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Lindsay & Casey
February 2, 2013



photography by **Melanie Mauer**



Though Lindsay and Casey had known each other since they were eight, it wasn't until the summer after her graduation from UK that they actually started dating. She moved to Tampa that summer and they dated long distance for a year before Casey convinced her to move back to the Bluegrass.

Casey made a plan to propose to Lindsay on a beautiful walk through Triangle Park. Lindsay accidentally ruined the plan by turning down his suggestion to take a stroll, as she didn't want to miss their dinner reservation at Bellini's, the site of their first date. Not to be deterred, Casey took her to dinner and played it cool all through their meal. After they'd eaten, he suggested the walk through Triangle Park again, which she agreed to—and she agreed again when he popped the question in the beautiful Lexington setting.

Casey is a Lexington fireman and Lindsay works at Olive You in Richmond, and plans weddings with One Fine Day. The couple decided that Lexington was the perfect site for their winter nuptials.

The ceremony was held at Central Christian Church with the help of Dr. Ray Holdren. The couple loved the interior so much that adding candles down the aisles and a few flowers at the altar was all they felt they needed to add to the décor. The groom's grandmother sang the Lord's Prayer as they took their first communion together as man and wife.

The bride wore her great-grandmother's brooch in her hair and had a piece of her mother's, mother-in-law's and grandmother's veils pinned to her dress. The bride's peep toe shoes featured a sparkly detail on the bow. She and her bridesmaids added furry white capelets to their attire to keep toasty. The bridesmaids wore floor-length grey gowns and carried bouquets that featured white and pink blooms, a complement to their custom-made pink pearl necklaces.

The groom wore cuff links that belonged to his grandfather. His boutonniere featured cotton and evergreens, a perfect complement to the snowy setting.





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The snow-covered landscape at Spring Valley Golf Club was picturesque and dreamy, perfect for a winter wedding. Candles in lanterns lined the drive as guests made their way down the snowy road to the clubhouse.

Simple, elegant centerpieces, pillar candles and votives all in mixed mercury glass, adorned the tables while a cotton wreath offered a classic winter touch to the front door. All offered a romantic, wintry glow to the clubhouse. White and pink flowers adorned the four-tiered cake to match the flowers incorporated into the bridesmaids' bouquets and the décor.

Guests enjoyed a hot chocolate bar with mix-ins, toppings, biscotti and heart-shaped chocolate-dipped marshmallows, perfect for a snowy day. As a guestbook, guests snapped Polaroids of themselves, tucking them into brightly-colored envelopes with well-wishes for the happy couple. Photos from the couple's winter engagement photo session were incorporated into the décor, adding to the winter theme.

The couple offered guests glow sticks to light up the wintry night as they exited into the beautiful winter wonderland.





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Lindsay



DETAILS

Ceremony: **Central Christian Church** | Reception/Catering: **Spring Valley Golf Club** | Photographer: **Melanie Mauer** | Bridesmaids Attire: **J.Crew**
Day of Coordination: **Mackenzie Spalding, One Fine Day** | Cake: **Martine's** | Gown: **Twirl** | Hair: **Natalie Land at Salon 116**
Makeup: **Tina Howard Dunnigan** | Flowers: **PG Howard Designs** | Groom & Groomsmen Attire: **Geno's Formal Affair** | Rentals: **Purdon's**

Tara & Brandon

April 26, 2013



photography by **Romero Photography**

TOPS WEDDINGS

∞20∞



A friend had been trying to set Tara and Brandon up for years. Neither of them had shown any interest in being set up, but their Cupid kept persisting. When Tara saw a photo of Brandon, she was suddenly much more interested in meeting this mystery man. They finally connected in Washington, DC while he was stationed in Quantico, VA, serving with the United States Marine Corps. They shared a first date and have been inseparable since.

As time neared for Brandon's re-enlistment, talk about their future together became much more serious. Together they decided to move to the bride's home state of Kentucky after Brandon's eight-year term. They had a daughter and began their life together.

After three years, Tara had hoped that Brandon would propose during a Memorial Day picnic, surrounded by friends and family. After volleyball, a cookout and water balloon fight, Tara resolved herself to not getting the proposal she'd hoped for. But as Brandon sat beside her by the bonfire, he took her hand, invited her to stand and then dropped to one knee. He reflected on their years of happiness together and asked her to share in his forever.

This fun-loving couple wanted to embrace her Southern roots on their big day. Talon Winery offered a beautiful outdoor setting for the ceremony and a perfect rustic chic space for the reception. When the bride stepped into the space, she knew exactly how the décor would look. The groom, on the other hand, only saw an empty barn. Step by step, Tara shared her vision with her groom and worked to make it a reality.

For her wedding day, the bride carried a floral and brooch bouquet that included her late grandmother's brooch. The groom surprised the bride with a gold Kate Space "Mrs." necklace before the ceremony. In turn, she surprised him with a personalized hanky, tucked into his jacket pocket.



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The bride's father made a pair of doors for the bride as a surprise and set them up outside to offer a little drama to the ceremony entrance. Free-standing at the back of the aisle, it made the bridal party's arrival a little more exciting in the outdoor space. The ceremony backdrop was a large trellis draped with lengths of fabric surrounding a crystal chandelier and flowers.

The inside of the barn was draped with 1087 feet of white organza fabric, totally transforming the space. A large crystal chandelier and two smaller chandeliers gave the space a sophisticated touch while draped lights helped illuminate the space. The round tables were covered with champagne linens with beaded lace overlays and each boasted a wrought iron and floral centerpiece.

The cake featured three flavors; lemon, pink champagne and vanilla. Guests enjoyed savory dishes and a beverage bar, as well as Talon wine. Each guest had his or her own mason jar glass to drink from.

The evening ended with Brandon's favorite moment, as the groom shared a dance with his new wife as their children held hands and danced around them.



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After lots of advice from others I finally realized that we were paying for this, and our day was meant to be about Brandon and me. Once I programmed that as my mantra, I was a happier bride-to-be!" Slow down and enjoy each moment because the day goes by much too fast!

Also, In true reflection of his personality, the wedding would not have been complete without the groom's performance of "Hank Williams Jr, Born to Boogie" at the reception.



