in July

2011 with the rest of their squad when an explosion shocked them all.

"We're not 100 percent sure what happened, we just know an explosion happened that wounded Bryan and killed another member of our squad," St. Onge tells PEOPLE.

Bryan lost both of his legs and his left arm. St. Onge helped stop the bleeding and got him to the hospital.

"It was very tough," St. Onge remembers. "You don't think about it at that exact moment, you're just worried about getting everyone out of there, but as soon as you get back to base that's when it sets in all your emotions come to you."

The Bronze Star recipient spent the next few months checking on his friend through emails with Bryan's sister, Samantha.

"We just kept talking and one thing lead to another," he says.



Samantha Dilberian and Staff Sgt. Chris St. Onge  
RICHARD HARRELL PHOTOGRAPHY

The two emailed and talked on the phone for eight months before they finally met in person.

"I think we both knew, we just didn't know how to express it to each other," St. Onge says.

**Need a little inspiration? [Click here to subscribe to the Daily Smile Newsletter for uplifting, feel-good stories that brighten up your inbox.](#)**

Samantha says the start of their relationship was nothing short of amazing. "Crazy, exciting. A little bit of every emotion you can imagine."

Soon after the couple became engaged in August 2015, they heard about a contest for military personnel in the area. The owner of [Old McMickey's Farm](#) in Odessa, Florida, says he's so grateful for all that service men and women do, so he enjoys helping them celebrate the biggest day of their lives.

After dozens of entries were narrowed down to four finalists, the inspiring couple won the third annual "Mission I Do" Dream Wedding Giveaway, which included an impressive check for \$30,000 to go towards their dream wedding at the waterfront venue at Old McMickey's Farm.



Samantha Dilberian and Staff Sgt. Chris St. Onge on their wedding day  
RICHARD HARRELL PHOTOGRAPHY

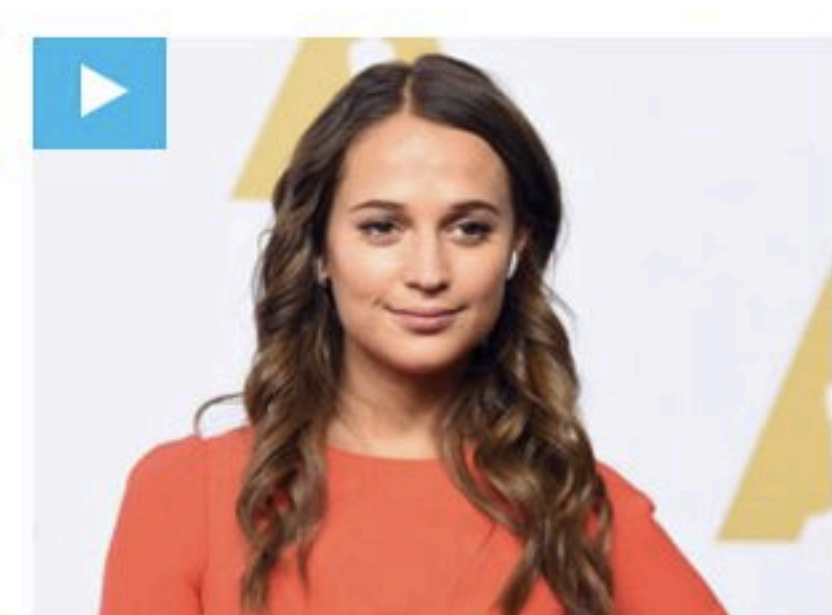
"Chris and Samantha have a love story straight out of Hollywood, except it's true. Old McMickey's Farm is honored to be able to give such a deserving couple the wedding of their dreams" farm owner Ralph Zuckerman tells PEOPLE.



Bryan Dilberian and officiant Ed Phillips  
RICHARD HARRELL PHOTOGRAPHY

This past weekend, Brian served as the best man as almost 100 family and friends gathered to watch his sister marry his former squad leader in an emotional ceremony.

