

Love Letters



Editor Lara Burnap

IT TAKES A VILLAGE. THERE ARE FEW THINGS in modern life to which this statement actually applies. But when it comes to planning a wedding, brides-to-be quickly discover that the recipe for success is an army of talented professionals with a posse of understanding friends. One gets so wrapped up in finding the perfect dress, the best florist and beautiful invitations that it's easy to forget what the day is truly about: love.

This issue is an ode to romance, from the breezy "Summer Rose," (page 60) shot by the talented Giuliano Bekor and brimming with dreamy dresses, to real weddings (page 104) filled with warm fuzzy stories of childhood sweethearts, love at first sight and even a monkey (*a what?*). And let's not forget the bouquets;

something as simple as a black-and-white photo of great-grandparents (mine are on page 88) can become a sentimental inspiration for an arrangement. Intricate details like these make a wedding special and uniquely personal.

Of course, the key to making an intangible emotion—such as love—a reality are talented vendors. This issue is brimming with creative individuals who poured so much passion into their projects. Our fashion feature "A Color Story" (page 70) had an amazing team—from the talented eye of photographer Stephanie Williams to the constructive mind of designer Jesi Haack—that took our vision to another level with dreamy settings and a few winged friends. An absolute ode to love, Kristin Banta's theatrical wedding on page 32 took inspiration from the pages of Homer, Dante and Tolkien—who would have thought that such tales would translate into something so rich with detail and emotion? So, wherever your vision takes you, remember to surround yourself with people who will fill your day with love and romance.

Dream on, my lovely brides.

Lara Morgenson Burnap
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WHAT I LOVE IN THIS ISSUE



I love discovering new local artists like Rosy Posy Designs (p. 48)



All at once cozy and decadent, I dig these faux mink table coverings (p. 32)



Another local designer, Batcakes Couture's delicate dove fascinator (p. 79)

CALIFORNIA WEDDING DAY

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HAYLEY YOUNG (2); TABLE TOP: BLAKE GARDNER
PHOTOGRAPHY; BATCAKES: KASIA CZERNSKI

Bride Ideas

UNVEILED | *inspiration from real weddings*



EVENT DESIGN

Heaven on Earth

Angels and devils. Heaven and hell. The dichotomy has been played upon in literature and theme parties for years, but it was Los Angeles-based Kristin Banta Events that turned the age-old antipodes into a whimsical and inspiring wedding. ♦ Borrowing insights from Dante, Tolkien and Homer, Banta constructed a lavish theatrical ceremony and reception for a Hollywood couple in three short months. Playing upon the passionate dynamic of their relationship, the wedding served as a tale of the couple's storied history together. "The eloquence behind this narrative was that it reflected the couple's belief that each one had been elevated in life by light and love through the presence of his partner," says Banta. ♦ The ceremony showcased angels with large, white wings and demonic creatures greeting guests with cotton candy and drinks. A dramatic underworld themed cocktail hour, complete with servers in caged headgear serving Wolfgang Puck delicacies, preceded the decadent dinner, defined as a "hedonistic-baroque-meets-Middle Earth feast." The royal setting included faux mink upholstered tables, fur throws on gilded benches, stacks of Limoge china, crystal goblets and animalistic creatures on stilts serving grapes to guests. Entertainment included contortionists, a snake handler and a fire-eater. ♦ The culmination of the evening was drawn from *The Odyssey* as guests were led to the heavenly, ethereal world: an exterior pool area complete with a center stage for a DJ, floating desserts and cloud chandeliers. "We believe that all weddings should incorporate humor as well as poignancy; otherwise, they become one note, and we are all more multidimensional than that," Banta says.—*Erin M. Moriarty*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Angels greet guests; a display of antlers and grapes; After-party entertainment; The ceremony; decadent faux mink upholstered tables; Servers on stilts serve grapes



BLAKE GARDNER PHOTOGRAPHY