Tara



DETAILS

Venue: Talon Winery | Catering & Flowers: Swan's Landing | Photography: Romero Photography
Bridal Gown: David's Bridal with Allure belt | Groom & Groomsmen Attire: Men's Wearhouse | Cakes: She Bakes Cakes
Hair: Christopher Johns | Makeup: Makeup by Elizabeth | Photo Booth: Art House Photo Booth | DJ: KY Pro DJ

VENUE: SOUTHERN ROMANCE



HEATHER MARTIN
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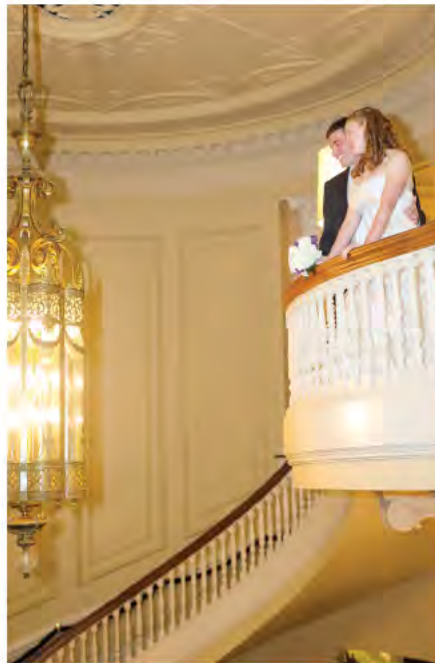
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Photograph courtesy of Unveiled Studio, Matt & Wendy Wooley



Photograph courtesy of Melanie Mauer

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The first dance is an important moment, and couples are often nervous. Fear should not prevent you from enjoying your special moment.

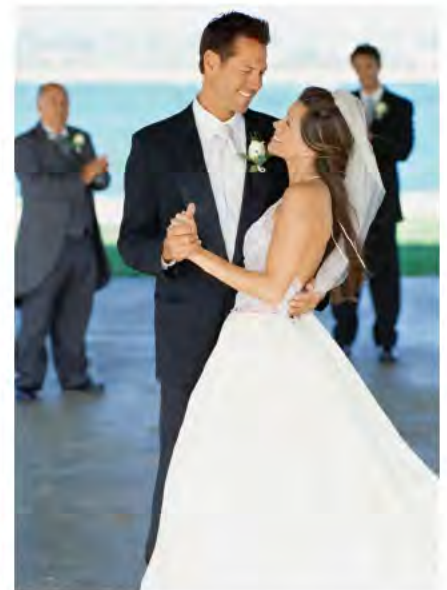
The biggest fear couples have is that they will not be able to learn. Arthur Murray instructors put students at ease. The hardest part is walking through the door, the rest is easy. Once couples get out on the floor, they think it's great.

Arthur Murray studios recommends starting lessons 3-8 months before your wedding, but they will help meet your needs regardless of the timeframe.

The first step a couple should take is starting private lessons. It gives couples their own stress-free place. Lessons start by choreographing the first dance, and the instructor can also help choreograph other dances, such as the father-daughter dance. After private lessons, couples are encouraged to transition into group lessons.

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Instructor Hunter Lisle strives to make couples feel comfortable dancing on their big day. His favorite part of working with couples is seeing their faces, smiling ear to ear, when it is all said and done.



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Lindsay & Kyle
June 1, 2013



photography by **Keni Parks**



Lindsey and Kyle knew from the start that what they had together was special. They both had been in situations that had left them guarded, but they broke down each other's walls with ease. Both were "army brats", moving every few years, seemingly always away from family. Both of their families are originally from Kentucky, and after graduating from high school, it's where they each landed.

Kyle's proposal was designed to be a mirror of their first date together. They went bowling and then ate dinner at Olive Garden. On their first date, they met up with Lindsey's parents for dessert and a drink at Harry's. Much to Lindsey's surprise, they were there on the proposal night, too! The entire patio fell silent and her parents were in tears as he went to one knee to pop the question. Lindsey said it took all her strength not to cry at the sweet and surprising proposal.

The couple wanted a rustic, country wedding. The Polo Barn at Saxony was just what they needed to bring their vision to life. With barns, a woodland setting and barrels adorning the space, the location was perfect for a home-spun wedding day.

For a fun country look, the entire wedding party wore cowboy boots—including the bride. Lindsey had a sixpence in her boot from the year her grandmother was born as a lucky charm. The groom wore socks that were a gift from the bride that said, "In case you get cold feet." Since Lindsey's dress had light touches of blush pink and a blush pink sash, the bridesmaids wore the shade in a soft, airy style, which offered a feminine twist in the wedding party attire.










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The wedding day started out with gorgeous weather, but 10 minutes before the ceremony, it began to pour. The couple decided to wait it out a few minutes and luckily, the rain stopped. Just after the minister said a prayer, the sun came out and beamed right on the happy couple.

The ceremony decor featured lanterns lighting the way up the aisle. Chairs had mason jars filled with flowers hanging at the end of each row. The couple stood before a cast iron arch and their sand ceremony was set up on a barrel.

Tables in the barn were adorned with burlap and lace touches. Mason jars were filled with flowers, including pink roses, baby's breath and white lilies.



Guests enjoyed a country meal on mismatched plates, which provided a fun, vintage feel to the reception. Guests dined on a whole pig and a variety of sauces to accompany the pulled pork. The wedding cake featured tiers of different flavors.

The reception site featured lights strung between the trees. A fire pit and checkered dance floor made the space fun while the farm setting offered a stunning view.

Lindsey and Kyle were on their feet all night with their guests, dancing and enjoying the beautiful country wedding of their dreams.

During our vows, Kyle said his, then when it was my turn, he decided half way through my vows to whisper something to me which completely threw me off track! Talk about a moment. I had to ask the Minister to repeat himself about 5 times before I could get back on board. I was already nervous and overwhelmed with emotions so it was nice to have a good little laugh in between.



Lindsey



DETAILS

Venue: **The Polo Barn at Saxony** | Catering: **Marksbury Farms** | Flowers: **Kim Ballard Ross Floral Designs**
Photography: **Keni Parks** | Bride & Bridal Party Attire: **David's Bridal** | Cake: **The Twisted Sifter**
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Lauren & Marty

June 22, 2013



photography by **Lynnesy Catron**

TOPS WEDDINGS

∞38∞



Lauren and Marty met while coaching Special Olympics for STRIDE, a program for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Winchester. After seeing each other weekly at different STRIDE events, Marty told Lauren how he felt and she realized he was the one for her.

After being with Lauren for two years Marty decided it was time to pop the question. When she woke up on Christmas morning, Marty seemed a bit quiet. It was her turn to be speechless when he pulled out the ring!