"Everything is just working out perfectly," Samantha says. "I couldn't have asked for a better husband than Chris and he's so close to Bryan. It's just perfect."



The One Setback That Totally Changed Alicia Vikander's Acting Career

Watch *Downton Abbey's* Lady Mary and Molesey Finally Share a Kiss!

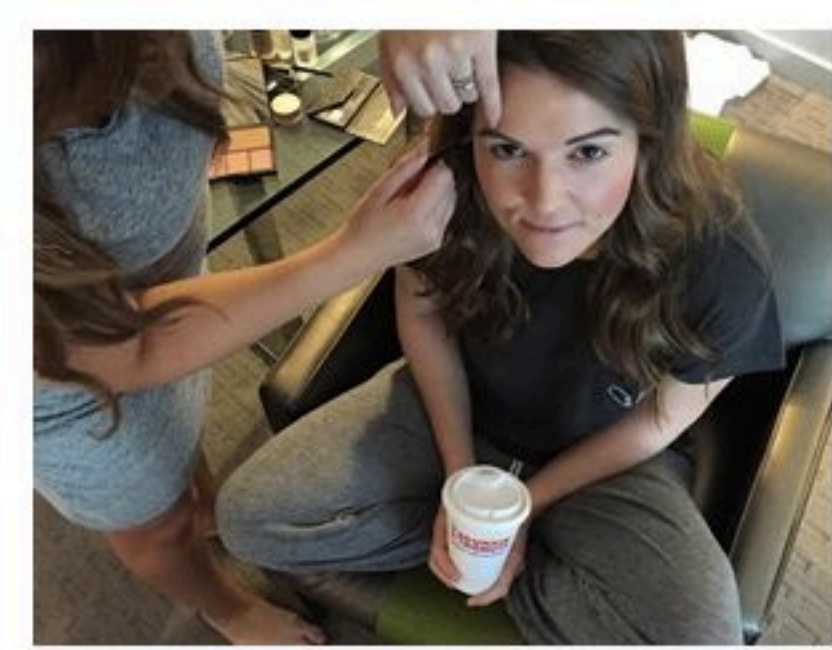
VIDEO: Kourtney Kardashian Tries to Hide Her Emotions While Ellen DeGeneres Grills Her About Justin Bieber

Recommended by

**OFF SCRIPT** PRESENTED BY xfinity EXCLUSIVE ACCESS ON XFINITY.COM/LATINO [WATCH NOW](#)



Trend to Try: Off-the-Shoulder Tops That Look Good on Every Body



SPONSORED BY DUNKIN' DONUTS  
Stars Take You Behind the Scenes as They Ready for the Red Carpet



SPONSORED BY XOXLY  
40 Stars Who Vanished Without a Trace From Hollywood



SPONSORED BY THE FABLETICS BLOG  
Overpriced AF: Goodbye Lululemon! The New Site We're Getting All...

Recommended by



Superstore's America Ferrera: America the Beautiful

FROM OUR PARTNERS

BRAVOTV.COM  
What You Didn't Know About Yolanda & David Foster's Relationship

AOL.COM  
Jon Gosselin's Stunning Admission About One of His Sons

BRAVOTV.COM  
Check Out Tamra Judge's Unbelievable Body Transformation

BRAVOTV.COM  
David Foster Breaks His Silence to Defend Yolanda Foster

OXYGEN.COM  
Khloe Kardashian Explains Why Her Sisters Don't Drink

AOL.COM  
Mama June Undergoes Procedure After Losing 150 Pounds



Jamie Chung, Plus Rachel McAdams, Matt Bomer, Taylor Swift & More!



Oscars #TBT: The Dresses You Need to See All Over Again

Earn up to a **\$500 BONUS** with a fee-free 360 Savings Account. [Learn More](#)



RIP, Victoria Beckham's Heels: The Craziest Shoes She Ever Wore



Sly and the Family Stallone: Our Favorite Photos of the Oscar Nominee and His Brood



Karl and Kendall Get the Giggles, and Even More A-List Star Snaps from Milan Fashion Week and Beyond!