Alexa & Samantha

Catering queens and the mavens of 240 Sweet artisan marshmallows, Alexa Lemley and Samantha Aulick share their sweet story. **By Jill Jaracz**

How they met

Alexa: We met at my family's catering business when I was in eighth grade. She was a summer worker. When I first met Samantha I thought she was really cool. She was older. We both loved Ayn Rand and found Gary Coleman fascinating.

Samantha: I was 17 and she was 14. On my second day of work [at Lemley's Catering in Columbus, Ind.], I was told that my main job duty was to keep Alexa out of trouble. She was quite the handful for everyone at work—she knew her parents owned the business. However, she would behave as long as I was with her—I was such a goody two-shoes back then. Her parents hoped I would rub off on her. Actually, I credit her with corrupting me and making me more fun.

> "You have to really love each other to live and work together. There's no one to come home to and complain about your other business partner."
> —Samantha Aulick

She's the one

Alexa: About six years ago or so I got a hold of Samantha when I heard she had moved back to Indiana and somehow I conned her into working with me. Due to my magnetic personality she was drawn to me like a moth to a flame.

Samantha: During the time that I was away from Columbus, Alexa and I kept in contact. While she knew we were supposed to be together, I refused. When I moved home to Indiana from Maryland, she decided that she had had enough of my crap. She pretty much told me that I had no choice in the matter—I was her soul mate and needed to get over it. Turns out, she was right. We just celebrated our sixth anniversary. I don't know why I resisted.

Advice on working and living together

Alexa: We do tend to bicker a wee bit so it's hard to keep it focused and constructive but we do our best to not take it personal. We try to take time for ourselves—although it's not very often. We also try to keep working together fun. We laugh a lot and listen. We don't have a ton of time for hobbies, but we both love roller coasters, interesting grocery stores, food adventures, wacky roadside attractions and outsider art.

Samantha: You have to really love each other to live and work together. There's no one to come home to and complain about your other business partner. And you have to trust the other's gut reaction. Alexa found a recipe for marshmallows online and proclaimed that we were going to start making them. I thought it was weird but said OK. About a year later, I had a dream that we were trading people bags of candy for bags of money. Alexa thought it was a little strange but said OK. We started selling the marshmallows that afternoon. *Everyone* we knew thought both ideas were horrible. Who wanted flavored marshmallows? Who was going to buy them? But we knew we had something. (*240sweet.com*) ■



Samantha Aulick (left) and Alexa Lemley