Both Lauren, a two-time American Idol contestant, and Marty just can't sit still. They love hunting, fishing, biking and being outdoors, as well as travelling to different music venues and shows where Lauren sings and performs. They decided that the perfect wedding for them would incorporate their love of the outdoors and would be in Winchester; the city where she was raised and where he now teaches special education. Their friend, Jeff Adams, let them use Blue Ash Farm for their wedding.

The eight bridesmaids wore Amsale dresses in two shades of pink in the style of their choice and cowboy boots. The groom and groomsmen wore pink ties and boutonnieres featuring green succulents. The bride gave her groom a handmade turkey call with their shared last name and the wedding date on it, as well as Winchester shotgun shell cuff links, which he wore.

Lauren wore a Swiss-dot strapless gown with a flower sash and cowboy boots. Since she is allergic to flowers, she carried a brooch bouquet, made from vintage brooches and jewelry from her and Marty's mothers and grandmothers, as well as friends. The handle was wrapped with excess fabric from her dress.





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The couple was plenty anxious as they shared their first look, nervous to be center of attention for an entire day. As a joke, the farm's owner walked outside firing off an M16. It not only knocked the jitters right out of the couple, but it gave them a great laugh.

The ceremony was held outside the barn in front of a handmade altar, constructed from twigs, flowers and wagon wheels. Guests enjoyed water and lemonade as they sat down for the ceremony, entertained by an acoustic set from Big River Band.

The couple focused on a simple décor for the reception, held inside the barn. Small pink and succulent arrangements adorned the tables, along with deer antlers and wooden platforms cut out by a family friend to add an outdoor element to the décor. A tiered chandelier hung over the dance floor, made of wine bottles and twigs, while old-fashioned string lights gave the space a romantic glow. Guests enjoyed sliders featuring beef tenderloin or country ham, shrimp, chicken kabobs and cupcakes. The wedding cake was dotted to match Lauren's dress and topped with pink flowers and succulents.

After dinner, Lauren performed and Prime Cut took the stage to get people on their feet. Lauren and Marty savored their special moment in life together.





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Lauren



DETAILS

Venue: Blue Ash Farm, Winchester | Catering: Tommy Thompson | Photographer: Lynnesy Catron
Cakes: Martine's | Bridal & Bridal Party Attire: Twirl, Graham's Boot Store in Winchester | Hair: Hairport of Lexington
Makeup: Sally Scigliuolo, SAS Makeup in Cincinnati OH | Flowers: Neal Linville of Winchester Opera House | Entertainment: Big River Band, Prime Cut

Author Cynthia Ellingsen
Shares What Love is All About in her New Novel
Marriage Matters

by Lauren Henry

Every little girl dreams about her wedding and by age five, I had my entire day planned out. Thanks to long conversations with my sweeter-than-honey great grandmother as she rocked us in her favorite chair, the image of the celebration was imprinted on my heart and mind. Dreaming about this momentous occasion was one of the greatest memories of my childhood and one that stood with me long after Stella's whispers of a promise "to be there on the day" had faded. What we neglect to give much thought to, however, is the meaning of marriage beyond the wedding, remembering the exchanged "I Do's" when we are thrown "I don'ts". Life is full of unexpected blessings and shortcomings, though to experience the entire journey with a partner is the most exceptional gift of all. Author Cynthia Ellingsen reminds women (and men) of this message in her touching and hysterical new novel *Marriage Matters*. As a bride to be, I have fallen head over heels in love with this book and I am confident that you will too. Not only does she provide readers with a candid look on weddings and all that they entail, she gorgeously illustrates a deep and profound view on love and marriage that will rock you to the core. On her novel, Cynthia says, "*Marriage Matters* was such a fun book to write - a challenge, too - since it was my first book to produce from scratch on a deadline for Berkley, a division of Penguin Random House. It is a hilarious portrayal



of a mother, daughter and grandmother about to walk down the aisle on the same day. I loved creating a book for three generations - something that a mother could share with her daughter or even her mother. It's going to be released as a mass-market in June, which means it will be tiny and portable enough for people to take it on fabulous vacations!" Originally from Michigan, Cynthia moved to Hollywood in pursuit of entertainment dreams but ended up following her heart and moving to Lexington, her husband's hometown. The Bluegrass is lucky to have an author like Cynthia as she inspires all she meets to live your dreams and reach for the stars and the feeling is reciprocated. "Lexington has

been so incredibly supportive of my career as an author and I'm immensely grateful," shares Cynthia. She continues, "So many book clubs and organizations have invited me to visit or speak to their groups and it means so much to me. Achieving a career as a successful author requires word of mouth, so every time someone recommends one of my books to a friend or spreads the word, it makes a huge difference and for that, I am deeply appreciative." Here, Cynthia graciously shares about *Marriage Matters* and much more.

TOPS: *You are from Michigan, moved to Hollywood to pursue entertainment dreams and then followed your love across the country to Lexington. At what point did you realize you were an author?*

CE: I have wanted to be an author ever since I was a kid, reading Judy Blume, Beverly Cleary and Ann M. Martin. But, I wasn't brave enough to pursue writing as a career until my friend talked me into writing some screenplays with her in LA. We had some luck, pitched the studios and developed our scripts with a small production company, so that gave me the confidence to sit down and write a novel when I moved to Lexington.

TOPS: *What was your inspiration for writing Marriage Matters?*

CE: The inspiration came as the response to my first novel, *The Whole Package*. That one is about three best friends from high school who, essentially, open a male version of the restaurant Hooters. Since it was about the strength of friendship, a lot of women had me sign copies for their best friends from high school and college. I thought it would be fun to write up something that women could share with their daughter and mother.

TOPS: *What advice on marriage from your novels can you share with brides of every age?*

CE: If you choose to walk down the aisle at the same time as your mother and grandmother, get ready for some serious comedy in the pre-planning! One of my favorite scenes in the book is when the three brides go to a cake tasting. It descends into a cake eating competition between the daughter and grandmother to win the rights to plan the bachelorette party.

TOPS: *What was your wedding day like?*

CE: Best day of my life!

TOPS: *Do you have a favorite memory regarding love?*

CE: Any day spent hanging out with my husband.

TOPS: *Favorite downtime activities lately?*

CE: The fall is my favorite time of year, thanks to the crisp fall air and all that, so it's really about being outdoors. I love riding bikes and going to football games with my husband, Ryan. Pumpkin carving and enjoying the last round of barbecues and bonfires with good friends.

