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## *Wedding Guide*

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## WEDDINGS THAT INSPIRE

In our 9th Annual Wedding Guide we celebrate four very distinctive weddings, each reflecting the personalities and circumstances of the couples who planned them. We believe the ingenuity they share can inspire other engaged couples as they embark on planning weddings that are distinctively their own.

Stephanie Benjamin and Brian Hatton, Hoosiers who met and live in London, infused their intimate winter wedding with Old English ambiance. Madison Turner and Griffen Dahlstrom created an elegant wedding for the ages with the help of Madison's mother, Kim. Susie Kateregga, a bride with Ugandan roots, and her groom, Indianapolis native TJ Napier, had two ceremonies to honor the merger of their families' heritages. Audrey Crane and Jeremiah Stevens fell in love as adolescents and celebrated the sweetness of their love with a candy-themed wedding. Through the skill of the photographers who captured their big days, come see what love hath wrought.

By Lee Ann Sandweiss

COVER: Indiana-born Stephanie Benjamin and Brian Hatton traveled roughly 4,000 miles to find one another but came home to get married in a fairytale winter wedding at the Indiana Memorial Union.

Photo by Eric Rudd

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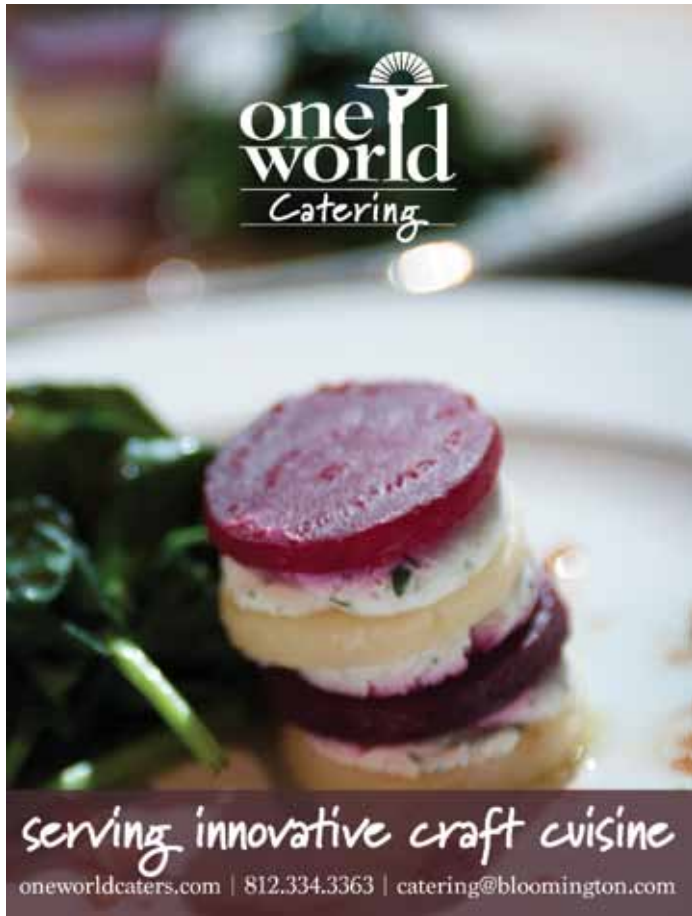


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**WICKS BUILDING**



{ WEDDING NO.1 }

A TIMELESS,  
CLASSIC  
*Wedding*

PHOTOS BY KEVIN HUDSON,  
HUDSON'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Madison Turner and Griffen Dahlstrom feel they were destined to be together. Both native Hoosiers — Madison grew up in Bloomington and Griffen in Coatesville — they were freshmen student-athletes attending Indiana University's Kelley School of Business in 2009, when their paths first crossed. But that almost didn't happen. Griffen had committed to playing football at Harvard University when he received a scholarship offer from IU — the fulfillment of a dream. "We believe that call was the start of our destiny. We would see each other often walking to our business classes and shared the same weight room," says Madison, who attended IU on a partial rowing scholarship.

