

# COUNTRY WEEKLY

THE INSIDE STORIES ON COUNTRY MUSIC'S HOTTEST STARS  
JUNE 14, 2010

## TOBY KEITH

What he's doing to help our soldiers

## TRACE ADKINS

On the set of his sexy new video

## WHY SHE SAID

# Yes!

After five years together, **BLAKE SHELTON & MIRANDA LAMBERT** are tying the knot

On the Road with **JEWEL**



THE RING!

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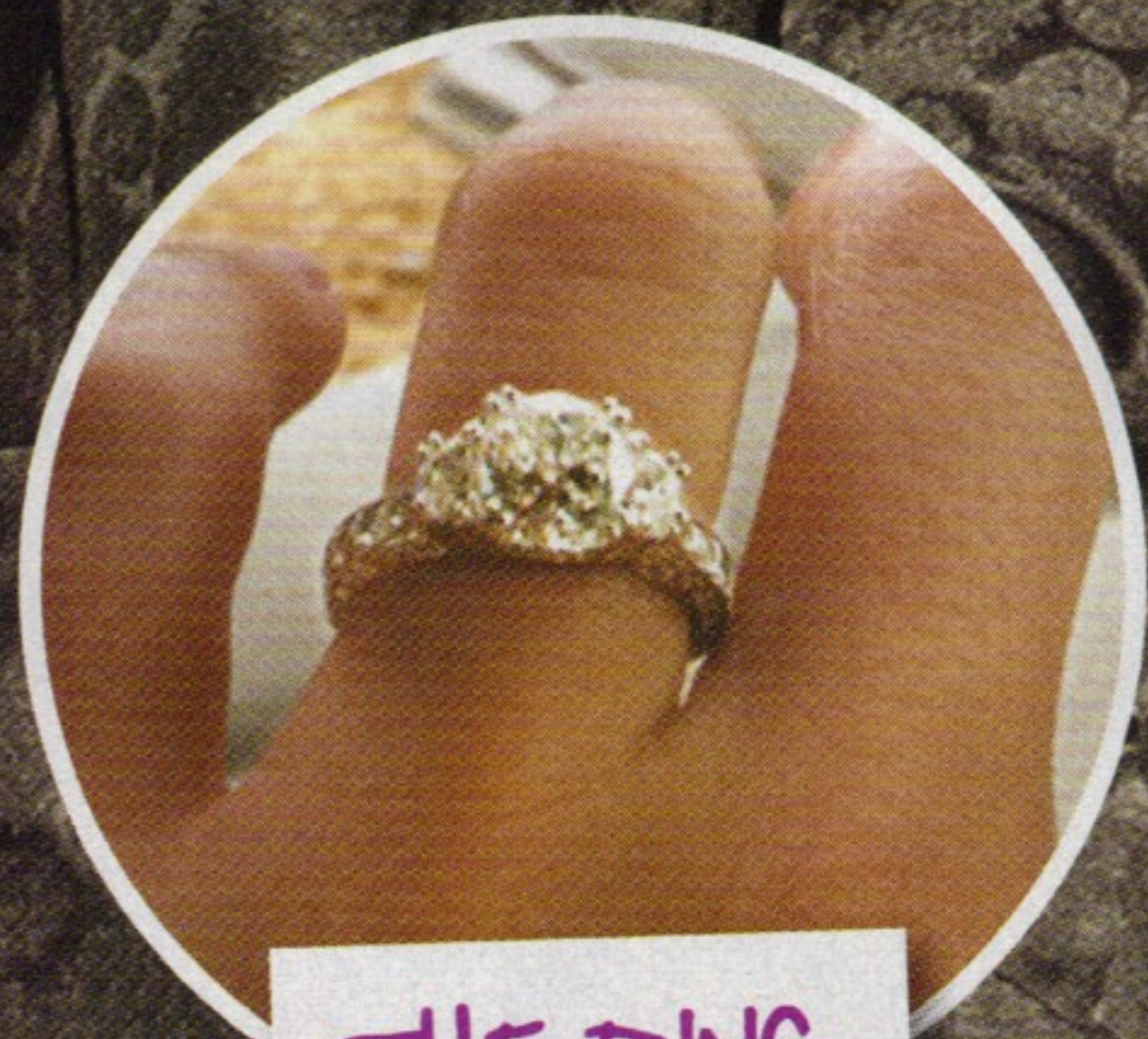