TOPS: *Hobbies? Interests? Passions?*

CE: I'm passionate about the upcoming holidays! I love Christmas – the twinkling lights, the parties, the shopping. We have such great boutiques here in Lexington, like Adele and A.J.'s, and of course, the Morris Bookshop and Joseph Beth's are awesome. I set the wedding in *Marriage Matters* at Christmas because I'm such a huge fan of the holiday season.

TOPS: *What inspires you?*

CE: Art, in its many forms. Whether that means a particularly brilliant episode of *Downton Abbey*, a hilarious sketch on SNL, an incredible theatre performance, a concert, gallery opening, reading or song... there is inspiration everywhere.

TOPS: *What have you been working on recently?*

CE: I've been working on what (hopefully) will become a series. It's multi-generational, featuring a mother/daughter team. I've also been working on a middle grade novel.

TOPS: *Can you offer any advice to people pursuing a career as a writer?*

CE: Never give up! Set a writing schedule for yourself. Read in your genre. Learn about the business. I serve on the advisory board for the Carnegie Center in Lexington, which is a fabulous resource in Lexington for anyone interested in pursuing a career as a writer. The CC offers tons of writing workshops, classes and readings.

TOPS: *Best advice you have ever received?*

CE: Follow your dreams.

For more information about Cynthia Ellingsen, readers can visit her at [facebook.com/cynthiaellingsen](https://www.facebook.com/cynthiaellingsen) or cynthiaellingsen.com



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Robyn & Adam

June 1, 2013



photography by **Conrhod Zonio**

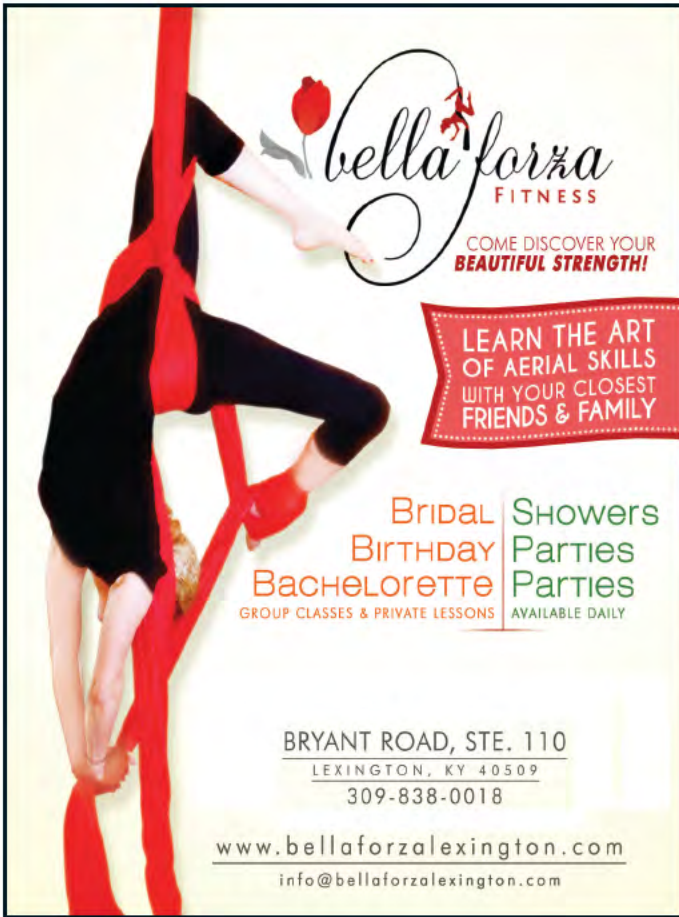


For a week, Adam kept telling Robyn that the garage door wasn't working. After a bike ride, lunch and a movie, he told her he was going to finally fix it. He asked her to stay in the car to test the garage door opener. After a few minutes, he called for her to come inside. As she rounded the corner, she entered a room lit by twinkling white lights. Red rose petals were scattered in a circle on the floor and Adam was in the middle, down on one knee.

He recalled the first time he'd seen her--standing in the garage of his cousin's party--and how he thought then that she was just another pretty girl he wanted to get to know. But things between them had changed, he said, and that she was now his best friend, the love of his life and the future mother of his children. She said yes. They went to a friend's house and she got a second surprise--their friends and families were waiting to congratulate them!

Robyn's family has always had a connection to the horse racing business in Kentucky, which helped her decide to attend college at UK. Adam's parents and extended family are from Kentucky, though he grew up in Akron, OH, he decided to attend ECU. They each chose to make their lives in Kentucky. With many of their guests coming from out of town, the couple wanted their wedding location to be a "one stop shop" where their guests could arrive and never have to leave. They also hoped to have an outdoor wedding.

As guests walked up to the ceremony site at the Paddock Pavilion, four bourbon barrel cocktail tables surrounded the ceremony seating. Guests signed a custom calendar the bride created using engagement photos. Each month featured an important moment from the couple's history and guests signed on their birthdays.



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The bridesmaids each wore earrings hand-selected by the bride to reflect the personality of each. The groom selected the attire for himself, the groomsmen and the couple's fathers; it was important to him that their outfits be comfortable and casual, to match the setting. Their dog, Max, wore a coordinating green argyle bow tie and matching leash; Max walked down the aisle with Adam's father, then walked with his masters once they were pronounced Man and Wife.





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Guests found their tables at the reception on a seating chart made by the bride on two antique windows. The table numbers were hand painted onto four different coordinating fabrics that the bride framed. Some tables had Marilyn vases as centerpieces, filled with green apples and topped with white and green hydrangeas for a lovely pop of color. Chevron signs directed guests to the guest book and cigar bar, which featured cigars with custom labels and matchboxes with coordinating labels. Monogrammed uplifting offered another unique graphic touch.

Guests held sparklers as the couple exited to begin the next chapter of their story.





I would tell other couples that they need to make sure that their wedding day is about what they want. It can be really hard to balance what your parents, siblings and friends think you should do. Everyone has their own two cents about how you should plan things. Ultimately, that day is about celebrating you and your significant other and should reflect you both. That was advice that a lot of people gave me and I am really glad that we stuck with our guts and planned the wedding that Adam and I wanted.



