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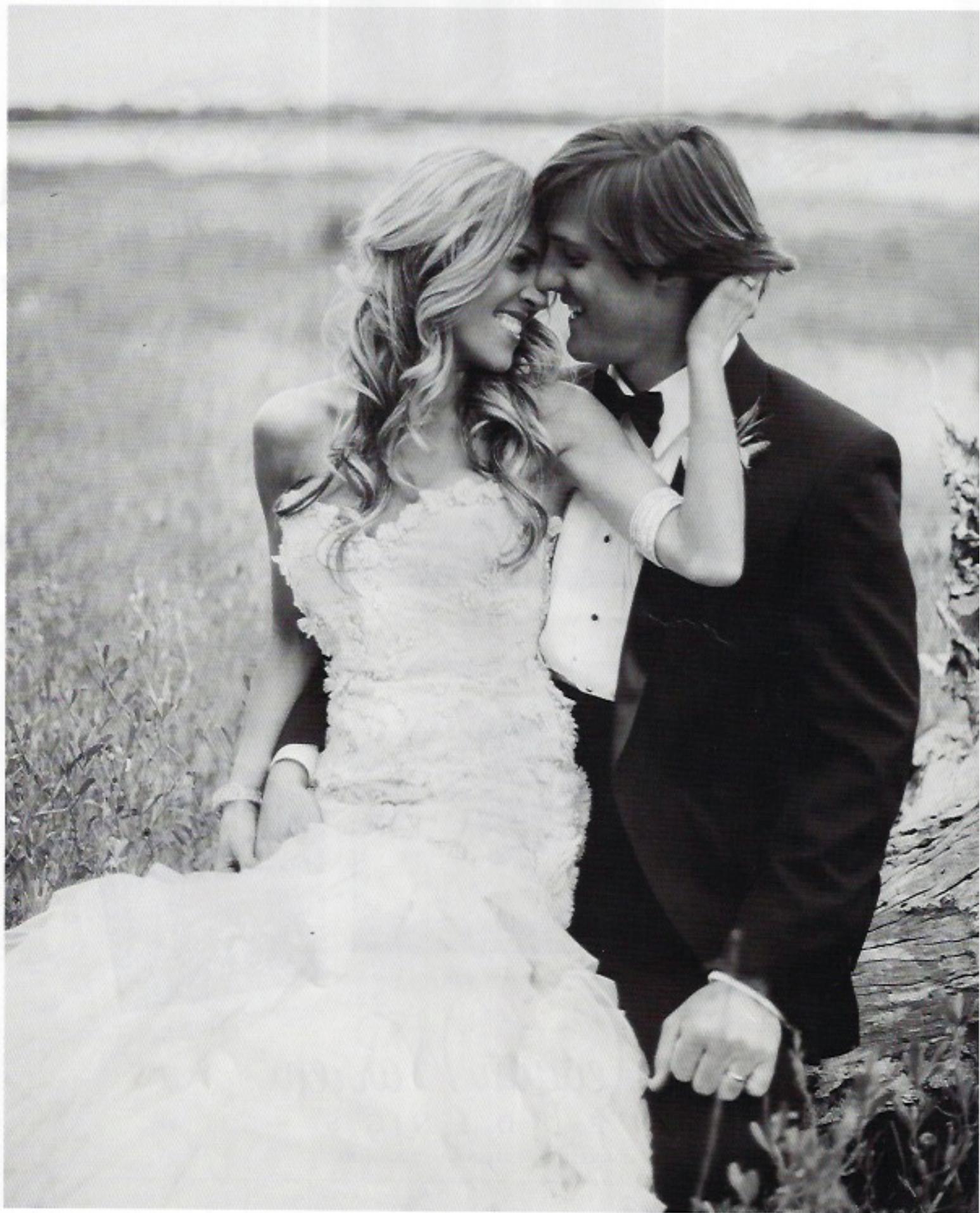


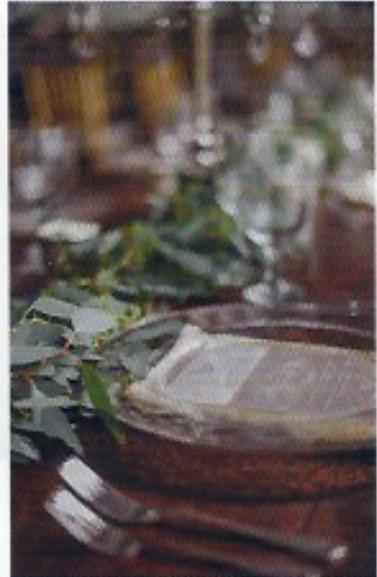
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kelly and adam 03.22.13 charleston, sc

Everyone remembers that one guy or girl in college... you know - the total package. Smart, kind, witty and attractive with a generally positive outlook on life and the type of magnetic personality that makes others just want to be around them. Kelly Cordell and Adam Dukes are both those people and it only makes sense that they'd end up together.