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**JOE NICHOLS**  
"I can't wait to be a dad again"



Blake gives Miranda a kiss during the bash for her first No. 1 single, "White Liar," earlier this year. 2010's latest highlight? An engagement ring.



THE RING

# BLAKE AND MIRANDA

## SITTING IN A TREE . . .

It was never a matter of “if” but “when” for this country couple.

**G**eorge & Tammy, Tim & Faith, Johnny & June, Waylon & Jessi and now Miranda & Blake—or is it Blake & Miranda? Or perhaps Bliranda, as some are calling the couple. Whatever they’ll be called, Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert instantly became one of country music’s storied couples when Blake recently asked for her hand in marriage—and she accepted.

**STORY BY DOROTHY HORNE, STORME WARREN AND JESSICA PHILLIPS**

As for the details of where and when Blake proposed, suffice it to say that it was likely true to Blake and Miranda’s down-home country roots. “We’ve kept a few of the details private, since we lead very public lives,” Miranda recently told *Country Weekly*, before adding, “It was very ‘country’ and very ‘us.’ I will say I had a stinky camo jacket on that I’d worn all day—that’s all I’ll say!”

In a separate interview, Blake offered a bit more information. “It was Mother’s Day,” he says. “Down in the woods on my property in Oklahoma. It was real special for both of us for a lot of reasons. But afterwards it looked like Talladega on up to our house so she could phone her friends and cousins and all that. That was the most fun—to watch her reaction—because I knew what I was going to do. I was prepared. She wasn’t. Especially after five years. I’m sure she pretty much put it out of her mind.”

So, was Mother’s Day specifically chosen as the day? “It’s pretty handy. I’ll never forget the day we got engaged,” Blake allows with a laugh. “Mostly it

had to do with timing of our schedules. This was one window when I knew we were going to have about four days by ourselves at our home in Oklahoma.”

When it comes to the ring itself—where and when Blake bought it, for example—Miranda says less is more, at least when it comes to details. “I don’t really know anything about the ring, except that I love it,” she says. “Kudos to Blake for knowing me that well and knowing exactly what I would want. I don’t know about the carats or cut or anything—I just know it’s shiny!”

Blake’s take? “You’d be surprised at what you can get at Sears. I couldn’t find a Service Merchandise in the area,” he deadpans, before adding, “I think she was . . . she is impressed with the ring. Last night she was giving her dog a bath and I heard her come running out. ‘Where’s that ring? Son of a . . . ! I put it on the deer horn.’ I said, ‘You put it on the deer horn?’ After about 20 minutes, she found it. But it made me realize how important it is to her. If it were me, I would have lost it in about

Partners  
onstage  
and off



five minutes after I got it. That’s a big deal for Miranda. She’s held on to it for a few days now without losing it. And I’m thanking God for that. I could have bought a nice fishing rod with the money I spent on that ring.”

Now come the important questions, such as when they’ll be married, where they’ll be wed and whether it will be a large or small wedding. While some plans are still up in the air, Miranda can answer the last question. “It will have to be big because Blake comes from a large family, and we have a lot of people to invite—friends and people from our work—there are so many,” she says. “Definitely, it’ll have to be big. [There’s] no way around it.”

Who will be in the wedding party? “Knowing me, Delilah [my first rescue dog] will probably be in the wedding,” Miranda admits. “But since we have six dogs, we’ll have to narrow it down.”

Miranda, who bought an Oklahoma farm near Blake’s property a few years ago, says the decision over which property to sell may be a tough one. “There’s no way either one of us will sell our farms. I guess we’ll just have to visit each other!”

