



# ALL IT TOOK WAS A MOVIE

LYDIA CHONG AND MICHAEL SOH TELL *DUET* ABOUT THE SUNNIER SIDE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP.



**It only took two months of dating before Lydia Chong and Michael Soh decided to tie the knot.**

The couple had met over the then-Social Development Unit's Lovebyte online messaging service in late 2007, and it took a month of chatting before they were confident enough to meet in person.

Their first date was your typical movie night out, but it was what happened after the film that really brought them closer. "We stood at the railing in the crowded shopping centre and chatted for one and a half hours without feeling tired or hungry or realising that time had flown by," recalls Lydia. According to the 30-year-old public servant, they had so much to talk about—and little did Michael know that Lydia had already seen the movie! "I just wanted to get to know him better." They capped the movie date with

dinner and coffee, and began seeing each other almost every day after that.

Eight weeks later, on New Year's Day, Michael brought Lydia back to that very same mall, then popped the question on bended knee. Touched, Lydia agreed. On Valentine's Day the year after, the two officially became husband and wife.

"She was the first and only girl I had met from SDU," confesses Michael. "She was the one I was waiting for, and I was worried she would be snatched away by other men."

As you might expect, the usual criticisms were levelled at the couple: could they survive in marriage with only a few weeks of courtship? That was four years ago, making the answer a resounding "yes!"

It might have been because the couple love taking time out by the beach. Their first holiday was to Bintan. Lydia says they try to go to such resorts as often as we can. "They're

great for couples and are very relaxing and rejuvenating," says Lydia.

So what do they do there? "Cycling, strolling along the waterline, picture-taking, snorkelling, jet-skiing, or just whiling the time away in each other's arms," she rattles off. "But the itinerary cannot be rushed. There must be time to stop and smell the roses at each place we visit. I prefer shopping in the cities, but Michael loves the beach. My favourite type of holiday involves splurging on food and shopping, while Michael is all about sightseeing."

Back on this island, the duo used to spend lots of quality time at East Coast Park. "Singapore beaches are clean..." begins Lydia, as Michael excitedly finishes her sentence, "And

full of great facilities!" It's obvious who's the real beach bum in this relationship!

With such varied tastes, getting into arguments here and there must be common—but Michael brushes that aside. "We give and take," the 33-year-old financial manager says. "In life, you win some, you lose some. If we really cannot decide, we'll take a vote. But by virtue of Lydia being a lady, she gets two votes!"

Michael couldn't have said it any better—guys, take note!

The couple go by a simple principle when they are in a foreign land: "Take it as a very good opportunity to know each other better in a different setting. But most importantly, enjoy yourselves and immerse in each other's company."

## CALLING COMMITTED COUPLES!

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## THE BEACH WATCH LIST

### DOS



**1. Bring a mat.** Yes, it's bulky, but no matter how sweet a talker you are, having sand in your shorts is the polar opposite of romantic.