

Gwen & Blake

INSIDE THE ROMANTIC PROPOSAL

Gwen Stefani surprises Blake Shelton by popping the question during an intimate dinner

Thousands of kids were screaming for Blake Shelton as he hosted Nickelodeon's 29th Annual Kids' Choice Awards. But there were two members of the audience he wanted to have an especially good time at the March 12 show: Gwen Stefani's sons Zuma, 7,

and Apollo, 2. "They went backstage before the show and Blake gave them a full tour, which they loved," reveals an eyewitness, noting that mom Gwen was in Japan for work. "He let them sit in his dressing room and had goody bags waiting for the boys."

Days earlier, Blake was the one getting the special treatment. *Life & Style* has exclusively learned that Gwen, 46, surprised her boyfriend with a lav-

A Perfect Rose

Blake didn't know what he was walking into at the Beverly Hills mansion Gwen once shared with Gavin. "Gwen told him that she had the kids all day when they were really with their dad," says a source.



Talk about dreamy details!

Everyone's Overjoyed!

Blake is already a huge part of the lives of Apollo (being held by Gwen), Zuma (left) and Kingston, dropping them off at soccer games, taking them to the movies and attending birthday parties.



ish private dinner — and a marriage proposal. As candles flickered at her \$13.25 million house and they finished a barbecue dinner (Blake's favorite), a source says the pop star asked her beau of less than a year to marry her. "He was in shock," reveals

the source. But Blake, 39, still managed to get an answer out: Yes!

MAKING MEMORIES

Gwen wanted to make the proposal as romantic as possible, and she succeeded, says the source. "She had been talking

Perfect Together

"It's so beautiful," Pharell Williams says of his Voice co-stars finding love with each other. "I watched the both of them go through a lot."



GAVIN STILL WON'T LET HER GO

Gwen is ready to start a life with Blake, but estranged husband Gavin isn't letting her go easily. Seven months after the couple split (following claims he had an affair with the nanny), the Bush rocker is dragging his feet when it comes to making the divorce official. "One minute it's because of the custody arrangement, the next minute it's about money," says a source. "He's constantly flip-flopping. Gwen feels she's being held hostage to his demands. She has even started texting Gavin's friends and family to beg them to talk him into settling."

to friends about reversing roles and popping the question to Blake for weeks now, but she was still nervous."

She needn't have worried: Blake wasn't about to say no. "He is so glad she surprised him — that's what he loves about her!" shares the source. "Blake has done some 'almost' proposals since they started dating last year. They have had long, romantic walks on their trips to Oklahoma, and they have talked

a lot about marriage, but there hadn't been a formal proposal until now." (A rep for Blake declined to comment.)

FINALLY, A FAMILY

Just because Gwen pulled the trigger first, that doesn't mean Blake is ditching his plans to buy her an extravagant engagement ring. "He wants to get the biggest diamond-and-emerald ring he can find," says the source. "Gwen loves emeralds, so he is defi-

nately going to incorporate them."

Blake's thoughtfulness isn't the only reason Gwen fell head over heels for him. She admits that Blake, who went through his own divorce from Miranda Lambert, 32, in July, "saved" her following her heartbreaking split from Gavin Rossdale, 50, who allegedly cheated with the family's nanny. "It was a really super-unexpected gift to find a friend, somebody who happened to be going

through the exact same thing as me," she says. "I don't think it's an accident that that happened."

Even more importantly, Gwen trusts Blake completely with her three sons, including 9-year-old Kingston. "Blake really won over her children and has formed a very strong bond with all of them," notes an insider. "Kingston, especially, adores him."

Being a dad is all Blake ever wanted. "He really dotes on Kingston, Zuma and Apollo," says the insider. "Blake spends a huge amount of time bonding with the boys, planning fun activities and taking a keen interest in every aspect of their lives."

HITCH IN THE HAPPINESS

There's one major issue standing in the way of their official wedding day: Gwen is still legally married to the boys' dad, Gavin. Seven months after their split, the divorce papers have yet to be signed. "Even though Gwen has been thinking about wedding arrangements for months, she's asked Blake to wait to make any sort of public announcement," shares the source. That means they have to celebrate their engagement in secret, but he's not objecting. "She wants her divorce to be over before they're open about being engaged," says the source, "and Blake is being respectful of that."

When Blake and Gwen do get married, he will face some unique chal-

lenges with his new family. Denver-based licensed professional counselor Carolyn Bushong says if Blake and Gavin ever disagree about the kids, Blake is the one who needs to back down. "Blake has to treat Gavin with total respect, even though Gavin [allegedly]

"I like the official-ness and the family-ness of [marriage]."

—Gwen

cheated on Gwen, because he is the children's father," Bushong says. "It'll help Gwen because the last thing she needs is her boyfriend and ex fighting in any way. It'll also help provide stability for the kids if he shows respect to their father."

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

For now, Blake's busy quietly helping Gwen plan their Oklahoma "I do's," featuring carnival rides and A-list music acts. It's a day neither of them can wait for. "You just never know what's going to happen," Gwen raves of finding a lasting relationship with Blake. "I feel real happy."

Celebrity Women Who Have Proposed to Their Men

Gretchen Had a Ring for Slade

Real Housewife of Orange County Gretchen Rossi brought tears to beau of four years Slade Smiley's eyes when she presented him with a black-gold and black-diamond Danny Arlik for Newport Jewelers ring. "I don't do anything by the book," Gretchen tells *Life & Style* of her 2013 proposal. "I go after what I want."



Pink Took Charge With Carey

Pink wasn't about to wait for Carey Hart to pop the question. Four years into their relationship, the singer surprised the motocross pro by holding up a board that read, "Will you marry me?" during one of his races in June 2005. When Carey kept on driving, the singer then wrote "Serious!" on the board as he approached her during the next lap—prompting her man to finally pull over.



Britney Gave Kevin a Shock

They're part of the mile-high engagement club! Britney Spears asked Kevin Federline to be her husband during a flight from Ireland to NYC in 2004. "I was taken by surprise," recalls Kevin of the moment, which occurred after three months of dating. "I thought the guy was supposed to ask the girl." Guess not!