As for children, don’t expect the pitter-patter of little feet any time soon. “We have six [dogs], so we’ve got plenty for now,” Miranda says. “My mom already has lots of grandchildren!”

Perhaps not surprisingly, Miranda has

## BLAKE AND MIRANDA CONTINUED

no qualms about letting Blake celebrate a bit before the nuptials occur, whenever they occur. "We'll probably have a joint bachelor/bachelorette party," she says with a smile.

Wherever and whenever the wedding happens, Miranda is sure of one thing. "I'm marrying my best friend," she says.

Three Academy of Country Music awards, her first No. 1 single ("White Liar") and a proposal from the love of her life—"2010 has been an unforgettable year," Miranda says in what may be the understatement of the year.

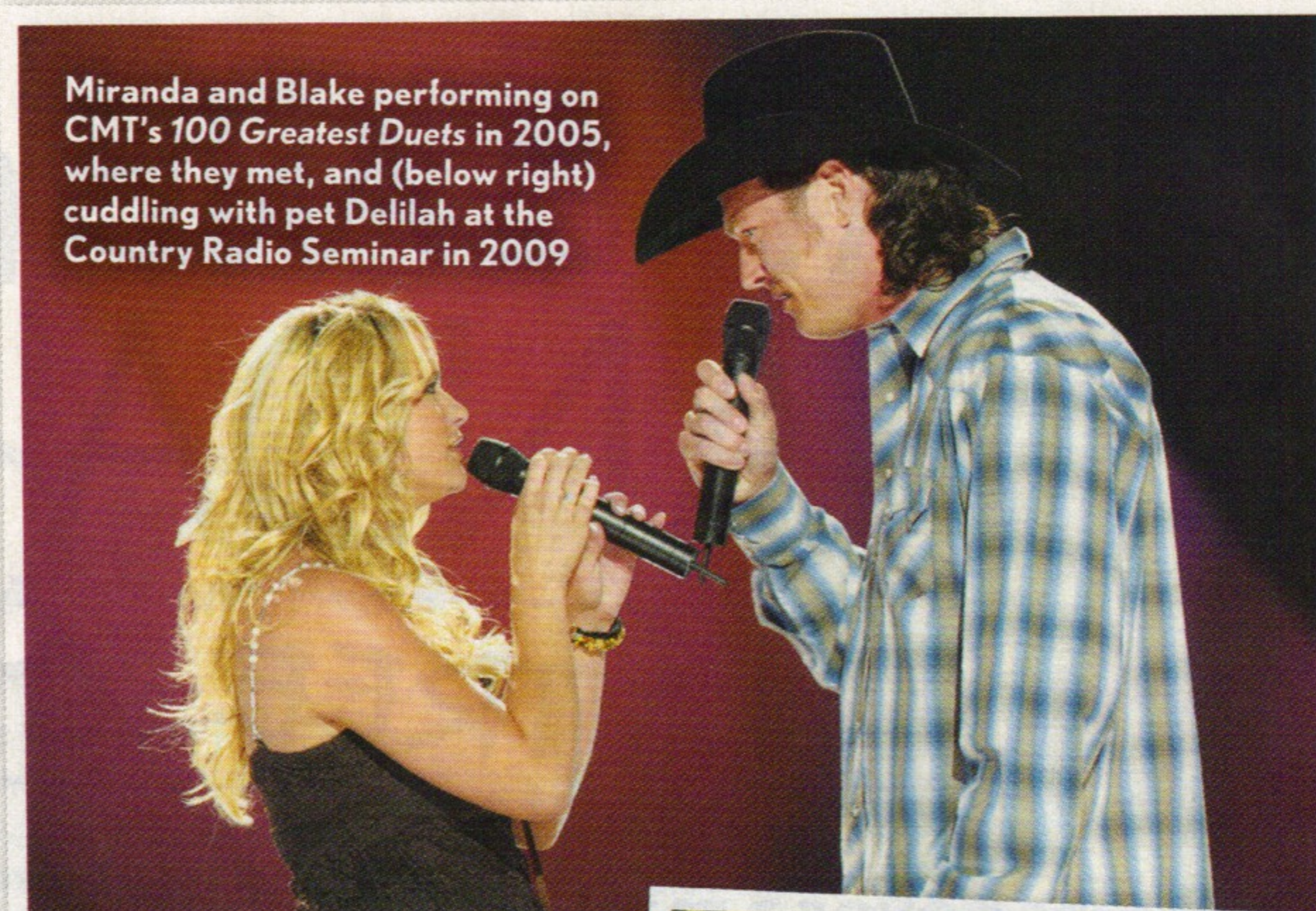
## IN THE BEGINNING

Miranda grew up in Lindale, Texas, about 200 miles southeast of Blake's hometown of Ada, Okla. Blake released his first single, "Austin," in 2001, two years before Miranda would gain her first hint of fame as a finalist on television's talent competition *Nashville Star* in 2003. She released her debut single, "Me and Charlie Talking," in 2004.

In 2005 Blake met Miranda when they were paired for a duet of Shelly West and David Frizzell's "You're the Reason God Made Oklahoma" as part of CMT's *100 Greatest Duets* special. Blake and Miranda's onstage chemistry during the song sparked rumors that the two were romantically linked. In an interview with *Country Weekly* in 2009, Miranda said she knew there was something special about her beau-to-be after they first talked. "I realized we had so much in common and he was raised the same way I was and had the same beliefs I do. That's a draw right there to me. Just talkin' to him I thought, 'Wow, this guy's really into everything I'm into. The outdoors and singin' and music. He's really just a good person to know.' And we were really good friends for a long time."

Two thousand six brought a major change to Blake's life, as he and wife Kaynette Williams went through a divorce after nearly three years of marriage.

Blake and Miranda soon became inseparable, both in professional and personal circles. They walked the red carpet together at the 2007 ACM Awards, and during a 2007 interview with *Country Weekly*, Blake suggested



Miranda and Blake performing on CMT's *100 Greatest Duets* in 2005, where they met, and (below right) cuddling with pet Delilah at the Country Radio Seminar in 2009