Madison Turner and Griffen Dahlstrom met as college athletes at Indiana University and chose IU's beautiful campus for the site of their July 2014 wedding.

Griffen finally summoned the courage to ask Madison for a date at the end of their freshman year. "I was definitely aware of the tall, beautiful blonde I kept seeing around campus. I waited to ask her out, because deep down I knew she had serious potential to be 'the one.' I knew this was one date I would not want to mess up," recalls Griffen, 24, who now works in the finance department at Cook Medical.

"I had my eye on Griffen all year," confesses Madison, 23, who currently works for ExactTarget Marketing Cloud in Indianapolis.

Their first date was to Dairy Queen, Madison's favorite Bloomington hangout, where they ate Blizzards and talked until the place closed. Fast forward three years to another date night at Lake Monroe, also a favorite spot — but for some reason this night felt different to Madison.

"I began to feel that maybe he would get down on one knee, but then his phone rang. It was my older brother asking us to stop at Dairy Queen on the way home to pick him up a Butterfinger Blizzard, his favorite," Madison explains. "My heart raced as we drove to Dairy Queen. We parked right where we had on our first date. As we approached the window hand-in-hand, he stopped and got down on one knee."

Madison and her mother, Kim Turner, sprang into action and planned every aspect of the wedding together. "We wanted an aura of timeless, classic elegance," says Kim. "With its carved limestone detail and grand Alumni Hall, Indiana Memorial Union was the perfect setting."

The wedding took place on July 19, 2014 — Kim and husband Scott Turner's 28th wedding anniversary. A trumpet-and-string quartet from IU Jacobs School of Music provided music for the



(clockwise from top left) Madison and Griffen exchanged vows at the historic Rose Well House on the IU campus; disc jockey Jim Cerone had guests on the dance floor all night long; Madison and Griffen leave the reception under a canopy of sparklers; cake artistry by Kristina Taylor of Icing on the Cake; musicians from IU Jacobs School of Music played for the ceremony; the newlyweds with Madison's parents, Kim and Scott Turner; the grandeur of IMU's Alumni Hall underscored the wedding's classic elegance.

ceremony at the Rose Well House, a 1908 open-air pavilion in the heart of the IU campus. Reverend Tom Ellsworth of Sherwood Oaks Christian Church officiated.

The reception began in IMU's South Lounge with a cocktail hour featuring a jazz trio from the music school. From there everyone went into Alumni Hall, where guests were seated at tables with creamy white linens and white floral arrangements by Artful Blooms that included roses, freesia, and hydrangea in silver plate containers.

Madison and Griffen entered Alumni Hall last, walking to the center of the open floor where they were introduced by host and disc jockey Jim Cerone before beginning their first dance as man and wife.

Following a sumptuous meal provided by IMU Catering, the couple cut their white chocolate fondant-covered Italian crème wedding cake, made by Kristina Taylor of Icing on the Cake. Hearts swelled as the reception had yet another highlight: Griffen toasted Kim and Scott and invited them to have their own anniversary dance to Frank Sinatra singing, "The Way You Look Tonight."

Just before midnight, the happy couple ran under a canopy of sparklers, hopped into Madison's maternal grandfather Don Hudson's vintage 1964 creamy-white Mustang, and sped off into the night." \*