Kelly and Adam first crossed paths at a baseball game during the end of their junior year at the University of Georgia. "I was just getting out of a three-year-long relationship and he was dating someone at the time," says Kelly, "but I remember telling my friends that I had just met the cutest guy I'd ever seen." Her "crush" on Adam quickly became a joke among Kelly's girlfriends and they'd report on "Adam spotting" to Kelly each time they saw him around town. Fast forward to their senior year and Adam and Kelly kept catching each other's eye around campus. "I knew who Kelly was and had asked several friends about her for awhile," remembers Adam. "They all teased me about Kelly and said, 'That's never going to happen'... but it did."

Kelly's phone rang one afternoon and she was totally surprised to hear Adam's voice on the other end. He called to invite her to his fraternity's Parents Weekend and at first, she even thought her friends might be playing a joke on her. "I was seriously beside myself until he told me it was the following weekend and my heart sank," says Kelly. "I was already going as someone else's date to another function the same weekend." She reluctantly declined Adam's invitation, but emphasized that she would love to hang out sometime soon. She wondered if she had just blown any chance she had with him, but Adam was persistent and they made plans for the big Georgia vs. Florida football game the following week. "Anyone who's been to that game knows that it's mass chaos, so I didn't want to get my hopes up too much," explains Kelly. "To my surprise, we hung out Wednesday night and met up again Thursday, Friday and Saturday. By Sunday, that was it - no games, no hard-to-get act. Simply, I like you, you like me, let's see where this takes us."

Adam and Kelly were both living in Charleston, SC and had been dating for six years when Adam saw the opportunity to propose. They went on vacation with their families to Santa Rosa Beach, FL in June of 2012 and he enlisted their help with a terrific plan. "While we were all down there, Kelly's parents shared the story of their first date on June 19th about 40 years ago," says Adam. "I knew the timing was perfect and decided to keep the special tradition with the 19th."

Adam arranged for a private helicopter tour and Kelly assumed it was just a really romantic date night. About thirty minutes into the tour, the pilot announced that he was about to fly over their beach house. "As he is looping around, my window is now closest to the beach and I can see our families jumping up and down, waving sparklers and holding a huge banner that says 'KELLY WILL YOU MARRY ME?'. I immediately turn around and Adam is as close as you can be to 'down on one knee' in a helicopter holding out the ring asking me to marry him," says Kelly. "I was in shock and so excited I couldn't even talk."

Adam grew up in Macon, GA and Kelly is originally from Houston, TX, but they knew right away they wanted to get married in Charleston. "Besides Athens where we went to college, Charleston is the first place we made our life together and it's so special to us both," says Kelly. "We wanted all the people we love most to experience Charleston." They easily settled on Lowndes Grove as soon as they saw the property and knew it would be the ideal place for their March nuptials. "It's absolutely breathtaking," Kelly says, of the historic venue. "It's on the water, it's five minutes from downtown, it's historic and able to accommodate a large wedding."

Anyone who knows Kelly knows her unique style and love of fashion. "I am not a shopper who sets out for specific things," she explains, "I am more the type that when I see it, I love it, so I purchase it." After a two-day wedding dress shopping marathon with her mom and sister, Kelly still hadn't found the perfect dress and her mom suggested they run by just one more store. "I started perusing racks and racks and suddenly I spy something that looks different than anything else I'd seen," says Kelly. An exquisite gown by Lazaro with a sweetheart neckline, an elongated beaded bodice and a dramatic textured skirt had officially captured her attention. "It was absolutely gorgeous and incorporated so many of the design details I'd been looking for in a wedding dress. I tried it on and finally - a dress that I was crazy about, felt like myself in and looked like a bride."

