



Hunter and Lindsey at the bakery where they got to know each other

Baking Up a Sweet Reunion

Vamarr Hunter and Lenore Lindsey were friendly acquaintances—until he decided to track down his biological mom

LENORE LINDSEY: I thought everything in my life was winding down. In 2022, I was being treated for breast cancer while working 12 to 15 hours a day, trying to keep my bakery open. I'd been running the business solo for 14 years. My daughter, Rachel, was on the other side of the world, teaching English in Beijing. I was worried I would have to close the shop.

Vamarr Hunter: I'd been a regular at Give Me Some Sugah for about 10 years, ever since moving to my Chicago neighborhood. The bakery felt like home to me. For a while, I was

engaged, and Miss Lenore took a liking to my then-fiancée, Meagan.

Lenore: I did like Meagan, and I thought, *Why is this guy hanging around her?*

Vamarr: I held a good job for nearly

20 years as a logistics and supply chain manager, but otherwise I was just moving along in life, trying to keep the ground under my feet. I first became a father when I was 17, and I had three more kids after that, with

three other mothers, including Meagan, with whom I share a 7-year-old son. He and his siblings—ages 18, 30 and 34—are close.

Lenore: I also became a parent at 17, but I gave the baby up for adoption.

Vamarr: I knew I was adopted, but I had never looked for my biological mother. I guess maybe I was afraid she would be somebody like my adoptive mother, with whom I did not have an ideal relationship, though the rest of my adoptive family was great. Finally, when I was 47, I got curious enough to hire someone to help me find my birth mother.

Lenore: One day, I got a call from an investigator, telling me my son was looking for me. She gave me his number. I didn't know what kind of drama that would bring. This could be someone who was an opportunist or a drug addict. Given everything else that was going on in my life, I decided to call Vamarr and tell him, "I can't deal with this right now." Just in case things went bad, I called him from work.

Vamarr: My phone rang, and the caller ID read "Give Me Some Sugah." I thought, *But I didn't order anything.*

Lenore: I started talking, and then he interrupted, saying, "Miss Lenore? It's Vamarr. You know, Vamarr and Meagan." And I thought, *Oh, the boyfriend.* Then we started screaming and crying.

Vamarr: It could have been somebody I wished I'd never found, but she's a pillar of the community, someone I already liked and respected.

Lenore: When I learned that he hadn't gotten along with his adoptive mother, it broke my heart. But despite everything he has been through, he's so kind. In fact, Vamarr and I are so much alike, it's just unbelievable. I needed help, and he pitched in right away. You know, this is a son who I never did anything for. He didn't owe me a thing. And yet he said, "I'm helping." That was the miracle of it all. I felt like I could take a breath, because he was there. I was able to keep the



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bakery open and complete my treatment. Now I'm cancer-free.

Vamarr: For two years, I went to the bakery most days after work so I could learn how to bake. Now she says my cakes are better than hers! Two years ago, I quit my job so I could take over the bakery and let my mom retire. The local newspaper eventually got hold of our story, and we went a little viral.

Lenore: Before this happened, I felt like I was approaching the end: the end of my business, the end of my life. But when I heard his voice on the phone, something jumped in my spirit. You never know what things still lie ahead. I thought, *No, I'm not done yet. I've got to keep my eyes and heart open because there's another chapter coming.* —As told to Susan Hauser

Vamarr Hunter, 51, is the CEO of Give Me Some Sugah bakery in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood. Lenore Lindsey, 68, is retired from the bakery, which she founded. A film about their reunion is scheduled for release later this year from Tyler Perry Studios.



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