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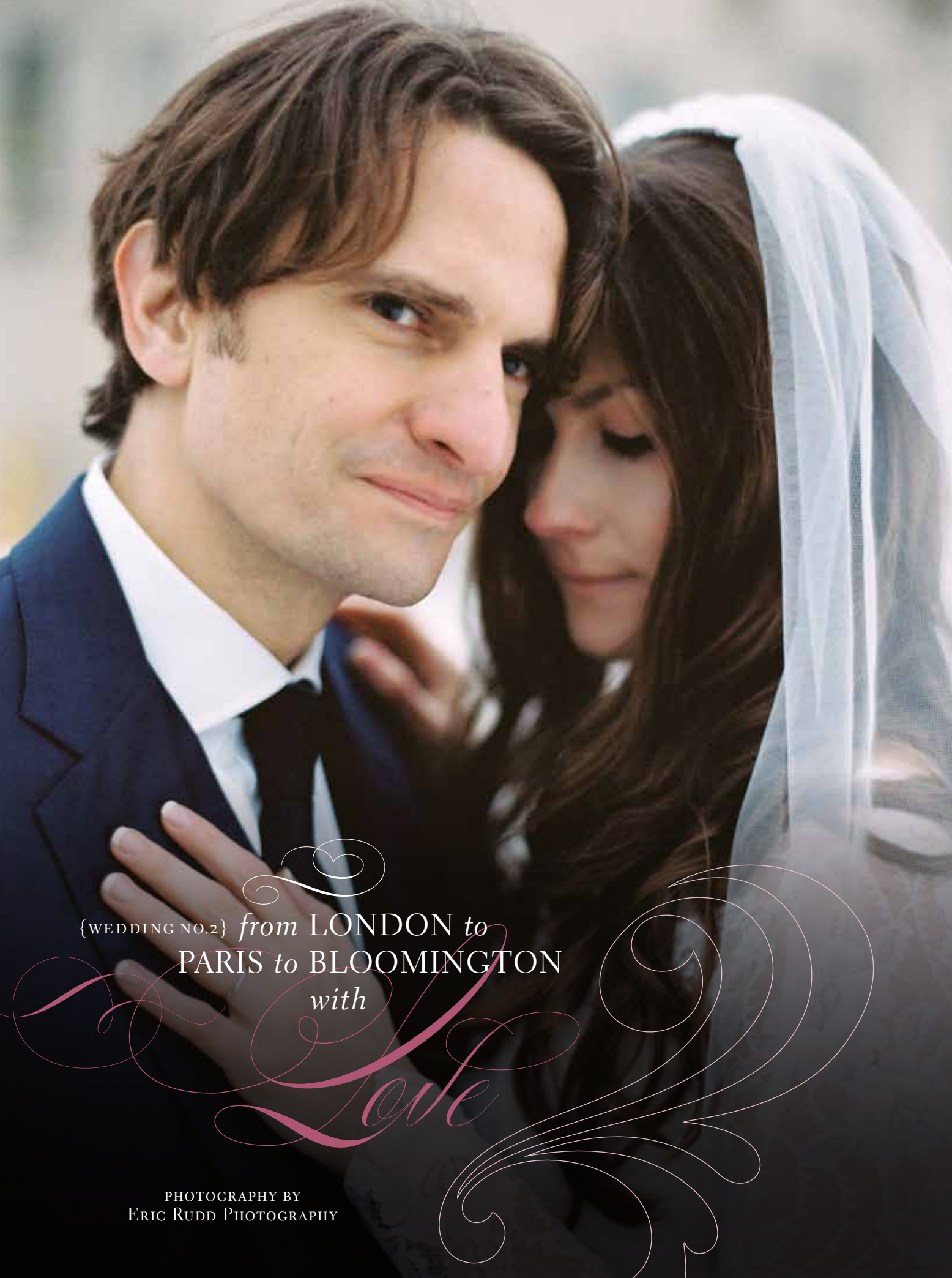
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{WEDDING NO.2} from LONDON to  
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*Love*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
ERIC RUDD PHOTOGRAPHY



(opposite page) Stephanie Benjamin and Brian Hatton's love bloomed in the winter, so they chose that season for their romantic and intimate wedding. (left) The couple exchanged vows they wrote themselves at IU's Beck Chapel. (above) Beck Chapel surrounded by snow was reminiscent of the English countryside.

Stephanie Benjamin and Brian Hatton are both Hoosiers, but by chance they met in London, about 4,000 miles from Indiana.