Robyn



DETAILS

Venue/Catering: **Marriott Paddock Pavilion** | Flowers: **Christ Creona Designs**
 Photography: **Conrhod Zonio** | Bridal Party Attire: **David's Bridal** | Cakes: **Babycakes** | Hair & Makeup: **Ziyan Salon**
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ALMA KAJTAOVIC
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The stunning historic Beaux Arts building, formerly a YMCA, has a long history as a community gathering spot. Now managed by LexArts, Lexington's arts council and united arts fund, it continues to bring together the community in support of the arts, hosting Gallery Hops and exhibiting art from a wide range of media and subjects.

ArtsPlace Gallery features work by Kentucky's finest artists. The high quality of the artwork in the gallery offers a ready made

atmosphere of authentic local culture. The Performance Hall is a loft-like space that is your blank canvas. It easily lends itself to customizable décor, enabling brides to truly make the space their own.

Brides are free to choose from a list of preferred vendors or select their own, a freedom not often found at other locations. A wedding package includes use of ArtsPlace tables and chairs, post-event janitorial services and event monitor.

The choice to rent ArtsPlace is also a choice that benefits the arts. ArtsPlace's private rentals are scheduled when the space is not being used for arts-related activities. Revenues from private rentals supplement those generated by mission-oriented programs, helping LexArts to offer high-quality space for artists and arts organizations to rehearse, perform and exhibit their work. Renting from LexArts is an investment in the arts and the many groups who use the space, including the Lexington Ballet, the Lexington Philharmonic and Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras.

Spending your special day at ArtsPlace is an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful ceremony or reception in an elegant urban environment while embracing and enjoying the arts.



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JEWELS



SHELIA BAYES
OWNER

Shelia Bayes has found that halo and vintage jewelry are some of the most popular trends in bridal jewelry at the moment. Some of the most sweeping trends are centered on the most important jewelry in any wedding: rings. Brides are embracing individuality in their engagement and wedding rings, and according to Bayes, there are no rules! Engagement rings and wedding rings no longer need to match. Brides are embracing more creativity in color, mixing white gold, rose gold and yellow gold. But tradition

One of the most influential jewelers in Lexington, Shelia Bayes Fine Jewelers, strives to offer the best brands and service in Lexington. This ethic has earned her recognition on Harper's Bazaar's Top 100 Jewelers in America, proving that Shelia Bayes and her staff are experts in jewelry style.

has not been forgotten, and brides commonly wear family heirlooms in their wedding.

Another trend is for grooms to give their brides a gift to wear on the wedding day, usually pearls or more diamonds. Many brides have purchased watches for their grooms at Shelia Bayes, who is the only authorized Rolex dealer in Lexington.

Shelia Bayes does not only sell jewelry, but seeks to fulfill the needs of their clients through the finest customer service possible. The business offers many popular brands, including Armenta, Lagos, John Hardy, Tag Heuer and many other quality and luxury brands. Shelia Bayes will also custom design pieces for brides, and offers jewelry repairs. The locally owned business employs unique designers, and offers service with a personal touch. Shelia Bayes enjoys sharing in the experiences of her clients, by helping them find gifts that they will cherish for a lifetime. At Shelia Bayes, brides find a staff that will share in their excitement and seek to create a life-long relationship.



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Ellen & Kevin

June 29, 2013



photography by **Alicia Fierro, Aesthetiica Photography**

TOPS WEDDINGS

∞66∞



Set up by mutual friends, Kevin and Ellen’s first date was an awkward group date. In spite of not talking all night, something must have sparked between them because Kevin gave Ellen a hug and called her the next day to ask her out on a real date. It was apparent to them both that they were a match.

After a year and a half of dating, the pair took a vacation to St. Thomas to relax. After dinner one night, they walked up to a deck overlooking the ocean and Kevin began to talk about how much he loved her. Before she knew it, he was on one knee, asking her to marry him. She says it was a blur, but she definitely remembers saying “Yes!”

Ellen was born and raised in Louisville and has never wanted to leave the Bluegrass State. Kevin was raised in Georgia, but followed UK sports through his childhood. He attended UK for college and has been in Lexington ever since.

The bride wore a veil she borrowed from a friend and a bracelet her Matron of Honor wore on her wedding day. Before the ceremony, Ellen took a private moment with her parents to thank them for all they’d done and to give them each a custom handkerchief to have as a keepsake.

Ellen has always loved the stained glass windows and beautiful architecture of St. John United Church of Christ in Downtown Louisville. She’d been to many weddings there and knew it was the perfect locale for her own. Flowers lined the aisle, uplit by candles placed along the ivory aisle runner.

The bride’s childhood minister officiated the wedding. And her cousins sang “How Great Thou Art”, her father’s favorite hymn, during the ceremony.



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The couple chose The Gillispe for their reception, a Louisville building designed in the Art Deco style. They chose pale pink, white, champagne and gold décor to complement the building's elegant interior. Pink uplighting washed the space in a romantic glow. The couple's monogram was projected onto the dance floor, further personalizing the space.

The bridal party's entrance to the reception showed off the unique bridesmaid fashions. The bride collaborated with the owner of Twirl Boutique to choose three different styles of Alfred Sung pearl pink dresses, allowing each bridesmaid to wear the dress she liked best. The groom and groomsmen wore classic tuxes, perfect for the elegant venue.

Guests signed a bourbon barrel lid as a guestbook. The guestbook table featured pictures of the couple's families and their mothers' wedding dresses were displayed on either side of the table.

During the reception, the bride's father, a former drummer, joined Endless Summer Band to play "Mustang Sally". As a huge surprise, the groomsmen appeared shirtless onstage to have a goofy "Magic Mike" moment at the end of the night.

Ellen and Kevin stayed on their feet all night long, dancing and enjoying their beautiful, romantic Louisville night.



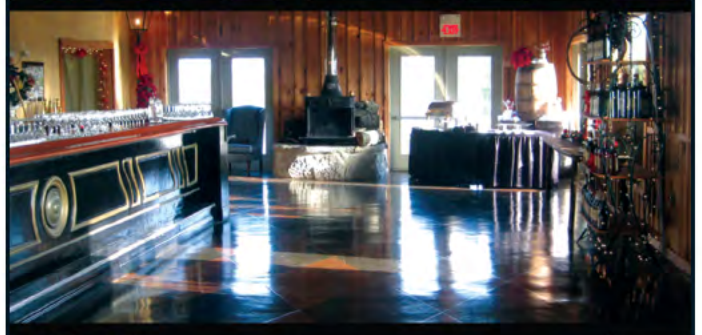
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Bride & Groom photo by Kelly Greer
Michele's photo by Amy Campbell





Take moments throughout the day to look around and soak it in. It goes by so fast; try not to get so wrapped up in the little things you cannot control. At the end of the day you will be marrying the love of your life and—BONUS you go on vacation the next day!

