



yours, mine and ours

FOR ONE COUPLE, LIFE'S TWISTS AND TURNS CULMINATE
IN A LONG-AWAITED WEDDING CELEBRATION.

In 2002, Kristine Coleen Clark (known as KC to family and friends) was employed as an office receptionist in MBK&L, Ohio. Almost daily, a man who worked in the former technology department stopped at her desk to chat. He talked a lot about his nephews, who happened to be an extremely gifted athlete.

A graduate of Woodland High School, Armstrong took part in football, basketball, and track and field. As a senior, he'd been named Most Valuable Player in both football and basketball. Now he was a linebacker for the University of Cincinnati football team and was inspiring in criminal justice. He would finish his college career with 207 tackles, having set a school record with 22.5 sacks.

Yeah, okay. KC nodded politely. But the man kept coming back to tell her more. KC kept nodding, kept smiling.

Then one day he announced that his nephew

was dropping by to take him to lunch. A couple of hours later, KC glanced up from her desk to see a large, handsome man who introduced himself in a soft, endearingly

After a few more visits, he and KC exchanged phone numbers. On weekends they ran into each other from time to time at various clubs. "Being young," KC recalls, "we tended to hang out in more of the same places." They talked, laughed, connected and became friends.

Then they started dating. But just about the time the relationship turned serious, he unthinkingly turned a careerhead. Armstrong was drafted by the Houston Texans, an NFL team. He'd need to relocate. Would KC

come along? She nodded. During Armstrong's 2003 rookie season, he played 10 games and made 28 tackles. During his second season, he played 14 games and made 12 tackles and two sacks. During his third season, he started in every game, made 37 tackles and six sacks, the



by coleen armstrong - photographs by kortnee kate