Their introduction was initiated by Stephanie's father, who discovered that a colleague had a son, Brian, living in London. After a casual meeting at a Whole Foods Market, Stephanie and Brian emailed frequently and arranged to meet for lunch and visit a museum. Not wanting to part, they then roamed around south London and spent the evening enjoying each other's company at a pub.

"When we finally met up that day, Stephanie gave me a big hug, and it was as if we had always known each other. We've been together ever since," says Brian, 42, an Angola, Indiana, native and DePauw University graduate who earned a master's degree in finance and accounting from the London School of Economics and Political Science and is managing director at UniCredit Bank AG United Kingdom.

Stephanie, 32, a Bloomington native who graduated from Indiana University in 2004 and moved to London to earn a master's degree in design history at the Royal College of Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum, likewise knew that she had found her life's mate. "He was kind, conscientious, cultured, ambitious, accomplished, passionate about art and travel, and cared deeply for his family — not to mention devilishly handsome! Plus, he was a Hoosier living in London, just like me," she marvels.

In November 2012, the couple booked a trip to Paris to celebrate their birthdays, which are 10 years and two weeks apart. After a day exploring the City of Light, Brian declared he had lost his cell phone.

Remembers Stephanie, "He was absolutely frantic and said he was going to check at the hotel's front desk. When he returned, he said he had a surprise for me and asked me to close my eyes. When I opened



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(from top) Cathy Teeters Beautiful Weddings provided floral arrangements of ivory, soft pink, and sage; Stephanie's father, Steve Benjamin, walks her down the aisle at Beck Chapel, while Brian's uncle, Robert Donovan, (left) looks on; Sugar & Spice at the IMU made the wedding cake, a three-tiered red velvet and lemon poppy seed confection.

(opposite page) Guests dined in the IMU's Federal Room, which reminded Stephanie and Brian of manor homes they had visited in England.



WEDDINGS & FLORAL AFFAIRS

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them, he was on one knee asking me the question I'd been waiting to hear — "Will you marry me?"

"He was so concerned about his phone because he planned to call my father and ask his permission. I'm glad they finally connected and that my dad was home to give his blessing!"

Initially, Stephanie had concerns about planning a wedding from 4,000 miles away but says Internet and Skype made the process easier. "We wanted a winter wedding because our relationship blossomed in the winter. I grew up in Bloomington, so I knew some of the resources available. Cathy Teeters of Cathy Teeters Beautiful Weddings and

Design Studio provided floral arrangements and day-of coordination — we couldn't have done it without her. Bari Kuhlman and her team from IMU [Indiana Memorial Union] Catering were also fantastic."

On December 14, 2013, Stephanie and Brian exchanged vows they wrote themselves at IU's Beck Chapel in a civil ceremony officiated by Rev. Forrest Gilmore, executive director of Shalom Community Center. Beck Chapel resident organist Stephen Price played traditional and contemporary musical selections, including The Beatles' "All You Need Is Love" for the recessional.

Says Stephanie, "We wanted our wedding to be intensely personal with European elements — a reflection of our individual stories that led us to our shared path. We chose the Federal Room at the IMU for our reception, because it reminded us of manor homes we'd visited in the English countryside. Cathy Teeters knew we were candle crazy and didn't hold back with illuminating our ceremony and reception in soft, ethereal light."