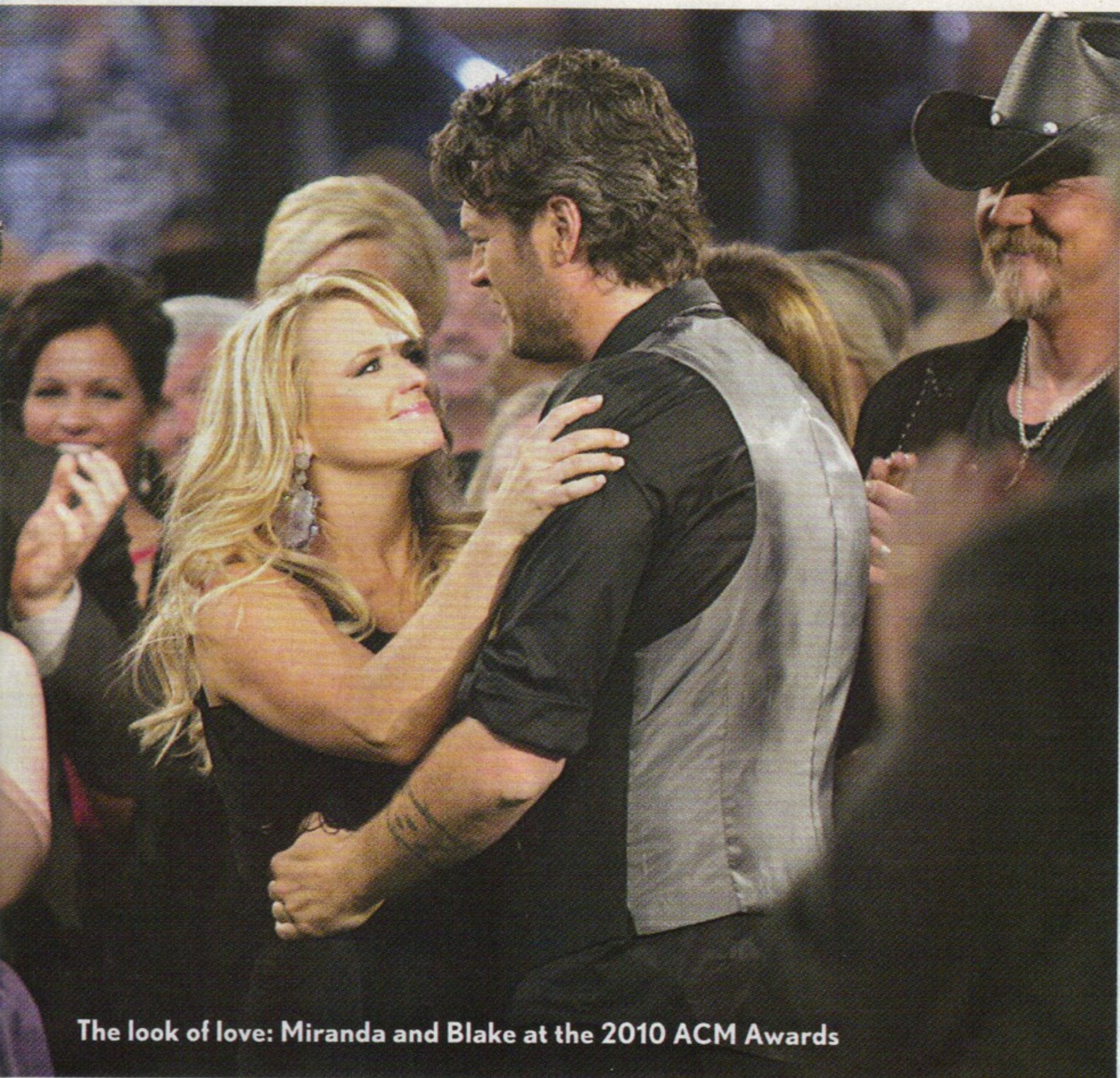
On the red carpet at the 2010 Academy of Country Music Awards



that they had already taken the first step toward a serious relationship—introducing each other to their respective families. Still, Blake was hesitant to talk about any future plans. "All I can really tell you is I have a lot of fun when I'm around Miranda. We're just kinda takin' it slow." At the time, both were working hard on their careers. Blake issued *Pure BS*, which notched the singles "The More I Drink" and "Don't Make Me." Ironically, Blake even made an appearance as a judge on *Nashville Star*, the show that launched Miranda's career. Meanwhile, Miranda found success with her sophomore album, *Crazy*

*Ex-Girlfriend*, and received a Grammy nomination for her single "Kerosene" from her debut album.

The famous performers are as down-to-earth in their relationship as they are in their songs. Dates for Miranda and Blake were more likely to involve fishing, hunting or riding around in Blake's pontoon boat near Lake Texoma in Oklahoma than fancy nights on the town. (The pair now have separate ranches in Tishomingo, Okla.) "Blake and I aren't the epitome of romantic. To me, somebody knowin' what you like on your sandwich . . . that's real love. It's not a bunch of roses and dinners and movies. It's just the real everyday love," Miranda told *Country Weekly*.



The look of love: Miranda and Blake at the 2010 ACM Awards

In the fall of 2008, Blake and Miranda gave fans a long-awaited surprise when they launched a tour together. With such strong personalities, Miranda admitted she was hesitant to tour with Blake, but noted that all of the time the couple spent together during rehearsals, traveling and performing became a turning point in their relationship. "We each had our own buses but we spent the night on one or the other. He's in total guy world on his bus. Whenever he comes off the road . . . he'll be burping and poking at people and watching football and just being a guy," Miranda told *CMT Insider*. Her secret for taming Blake's guyish ways? Nagging. "It was good at some points in the day to go, 'OK, I'm going on my bus! I'm going to watch TLC for a while!'" Blake re-released his album *Pure BS* that year, with Miranda singing the memorable harmony line on his hit "Home." After making it through the tour unscathed, Blake began to show hints that he was thinking about wedding bells. Blake told *CMT Insider* in October 2008, "I don't see me without her. Ever."