Always remember everyone at your wedding took the time and came to celebrate you which is very humbling.



Ellen



DETAILS

Venue: **The Gillespie** | Catering: **Masterson's** | Flowers: **In Bloom Again** | Photography: **Alicia Fierro, Aesthetica** | Bridal Party Attire: **Twirl**
 Band: **Endless Summer** | Hair: **Allison Johnson, PinkLouLou Design Studio** | Makeup: **Amelia Evans** | Groom & Groomsmen Attire: **Jos. A. Banks**
 Wedding Planner: **Maggie Heely, Weekend Wedding Warrior** | Cakes: **Melanie Gunn** | Ceremony Musicians: **SMT Music** | Video: **Creative Video Solutions**

Nisha & Ashwin

June 29, 2013



photography by **Shaun Ring**



Like many couples of this generation, Nisha and Ashwin met online. Busy with work and school at the time, they each decided that they had no time to meet people. Nisha initially contacted Ashwin through the site, only to receive no response--she didn't know that he was gone for a month-long trip to Thailand! When he returned, he emailed her back. After a few weeks of conversation, they decided to meet. He traveled from Florida and they saw the sights of Central Kentucky together. Ashwin began to travel to Kentucky every two weeks to see her.



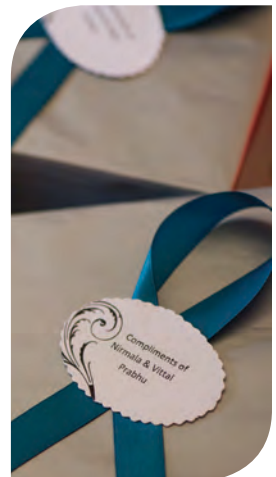
The couple flew to San Diego, where his family was living at the time, for a short vacation. When they got to a seaside spot where they were supposed to meet his family, he got on one knee and got out a beautiful blue-raspberry Ring Pop. Nisha laughed because she'd asked him for a blue diamond if they ever got engaged. His family was hiding nearby and came out to surprise the couple as she said, "Yes!"

Nisha and Ashwin each love the ocean and warm weather, so a wedding in Playa del Carmen, Mexico was a perfect choice, allowing the couple to spend time with each other's families in a relaxed vacation setting.

During the welcome dinner, guests enjoyed a live mariachi band and a salsa instructor taught everyone how to dance. For a traditional Pithi ceremony before the wedding, Nisha wore her mother's wedding sari.



During the wedding ceremony itself, the bridesmaids wore different-colored saris while the groomsmen wore white kurtas with bright embroidery to match the girls' sashes. Nisha gave her groom a pair of cuff links with maps; one had a map of where they were engaged while the other was a map of their wedding site.





The ceremony was held under a beautiful wooden gazebo. The mandap in the center was made by draping brightly colored fabrics from the ceiling and drawing them together with bouquets of multicolored flowers. Rose petals were strewn about the ground for a truly romantic, vibrant ceremony space.

The reception was held in a dual indoor/outdoor space near the beach. During their speeches, the couple walked around and individually thanked each guest for coming and let them know how important they were in the couple's lives.

Instead of a guestbook, guests were asked to sign Jenga pieces and the escort cards were placed in small flower vases that guests kept as favors. Guests also received a unique piece of art made from bark of trees produced locally in Playa del Carmen at a certain time of year. The table numbers were on cards and guests wrote their well wishes for the couple to read on their future anniversaries.

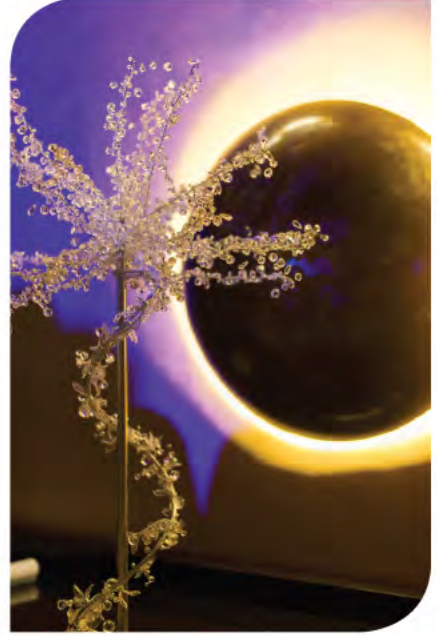
After the wedding ceremonies were complete, they had a small dinner for those who hadn't yet left. Each guest spoke about the wedding and what they enjoyed most about the event. Against the backdrop of an ocean paradise, Nisha and Ashwin relaxed and enjoyed their special moments with their family and friends.



No matter how well you plan it, something will go wrong. No matter what it is, it's okay. Just enjoy your day with your friends and family, mistakes and all. Remember that, even if something does go wrong, your guests don't know every detail that was planned. In many cases, they are unlikely to find out that anything went wrong at all unless you bring it to their attention yourself, so instead of getting stressed out and unhappy, just shrug your shoulders, smile, and have fun on your big day!



Nisha



DETAILS

Venue/Catering/Flowers: **Paradisus Playa del Carmen** | Wedding Planner: **Parties and Special Events**
Photographer: **Shaun Ring** | Bride & Groom and Wedding Party Attire: **Om The Origin Edison, NJ** | Cakes: **Paradisus**

VENUE: DOWNTOWN DREAMS

Downtown Lexington has a beauty and culture all its own, and the Lexington Center Corporation can help you capture the ambiance of downtown Lexington on your special day.

The elegant Lexington Opera House cannot be matched by any other venue in town. Distinctive Victorian style and richly appointed décor create an elegant setting.

Your dream wedding can come to life on the Opera House stage. Theatrical effects and specialized lighting are readily available to create your personal design and theme. Décor can be extravagant, or can be minimized to let the elegance of the Opera House speak for itself. The stunning grand staircase and the Queen Boxes offer dramatic backdrops for photos.

There are many opportunities to use the high quality space, and brides have access to the entire building. Front of house and technical staff will be ready to assist you throughout the event, and some in-house equipment is provided.

Another option is the Lexington Center located next to Triangle Park and overlooking Lexington's beloved Triangle Park Fountain and dramatic

downtown city views. The Bluegrass and the Thoroughbred Ballrooms give the Lexington Center the ability to host beautiful weddings of all sizes, but the pre-function area is what really sets the Lexington Center apart from other potential downtown locations.