In a stolen moment alone together, Brian says, "We looked at one another and realized "Wow, we really did this!" \*

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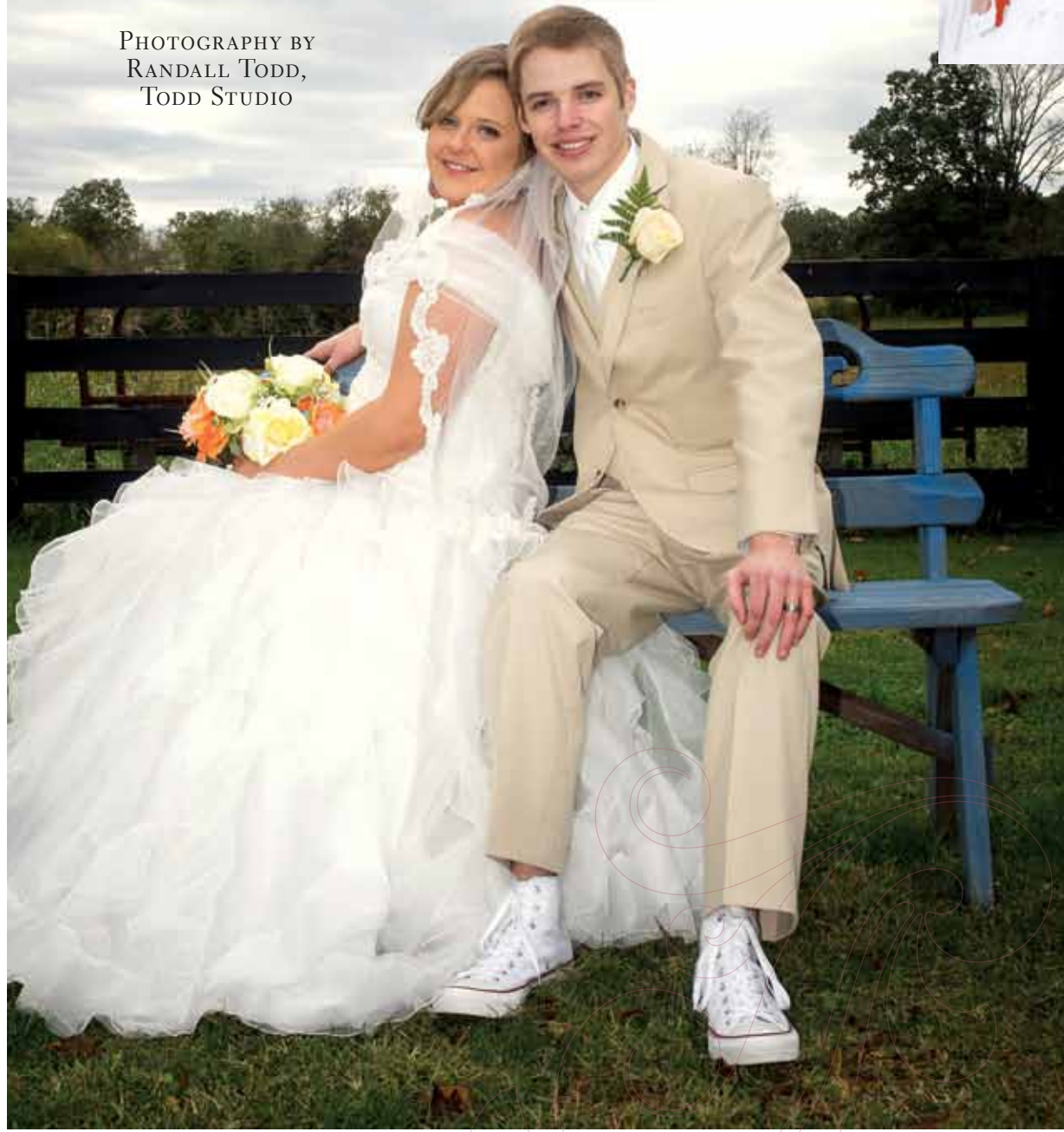
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{ WEDDING NO. 3 }

# Sweet

## LOVE STORY & WEDDING TO MATCH

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
RANDALL TODD,  
TODD STUDIO



(opposite page) Audrey Crane and Jeremiah Stevens met as sixth graders and knew even then they were destined to be together. (above) The couple's wedding ceremony was officiated by Ray Hausler, youth minister at Cincinnati Christian Church.

