

weddings

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some enchanted evening

Katie Duong to Ian Berry
SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA

PHOTOGRAPHS BY *John Kernick* TEXT BY *Alex Van Buren*

KATIE DUONG HAS BEEN A WEDDING PLANNER and a floral designer, so she knows a thing or two about romance. But when Ian Berry, an illustrator she'd met only briefly, called her up at her San Francisco studio as she was meeting with a bride, she was all business. "I gotta make this quick," she said. "Are you calling to ask me out on a date?"

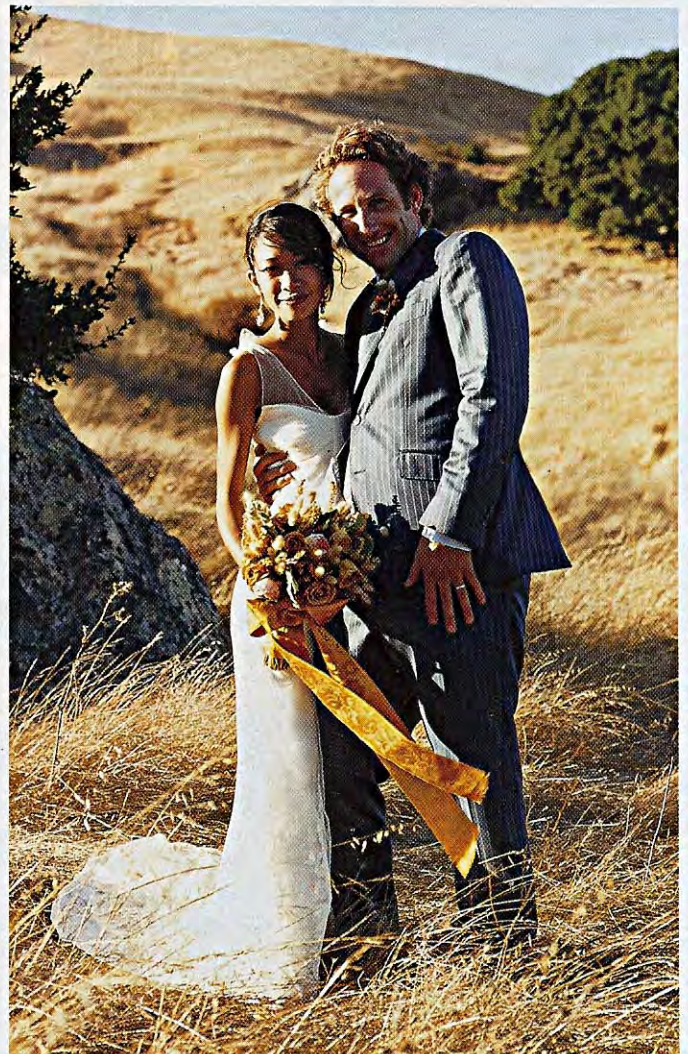
He was, and if Katie wasn't charmed when she picked up the phone, her feelings bloomed like one of her lush garden roses once she had the chance to spend the day with Ian. He picked her up in his silver Audi, and the two cruised down curvy Highway 1 with its famous vistas, stopping for tacos at a roadside shack. At one beach along the way, they climbed on rocks; at another, they read vintage Japanese design magazines together. It felt, says Katie simply, "super right." Ian is a surfer and grew up by the ocean, as did she, Katie explains. "He's laid-back to my slightly spazzy," she says, "but he has all the values and characteristics that I think are important in a person."

By their third date, they were comfortable enough with each other to simply go to a café, sit silently, and write letters to friends. By the fourth, he was meeting her family; within six months, they found a house to buy in the Mission District. Ian's proposal, two years later, was as offbeat and creative as the couple's shared sensibilities: Knowing Katie's affection for nature and miniature notions, he surprised her with a vignette of insect specimens positioned as though they were climbing up a little hillside to get to

The warm colors of autumn in California set the tone for the event's glowing, woody palette. Katie carries a bouquet she designed herself and wears a *silk-and-lace gown* by Vera Wang. Ian sports a custom-made suit by Seize sur Vingt. Opposite: Katie adores *faux bois*, and the wood-grain motif was present throughout the day, from the cover of the program (far right), featuring letters that phonetically spell the couple's names, to a miniature barrel of matches (top right). The matches are from For Your Party; the letterpressed seating card, program, and reply card, along with the invitation (engraved in sepia ink and paired with an envelope lined in brown tissue) are by Bell'occhio, as is the calligraphy.

the ring. It featured a hearts-and-arrows diamond, named for the unique pattern created by its facets.

