

**SAM CHAPMAN BIO**  
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Samuel Ethan Chapman was born to Benjamin and Rebecca Chapman in Los Angeles, California on June 21, 1957. He was the youngest of five children born to the successful jeweler and his wife.

Growing up in southern California, Sam excelled throughout his tenure in school, both scholastically and in sports. His favorite subject was history, and he joined the high school swim team, which won the intramural championship during each of the four years Sam was a student. An avid basketball player, Sam also pursued water polo during his senior year.

Following graduation, Sam attended UCLA on a full scholarship, and became a member of the Bruins water polo team, which won the NCAA championship every year he attended school.

During his junior year of college, Sam decided to pursue a career in law. Although he was accepted at several law schools, Sam selected Boalt School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley. Because his primary goal was to excel in law school, Sam spent no time dating during his first year in northern California. However, during his second year, he met Kate O'Malley, a third year law student from Massachusetts, who stole his heart. After several months of dating, Sam and Kate moved in together and their relationship flourished.

Prior to her graduation, Kate was offered a much-coveted position as a clerk for a Federal court judge in San Francisco. As Sam began his third year of law school, he and Kate spent nights and weekends in Berkeley pursuing their relationship. No one was surprised when Sam asked Kate to marry him except for Sam's family, which became estranged when they learned he was engaged to marry a Roman Catholic.

Realizing his family had placed their religion ahead of his heart, Sam was devastated. His father announced they would not attend any wedding unless blessed by their Rabbi. Deeply in love with Kate, Sam was conflicted. His friends encouraged him to follow his heart, which he did. However, after the wedding was announced, Sam's father suspended making Sam's tuition payments. Kate stepped in and offered financial support so Sam could finish law school.

With his impressive academic acumen, Sam graduated with honors and was offered a clerkship at the Supreme Court in Washington; however, he declined because Kate had accepted a position with a prestigious Boston law firm. Their move to Massachusetts the following summer was made effortless since Kate's family lived on Cape Cod. Spending every weekend on the Cape helped Sam appreciate how idyllic life could be, and even though he had no job lined up for the fall, he and Kate were happy and deeply in love.

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However, late that summer, Kate's high school boyfriend, Michael Santos, came back into her life and tugged at her heart. By early fall, Kate was torn between two loves, and her commitment to Michael prevailed.

While his heart was shattered, Sam did not want to return to California. Instead, he elected to move to Provincetown, where he was hired as a personal trainer at a gym. He was accepted for who he was, surrounded by a clientele of predominantly gay men who wanted to look their best. Sam also provided legal support services for a variety of law firms along the Cape.

He found it easy to meet people and developed a variety of friendships. Within a few years, Sam became quite proficient with a hammer and nails. Before he knew it, he was being asked to help when his construction buddies needed an extra pair of hands. The irony was that Sam was as bright as a post, but his heart wasn't in pursuing what he had studied. Instead, he followed the sun and whistled with the wind. Vowing to never ever again have his heart broken, Sam stayed close to his new home.

Ron Martin has been Sam's best friend since childhood. The Martin family lived across the street from Sam's family in Los Angeles. Ron and Sam served as best man at each other's wedding, and through the years, despite the physical distance between them, both Sam and Ron have remained close. Ron and his wife, Pam, moved to Bishop, California in 1986 after Ron was hired by the Bureau of Land Management. Sam has never been to Bishop (located in Inyo County, about 270 miles north of Los Angeles), although Ron and Pam have visited Sam on Cape Cod several times during the past two and a half decades.

As they both approach their fiftieth birthday, Sam and Ron have emailed one another about developing a plan to celebrate their milestone. Ron invites Sam to visit, and Sam demurs until Ron dares him to take the risk and visit. After all, there are reciprocal signs in both Bishop and Provincetown that mark the distance between each town (three thousand two hundred and five miles). Ron mentions it is high time Sam make the trip to California.

Sam acquiesces and sets out on an adventure to drive across the country. While studying a map, he highlights ten places that peak his curiosity. Fantasizing that he will come across people, places and things that will intrigue, entice and better acquaint him with parts of the United States he doesn't even know exist, Sam packs a suitcase and leaves Steele, his pet lizard, with a buddy.

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