Audrey Crane and Jeremiah Stevens had crushes on each other as sixth graders at Eastern Greene Elementary School. Even then, both believed it was something more than puppy love.

"When we were juniors at Eastern Greene High School, I finally had the courage to tell Jeremiah I had a crush on him for the past five years. Crazy enough, he felt the same way, and we have been inseparable ever since," says Audrey, 21, who graduated from IUPUI in December 2014 with a B.S. in travel and event planning.

Jeremiah, 22, who is currently studying radiological and imaging science at IUPUI, never had any doubt about his feelings for Audrey. "I was only 12 years old when we met, but I knew there was something special about her. I knew she was the one all along," he says.

In January 2013, Jeremiah drove to Florida with Audrey's parents, Moriah and Robert Crane, to bring her home from Walt Disney World. Audrey, a self-proclaimed Disney devotee, had been working at the park for five months. During the drive south, Jeremiah, with Moriah's help, devised a plan to propose to Audrey.

At Disney's Animal Kingdom backstage safari tour, Jeremiah asked Audrey to close her eyes, saying he had a gift from her mother to give her, a Disney pin. Says Jeremiah, "I reached into my pocket and grabbed the pin and the ring. The pin was of Mickey proposing to Minnie. When she opened her eyes, I got down on one knee and asked her to be my wife. She exclaimed 'Yes!' and we finished the tour as fiancés."

Audrey and Jeremiah wanted a wedding with a theme they both enjoyed. A Disney-themed wedding was out, because Disney is Audrey's obsession, but not Jeremiah's. However, they both are crazy about candy.

"I took that fact and ran with it," says Audrey. "I envisioned each table decorated in a bright, fruity color — orange, lemon yellow, lime green, and red."

Adding to the excitement of the wedding, Audrey appeared on the TLC TV series *Something Borrowed, Something New* in January

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(clockwise from top) Guests help themselves at the candy bar; the table accents were in citrus Skittles colors; a tender moment on the sweetest of days; the couple make the rounds, chatting with guests; the three-layer wedding cake had multicolored rock candy cascading down the side.

2014. In the episode, she chose her mother's redesigned wedding dress over a new designer gown.

Morgan Banks of Ashley Weddings and Events coordinated all the details for the nuptials held at Sycamore Farm Bloomington on October 4, 2014. The candy theme was introduced early in the ceremony when Riley and Reagan Kieft, daughters of family friends, walked down the aisle scattering candy sprinkles instead of flower petals. Audrey and Jeremiah wrote their own vows and planted a tree during the ceremony. "Trees stand for so many things that we want in our relationship — prosperity, nurturing energies, strength, and stability," explains Audrey.

The ceremony was officiated by Ray Hausler, youth minister at Cincinnati Christian Church.

One World Catering & Events provided food and beverages for the cocktail hour as well as the reception feast that included prime rib, chicken cacciatore, butternut-squash soup, and roasted root vegetables. Audrey's grandmother, Mary Fields, and her aunt, Elese Fields-Wellman, made the three-layer wedding cake with buttercream frosting and multicolored rock candy cascading down the side.

After guests rocked out to pop music provided by James Gucinski, a disc jockey from Lakeside Entertainment, they were invited to fill their favor bags at a candy bar featuring 35 different sweets.

Audrey reflects, "It sounds like a six-year-old's birthday bash, but it wasn't. It was candy in its most elegant form."\*



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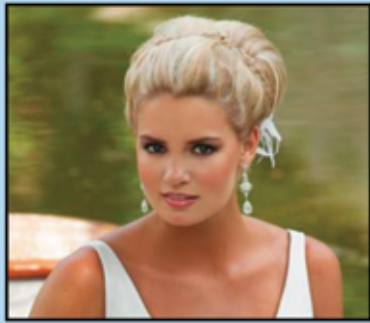
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(opposite page) Susie Kateregga and Terry Lynn Napier incorporated elements from both of their cultures in two wedding ceremonies.