Grand windows look out onto one of the most beautiful views in downtown, creating a romantic setting for a ceremony or reception. The pre-function area can easily stand on its own for a ceremony or reception, or be combined with one of the ballrooms to maximize space to allow the Lexington Center to accommodate weddings of all sizes.

At the Opera House, brides are free to choose their own catering, but must purchase alcohol through the Lexington Center Corporation. The Hyatt Regency hotel is the exclusive caterer for the Lexington Center. Brides are free to choose vendors for all other amenities.

The Opera House and the Lexington Center are gorgeous venues with central locations near downtown attractions and hotels.



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REGISTRY

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As you create your registry, keep the future in mind. You may entertain only casually now, but what about the coming years? It is important not to lose sight of how you want to entertain and celebrate 20 years down the road.

Having traveled around the world for a unique selection of fine gifts, the staff at L.V. Harkness has a deep understanding of their products and truly enjoys working with their clients.



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Victoria & Miller

September 7 2013



photography by **Amanda May**



Victoria and Miller met at Keeneland during the 2012 spring meet. Victoria hadn't brought enough money with her to get a margarita, so Miller offered to cover the cost. They stood in line for half an hour, chitchatting. She gave him her number and left for the day. She got a text from Miller, inviting her to a bonfire. She almost didn't go, but says now that she's so glad she did.

After a whirlwind six months together, Miller knew that their relationship was different. He told Victoria that they were going to have a special date night at a Christmas Social at Keeneland. Miller stopped her in the middle of the paddock and gave her a card. He read aloud a poem he wrote, promising her love. She was already crying by the time he got down on one knee. At the moment she said yes, their families came out onto the main balcony to offer congratulations. The couple made their way inside and enjoyed a champagne toast given by their fathers.

Victoria and Miller truly love Kentucky. Miller grew up in Midway and Victoria moved to Paris when she was 12. Both graduated from the University of Kentucky. They each knew they wanted an outdoor wedding and they fell in love with the Wallis House in Paris, Kentucky, which offered a Southern garden appeal.

The bride wore her grandmother's diamond bracelet, which was especially sentimental because she had passed away in May 2012. Victoria also wore a blue diamond pinky ring, given to her by her cousin, and a monogrammed ring and necklace from the groom. Victoria's bouquet was wrapped with her grandmother's necklace and contained five pink roses, one each for special people in her life who had passed away.

Magical Kentucky Wedding Farm



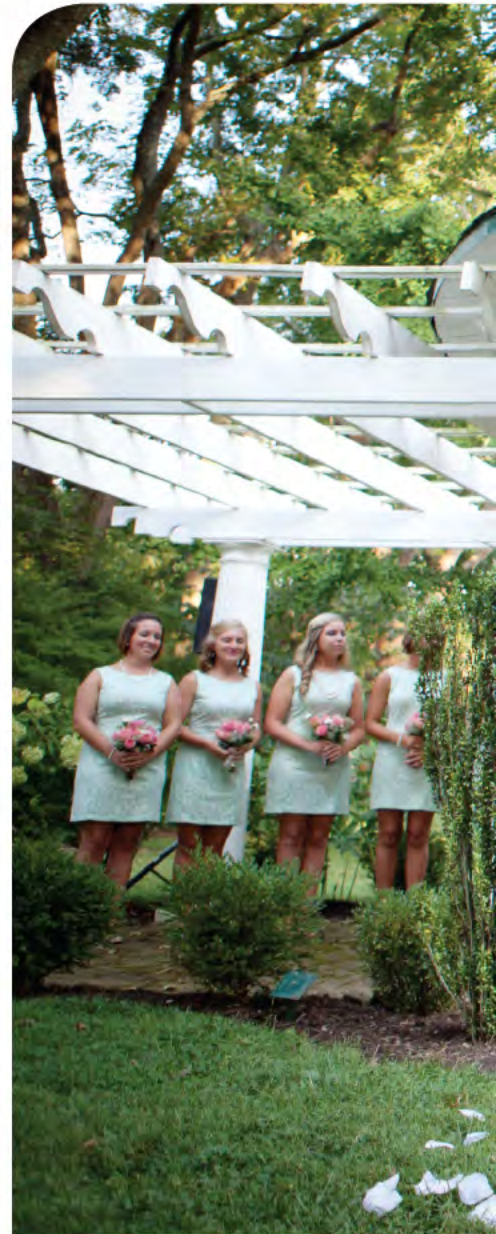
Ask about our KY discount!

Moonlight Fields

A large, stylized red rose with green leaves is positioned to the right of the text "Moonlight Fields".

MoonlightFields.com





The bride's father constructed doors for the bridal party to walk through during the reception. The doors now serve as the couple's headboard in their bedroom.

The couple's fathers served as officiants. Instead of a unity ceremony, they did a tree ceremony, combining soil from their mothers' gardens to plant a pine tree. At the end of her sweet and serious vows, Victoria added a little comedic relief: "And mostly, I promise to love you more than Kentucky loves basketball!"

Victoria and Miller wanted the reception décor to be very Southern and charming. The centerpieces were mason jars tied by a green ribbon, filled with an assortment of pink and white flowers. Each setting included two white scalloped plates, a mason jar glass and a pink napkin folded into a bow. At the sweetheart table, the couple sat in their own patio furniture. Letters spelling "Mr." and "Mrs." adorned the table.

A handmade grapevine chandelier, adorned with ribbons and flowers was hung over the dance floor. The tent was strung with twinkling lights for a romantic ambience. Chalkboards, framed signs and vintage windows were incorporated into the décor. Near a small pond, they constructed a lounge area with hay bale benches, quilts and candles.



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Victoria



DETAILS

Venue: **The Wallace House, Paris KY** | Catering: **Texas Road House** | Photography: **Amanda May Photos**
Bridal Gown: **David's Bridal** | Hair: **Tangled Salon** | Groom & Groomsmen Attire: **Men's Wearhouse**
Wedding Planner: **Betty Ann Allen** | Cakes: **Courtney Offutt** | DJ: **On Your Mark, Get Set, Music**

GOWNS



VERN DEVINE
OWNER

At One Devine Day, owner Vern Devine carries the latest fashions in Bridal gowns. Devine offers all styles and fashions, but says that brides are embracing lace in lieu of tulle and traditional fabrics. Sweetheart style dresses are very popular, but Devine has seen more demand for long sleeved dresses. If you are torn between a sweetheart dress and the long-

sleeved trend, Devine suggests a dress with a sweetheart neckline underneath sheer fabric. She advises brides to come into the store with an open mind. Sometimes, a bride will come to the store set on a dress or a style, and it won't be what she thought at all. Body type is a very important factor in determining what dress will look best on a bride. Devine suggests

that tall brides try mermaid silhouettes, and girls with hour-glass figures try trumpet and A-line dresses. Waistline and ball-gown skirts look great on women with generous figures. But as Devine says, "It's really just a guessing game," and you can easily be surprised.