By 2009, the couple had been dating for a few years, and fans were getting

anxious as to when dyed-in-the-wool country boy Blake might pop the question to his country-rocker queen. In a January 2009 interview with *Country Weekly*, Blake still didn't seem in any hurry. "I don't know why I would be in any hurry to do that, and Miranda shouldn't be, either. She's 25 and she's still learning a lot about herself right now. I'm 32 and still having fun with my life at the moment." Indeed, Miranda was quite busy, releasing her critically acclaimed album *Revolution* in September of that year and debuting it with a live performance at the Ryman Auditorium. Still, she was opening up more about her admiration for the "Hillbilly Bone" singer. "I just think he's an amazing person. Everything he does, he does well. When he puts his heart in something, he goes after it. That's something that is so attractive to me," she told *Country Weekly* in 2009. The pair co-wrote three songs for *Revolution*. Then, Miranda seemed content to wait for Blake's proposal. "I definitely don't see me without him. I think we'll be together forever . . . 'cause it's too late to get out now!" she told *Country Weekly*. **CW**

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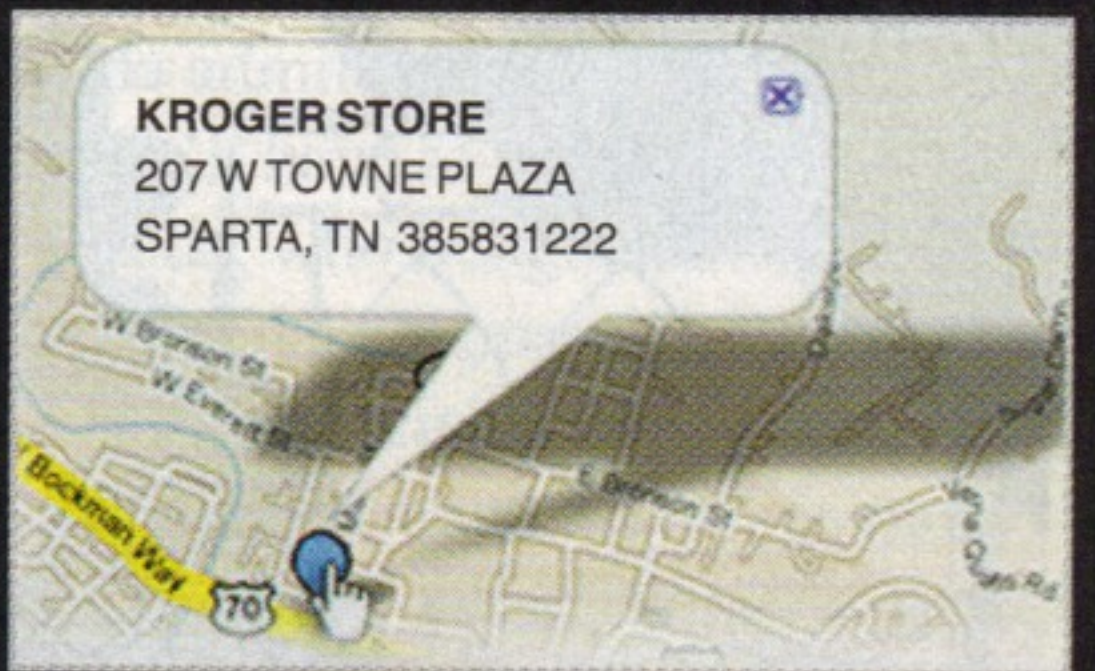
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