(top) Both families say a prayer over the couple during the Ugandan ceremony. (l-r, behind Susie and TJ) Susie's aunt, her grandmother and grandfather, and TJ's parents. On the table is the dowry, including a fruit basket and decorative box, and envelopes with money gifts. Photo by Elaine Bollhorst, Joy for Life Photography



(l-r) The Showers Inn was the site for both ceremonies; TJ presented a symbolic dowry to Susie's family that included a live rooster. Photo by Elaine Bollhorst, Joy for Life Photography; Summer Corbin of Sweet Cakes in Bedford, Indiana, created the cake, the cupcakes, and cake pops.

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**TWO WEDDINGS, RYAN BREEDEN PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**TWO CULTURES,**

# Kindred Souls

When Susie Kateregga and Terry Lynn (TJ) Napier met at a party in December 2003, they did not engage in flirtatious banter. Instead, it was serious conversation, and it changed their lives in profound ways.

Remembers Susie, "When I first saw TJ at that party, which was a gathering of young Christians, it was like there was no one else in the room. I was drawn to him and could see that he was not in a good place. I shared my story with him about how Jesus changed my life, but he wasn't interested."

Things changed quickly, however. "Two days later a friend called and told me that TJ accepted Christ and wanted my phone number," says Susie, 31, a Bloomington native and

Indiana University graduate, who is now a residential supervisor for Eskenazi Health Midtown Community Mental Health facility in Indianapolis.

But Susie, whose parents left their native Uganda for educational opportunities in Indiana before she was born, had reservations about being in an interracial relationship. She denied her feelings for TJ for six months, by which time he was dating someone else.

"No matter who I was with I always missed Susie — she had my heart," confesses TJ, 37, who was raised in Indianapolis, gradu-



ated with a degree in education from IU, and is founder of the Future Stars basketball program at The Warehouse, a Christian-based community center. "I came to the point where I realized I could live my life in regret and fear or give this relationship with Susie a shot."

The couple's first official date was in June 2013 — 10 long years after they met. TJ proposed to Susie just four months later at the Showers Inn in front of 40 relatives and close friends. "I wanted to propose in front of her friends and family, because I knew in her culture it is important that they are involved," TJ explains.

Susie and TJ love the Showers Inn and its garden and chose it for the site of their two ceremonies on May 23 and 24, 2014. The first ceremony incorporated elements of Ugandan tradition and culture and was officiated by Dr. John Mukasa-Ssebaana of Chicago. The couple dressed in full Ugandan attire, and TJ presented a symbolic dowry to Susie's family which included a fruit basket, wine, and a live rooster signifying that Susie is not coming back to her family. The next day at the American ceremony, the couple wore Western wedding attire. Senior Pastor Kim Norris from City Church for All Nations officiated. During the ceremony, two doves were released in memory of two deceased family members, Susie's brother, Kizito Sturrrup, and TJ's cousin, A.J. Lyons.



(l-r) Senior Pastor Kim Norris from City Church for All Nations officiated the traditional Western ceremony; the table décor was sophisticated modern in black and white, with touches of pearls, crystals, and candlelight; the couple sways to music during a slow dance.



The reception décor at KRC Banquets and Catering was a sophisticated palette of black, white, and silver, with rhinestone, pearls, and crystal accents. After guests enjoyed dinner, the couple cut their wedding cake made by Summer Corbin of Sweet Cakes of Bedford, Indiana. A s'mores buffet attracted guests who wanted a fun, hands-on dessert. Disc jockey Arturo Rodriguez provided a cultural mix of music for dancing.

As perfect as their culturally blended wedding was, Susie and TJ know that it was one weekend in a lifetime together. "The shock of marrying TJ still hasn't sunk in yet," says Susie. "It seemed like such a long journey, and the wedding was just the beginning of our new lives together. I'm so blessed to be able to marry my soul mate." \*



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