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kiawah island, sc



Tyler Emerson and Brook Dorsch know that true love only comes around once in a blue moon, which is why their January wedding on Kiawah Island in South Carolina was a visual ode to love of the indigo-hued, lunar variety. Tyler knew she was in the presence of heaven-sent fate the first time she saw her future husband. "It was my birthday, and I was all dressed up because I was going out later, so I was feeling super-confident, which is rare," says Tyler. "I attended the closing night of my friend's art show at a gallery, and it turned out to be Brook's gallery." The art was certainly eye-catching, but Tyler couldn't tear her gaze away from the attractive gallery owner. "I just thought he was so cute. He had the most incredible eyes." Sensing an opportunity she would regret not taking advantage of, Tyler summoned her courage and approached Brook to ask for directions to PS 742, a nearby art collective space in Miami. "I had it in me to ask for directions, but that was about all I could handle. I wanted him to ask me out first," laughs Tyler. She asked a mutual friend, Mark Koven to put in a good word for her with Brook and shortly thereafter, Brook asked her to dinner. "Things got serious pretty quickly for us," says Tyler, "but it never felt fast to us, it just felt natural."

Falling hard and happy about it, Brook knew he found the woman he was meant to marry, but Tyler was moving to New York for graduate school and Brook's job and gallery kept him Miami-bound. To give his girlfriend a proper send off, Brook planned a trip to Montreal, Canada. "I really thought it was just a trip for us to sort of say goodbye," says Tyler. "I knew we were planning to stay together long distance, but I didn't really know how it was going to work." They spent the day strolling through art galleries, indulging in their mutual passion for contemporary art. "Brook made reservations at a beautiful French restaurant," says Tyler, "and when we arrived the little old French lady who owned it came out to greet us and gave me a rose." Tyler was charmed, but didn't suspect Brook's intentions. After the decadent main course, Brook asked her to marry him. "I was totally surprised," she says. Her parents, however, had been in on the romantic plan. Brook had been stealing away to call them since they arrived in Canada, only managing to get them on the phone right before dinner. "He said he left something in the room, but he was actually up there asking my parents for my hand in marriage. It meant a lot to me that he asked them."

Tyler's parents were thrilled to receive more good news a few weeks later. "We decided to have the wedding on Kiawah, where my parents live," says Tyler. "I was so busy with grad school and I knew that my mom would do a really wonderful job planning the wedding, and that she was dying to do it!" Tyler's mom had more than a little help from the dynamic duo of Tally Angle and Tiffany Rossma from Distinctive Events. Tyler's wedding team booked the River Course Club for the ceremony and reception and Tally instructed Tyler and Brook to put together a scrapbook of images and pictures that inspired them aesthetically. "We didn't want it to feel like an overly Southern wedding. We wanted a more modern flair," says Tyler, "but my mother is very Southern, and that is definitely a part of me too." The defining image in their book was of a rich, dusky blue wall with deep, wine red accents rounding out the room design. Tally used the image as artistic inspiration for their color scheme. "Tally also took a cue from my personal interest in gardening, and she really 'painted' with flowers in her designs. Each arrangement had different shades and textures that made them so interesting." Tally also found a slew of white, globe shaped lamp lights in an industrial design magazine that added a unique, contemporary element to the décor. "They had this cool, modern, architectural design, and they projected blue and red lights on them throughout the reception, so they appeared to change color all night long," says Tyler. The glowing orbs and



stars hung around them were a unique homage to the "Once in a Blue Moon" notion that the couple found fitting. "We really liked the idea of that blue moon concept, because that's really how it felt for us. We were on these separate paths and somehow they managed to cross each other. Call it whatever you want, fate, luck – we had it."

Thankfully Tyler had the same luck when searching for the perfect dress. "I was in New York and only had three days before grad school started, so we went into the city to Vera Wang." There, she fell in love not with a dress, but with a buttery soft duchess silk satin. "The fabric somehow just made me glow," she says. The search continued to Bergdorf's, then to Saks Fifth Avenue where Tyler met Imo Erickson who discovered Tyler's love of contemporary art. "As soon as I mentioned the art and my graduate work, she said she had a few dresses in mind that might be perfect." There, among them was the gown Tyler was looking for. The fitted, strapless Ulla Majja gown was modernized by abstract bodice details, an asymmetrically cascading skirt, and delicate lace with the appearance of small champagne bubbles. "It was much less serious than the other dresses I looked at. It had more punch to it," says Tyler. "I knew it was right as soon as I put it on."



Tyler dove into her graduate work, studying right up until the few days before her wedding when family and friends began to arrive on Kiawah. "Eventually it was just too hard to concentrate on writing papers with all these wonderful people around. My childhood friend and her parents came all the way from Montana; my godmother came from San Francisco, and my grandmother, who had been very ill, made the trip as well, which was so special for me." Brook and Tyler's collective group of artistic friends from Miami came en masse to celebrate the marriage. "There were so many people who came from Florida. It was really overwhelmingly emotional." Brook played the role of tour guide and translator for his family, who trekked across the Atlantic from Germany. "There were so many people who had never been to that part of the U.S. before, and they loved it. There is something so different about the beaches in Kiawah. You can just walk for miles without even realizing it."







A rose petal runner marked the spot where Tyler would greet her groom at the altar on the manicured grounds of the River Course Club. As she finished getting ready with her mother and sister, Tyler's father came to check on the progress of his girls. "He started to tear up when he saw me, but I think what really got to him was how beautiful my mother looked." With raw emotion floating so close to the surface, Tyler was grateful for a moment that broke the tension before she and her dad walked down the aisle. "Just before we walked out, we heard a ripple of giggles go through the crowd," says Tyler. "Apparently, my mother was very concerned that my sister was going to step off the back of the platform altar, so she kept trying to get her attention saying 'Alex! Alex!' Finally Alex looked at her and said, 'Mom, shut up!'" I was so relieved to hear that laughter. It really helped me calm down just before I saw Brook."



Tyler had every intention of walking slowly down the aisle, but when she locked her gaze on Brook, she felt like she couldn't get to the altar fast enough. The bride says some details of the ceremony are just a happy haze, but she vividly recalls the moment they recited their vows. "When Brook repeated the pastor's words, he said them very quietly because he wanted them to be private, just for me, for us, but when my turn came, I wanted everyone in the world to hear them! I wanted everyone to know that this man was my choice and I knew it was so right." And why not? After all, a love like theirs doesn't come along often – just about once every blue moon. JLT

Ceremony Site: Tent at River Course at Kiawah. Reception Site and Catering: River Course at Kiawah. Officiant: Mac Hammelf. Gown: Ulla-Molija. Veil & Shoes: Vera Wang. Ceremony Musicians: Russian Jazz Trio. Florist and Wedding Consultant: Distinctive Events. Baker: Wedding Cakes by Jim Smeal. Party Rentals: Snyder Event Rentals. Reception Music: Travis Allison Band. Invitations: Rachael Blessinger at Studio R. Spa and Accommodations: The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island. Lighting: PDA Lighting & Sound.



Photography: Visio Photography,
www.visiophotography.com.