Kelly met with Hannah Alexander of WED: Wedding Event Design in Charleston and knew she'd found the perfect team to bring her vision to life. Kelly and Hannah chose a soft neutral palette of cream and Champagne with metallic accents and incorporated elements of texture throughout the design. "So many of the things I wanted for our wedding were contradictions," laughs Kelly. "Rustic but glam, black tie but laid back, over the top yet understated, modern but traditional, trendy but timeless; I tend to be all over the place when it comes to things I love, and sometimes eclectic taste doesn't translate well with things like a wedding. Hannah never made me feel like my suggestions or ideas were wacky or off the wall."

Kelly and Adam exchanged traditional vows beneath an organic structure of curly willow branches, greenery, white hydrangeas and grapevine surrounded by a circle of their family and friends. Kelly wore her mother's Chantilly lace veil, which was made by her late grandmother. She carried a lush bouquet of white and ivory blooms including white hydrangeas, astilbe, ranunculus, sweet pea, dusty miller, berzillia berries, millet and hints of foliage wrapped in natural linen ribbon with lace from her mom's wedding dress. Adam and his groomsmen wore traditional black tuxedos, while Kelly's bridesmaids wore exquisite beaded dresses by Adrianna Papell in a warm neutral hue. "Since it wasn't designed to be a 'bridesmaid' dress and I had a Texas-sized bridal party, I knew it might not be possible, but had to ask," says Kelly. "After jumping through a few hoops we got approval to order the dresses directly from the designer. It was quite the process, but ended up being totally worth it! My only regret is I didn't order one for myself."

Calvin Taylor performed during cocktail hour as guests enjoyed a variety of passed hors d'oeuvres including honey-glazed pear and almond brie, shrimp



and soft Gouda grits, bacon-wrapped scallops and fried green tomatoes from Fish Restaurant. "Fish's food is amazing and the presentation was gorgeous," says Kelly. Their seated dinner menu featured a Caesar salad, truffle orzo mac and cheese with roasted asparagus, farm-raised roasted chicken with roasted peppers and fingerling potatoes in a shaved garlic rosemary sauce. The menus listed an intriguing "Sweet Surprise from the Bride and Groom" for dessert and servers brought out plated bouquets of cotton candy with tall, flaming sparklers in the center. Kelly and Adam's four-tier gold and white wedding cake was also topped with sparklers spelling out the word "Love" that glittered and sparked as they cut their first slice.

Reception tables were covered in sequined linens featuring multi-layered tablescapes by Sara York Grimshaw of Sara York Grimshaw Designs. Long runner of lush greenery were combined with petite arrangements of hydrangea, hyacinth, blown open roses, sweet pea, tulips, berilla berries, and dusty miller in tarnished silver julep cups. Dramatic arrangements of pampas grass in tall footed vases added an extra element of texture and height, while bronze lanterns and candlelight in silver gold and hobnail bronze mercury glass created a warm glow. "Sara York Grimshaw is a floral genius," Kelly says. "She did an unbelievable job and used a lot of local plants and flowers which was important to us!"

The Voltage Brothers kept everyone dancing until Kelly and Adam's lively send off amidst a flurry of sparklers. They kept the party going with an after party downtown but in between, Kelly and Adam had the chance to cruise around town. "Our favorite part of the entire night was after our send off, before going to meet everyone at the after party at Upstairs at Midtown," Kelly says. "It was just the two of us (besides our awesome driver, Brian) cruising the streets of Charleston in a vintage Cadillac convertible, drinking Champagne, listening to tunes and celebrating life together as a married couple. It was just one of those perfect moments where time stood still!" EAH

Event Planning and Design: WED: Wedding Event Design; Ceremony Location and Reception Venue: Lowndes Grove Plantation in Charleston, SC; Florist: Saks York Grimshaw Designs; Bakes and Catering: Fish Restaurant; Party Rentals: Snyder Rental; Lounge Furniture: Ooh! Events; Linens: Nõõge Designs; Lighting: Technical Event Company; Invitations and Wedding Papers: Lucky Luxe Couture Correspondence and Skiptone Press; Ceremony Music: Plantation Singers and Charleston Virtuosi; Cocktail and Dinner Music: Calvin Taylor; Reception Entertainment: The Voltage Brothers; Through East Coast Entertainment; Bridal Gown: Lazaro purchased or Bridals by Lori; Bridesmaid Dresses: Adrianna Papell purchased at Nordstrom; Hair: Wedding Hair by Charlotte; Makeup: Pamela Lesch Makeup; Groom and Groomsmen Attire: Personal tuxedos; Transportation: Low Country Loop Trolley and Shuttle Taxis; Cinematographer: Lydia Walker with Silent Images.

Photography: Tim Willoughby, www.timwill.com.