The two wed last September in San Anselmo, California, on the grounds of the summer home of one of Katie's friend's. Quirky details abounded—from a wild and magical dessert table to a portrait artist cutting silhouettes—and the couple's union felt as natural as the surroundings. In fact, Ian says he knew from that first date they were a perfect match. Literally. "I loved the way she fit under my arm while we were sitting on the beach," he says. The wedding planner couldn't have planned it any better.





*Ms Emma Nye
3006 Eighteenth Street
San Francisco, California 94110*



Ms. Do Mañana

No 19

*Ms. Kim Lan Nguyen
and
Mr. and Mrs. Ngan Dinh Duong
request the pleasure of your company
at the marriage of their daughter*

*Halle
to
Jan Scott Berry
Saturday, the sixteenth of September
Two thousand six
at three o'clock in the afternoon
Ertle C Ranch
San Anselmo, California*

Reception to follow



The favor of a reply is requested before the twenty fifth of August





Friends and family play a big role in the couple's life. It was Katie's sister who convinced her to go to the party where she met the man she'd marry.



Opposite: Resting on scalloped tags, *boutonnieres* are laid out in a moss-lined basket for the groom, two of his groomsmen, and his father and grandfather. The adornments for the groom and best man are distinguished by golden bittersweet; the clusters also combine blackberries, fuzzy bunny tails, and variegated dogwood, all tied with apricot-colored ribbon; by Naomi deMañana. This page, clockwise from top right: The

bride and groom *embrace* as their officiant and attendants look on. The *groomsmen* are decked out in slate Brooks Brothers suits, melon-and-white checkered shirts, and coordinating ties. The families gather on the lawn for a *portrait*. The bridesmaids wear Empire-waist gowns and satin ballet flats wrapped with matching ribbon; they carry *bouquets* bursting with dogwood, and florist and garden roses.



The couple, sharing a laugh (right), hired Karl Johnson, a *silhouette* artist (below), to create black-and-white replicas of each guest's profile. Working in under three minutes, Johnson made two copies of each likeness at once (center); one, pasted on paper, was given to each guest (including Claudia Schwartz, who awaits her turn with husband Tom, below) and one to the couple as a surprise; Katie and Ian's profiles hung outside the cocktail area (right). Opposite: The bride, a floral designer by trade, composed her bouquet of plush 'Pieter B' and 'Evelyn' garden roses, bunny tails, and pink-edged variegated dogwood. Vintage jaquard ribbon adds a final flourish.









Opposite: A custom-ordered faux-bois *tablecloth* brings the woods inside the reception tent, which is set right on the grass and decorated with Eastern motifs. The *centerpieces* are designed by the bride from garden roses that include 'Golden Celebration,' 'Evelyn,' 'Pieter B,' 'Charles Austin,' and 'Mojave,' along with sea oats and blackberry brambles. Continuing the enchanted-forest theme, the flowers are arranged in vases wrapped in stained birch bark. Letterpress scalloped *tags* hanging on chair backs help guests find their seats. This page, above: The sun sets over the *long tent* where guests enjoy a family-style dinner of beef tenderloin, rack of lamb, or poached salmon, all served with organic vegetables. Right: "Berry" is both the couple's married last name and part of the overall theme for the wedding. (Katie, who grew up among the groves of Orange County, California, and loved to watch her mom garden, has been charmed by fruit since she was a child.) Here, a dainty raspberry design dresses up the embroidered *hemstitched napkins* by Table & Thread, and faux-bois log place-card holders by Bell'occhio adorn a table.







Opposite: When the groom first eyed the dessert table, he called it “the most outrageous thing” he’d ever seen—“totally *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.” From left, a pillar of caramel macaroons entices guests; green-tinted white chocolate leaves top a tower of delicacies that include walnut bonbons and “La Femme” chocolates with a ganache filling of passion fruit and chocolate; the *marzipan-covered cake*, by Perfect Endings, features a faux-bois pattern that was pressed onto the coating with a custom rubber stamp; a two-tiered cake stand looks as if it has emerged from the woods to hold pistachio chocolates and champignons caramel; fluted French cannelés, assorted macarons, and green candied bonbons complete the sweet tableau. This page, clockwise from top: The treat-laden *dessert table*, in all of its sweet glory, is covered with a blanket of velvety moss. The couple has long adored *macaroons*, so they offered some of their favorites from local patisserie Bay Bread; calligraphed labels that note the flavor of each encourage sampling. Speckled chocolate *quail eggs* wait to be plucked from their straw nest.



Sources

EVENT DESIGN AND STATIONERY *Bell'occhio*
 TENTS *Raj Tents*
 CAKE *Perfect Endings*

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