Vern Devine started selling dresses and planning weddings out of her home in 2010. Two years later, she opened her shop, One Devine Day, in Georgetown. She also offers floral design, and in March 2014, is opening a venue that will hold 150 people for weddings, receptions, bridal shows and other events.

At One Devine Day, customers will receive excellent customer service. A personable staff spends as much time with a bride as she needs, even if that means trying on every dress in the store. This is something that isn't always possible at a larger store. Brides become part of what Devine describes as her "Bridal Family." Her favorite part of the business is planning, because it allows her to be at the wedding and see the whole picture come together.



ONE DEVINE DAY | 502.603.0048 | 124 S. BROADWAY, GEORGETOWN, KY

VENUE: CAMPUS CONNECTION



ANGIE FOLEY
OPERATIONS MANAGER AND
WEDDING COORDINATOR

The Hilary J. Boone Center at the University of Kentucky is a perfect choice for wedding events, especially for those who bleed blue! With the Boone Center located in the heart of UK's campus and very near downtown Lexington, it is an easily accessible and convenient venue for you and your guests on your special day and beyond.

The Boone Center offers unbelievably affordable Memberships, a top notch Chef and culinary team, and on site wedding event coordination to make your special day everything you dream it can be. Becoming a member not only allows you to use the facility as a wedding event venue, but also allows you to enjoy the opportunity to connect on campus with your friends and colleagues in the UK community throughout the year.

Your Boone Center wedding coordinator will be on hand to serve you from the initial stages of planning through the last minute of your wedding celebration. This allows the bride, groom, and their families to relax and take in the memories. With an award winning Chef and a plethora of menu options, you and your guests will be thrilled with your choice for the evening's cuisine. Brides are free to use their own vendors for items such as wedding cakes and floral arrangements or the club's staff is happy to help coordinate these details as well.

The facility was recently completely remodeled and includes rich wood interior features, beautiful décor, a lovely courtyard with fountain, and a terrace perfect for your ceremony. This combination of spaces and the warm yet elegant atmosphere throughout help your Boone Center experience go beyond expectations. Boone Center members, especially brides and grooms, are treated not only as clients but as family, further setting the facility apart. This UK club isn't just a place for members to make memories for one night, but to truly connect both your special day and your life to the UK campus.

Memberships Available to University of Kentucky Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Associate Members of the UK Alumni Association-Club Memberships Subject to Approval



Memberships Available to University of Kentucky Faculty, Staff, Alumni, and Associate Members of the UK Alumni Association-Club Memberships Subject to Approval

THE BOONE CENTER | 859.257.1133 | UKY.EDU/BOONECENTER/WEDDINGS.HTM | 500 ROSE STREET

Amy & Matt
October 12, 2013



photography by **Kentucky Studio**



To say that Amy and Matt are inseparable would be an understatement. They were both born and raised in Hardin County, Kentucky. They attended middle school together, but didn't begin dating until their sophomore year of high school. They even both attended the same college—Eastern Kentucky University! The hard-working, determined pair share a love of UK sports and the beautiful Kentucky outdoors. Though they currently attend different schools for graduate study, they decided to stay in the Bluegrass State.

Matt had been hiding an engagement ring in the battery compartment of a flashlight for two months prior to Christmas, hoping Amy wouldn't find it and ruin his surprise proposal. He gave Amy a large Christmas box. As she opened it, she found consecutively smaller boxes, each with one word of the big question: "Will you marry me?" To her surprise, the smaller box contained one of her large costume jewelry rings—Matt's final prank before getting on one knee and pulling the real ring out of his pocket.

After a three-year engagement to accommodate their graduate education, the couple chose an October date for their nuptials. They decided to embrace the autumn season as a theme for their décor, incorporating autumn flair into their big day.

The ceremony was held at Vine Grove United Methodist Church, Amy's family church. Amy's childhood pastor served as the officiant. The pew markers were made of twigs and burnt orange flowers for a rustic look. For a personal touch, the couple had the bride's grandfather do a reading from Corinthians.





The bridesmaids wore brown peau de soie dresses, which matched the ties the groomsmen wore. The groomsmen also sported burnt orange socks to match the groom's tie. The bride's mother hand embroidered Amy's new initials into the lining of the bridal gown the night before the wedding. She also handmade the bride's garters from vintage lace as a "something old".

The reception was held at Camp Carlson. The reception tables were adorned with brown tablecloths, burlap runners and large white pumpkins filled with autumn-hued florals, surrounded by miniature pumpkins, gourds and votive candles. The table numbers were photos of the bride and groom at the corresponding age.

The food was made by the groom's father and included smoked barbecue pork and turkey. The bar boasted an "Appley Ever After" cider cocktail, as well as beer and wine. Gifts were collected in an antique trunk with a wooden white pumpkin sign.

The 4-tiered wedding cake stood on a glass-topped bourbon barrel. Instead of a groom's cake, the couple opted to have a cigar bar featuring stacked antique wooden boxes and metal cigar boxes with personalized matchbooks. A wooden basket stand made by the bride's father featured wooden baskets filled with fall candy and metal ladles, inviting guests to scoop out a treat to take home.

As their wedding day came to a close, Amy and Matt enjoyed having all their family and friends together for the fun and dancing.

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Having a "long" engagement is okay! People thought we were crazy for having a nearly 3 year engagement, but it was what worked best for us while in graduate school, and it gave us plenty of time to plan our big day.



Amy



DETAILS

Ceremony: Vine Grove United Methodist Church | Reception: Carlson Hall at Camp Carlson, Muldraugh | Catering: Groom's Father
Flowers: The Twisted Stem, Campbellsville | Wait Staff: Event Tenders | Photography: Kentucky Studio | Groom & Groomsmen Attire: Jos. A. Banks
Hair: Shannon from Ntouch Salon, Elizabethtown | Makeup: Ashton Frasure | Cakes: Jeanne Douthitt

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