

Real Prides

September 2020

South Africa's Exciting
Wedding Magazine

*BLACK
TIE*

*Destination
Weddings*

*Got Your
Prenup?*

Real Weddings





Marriage is a wonderful event in anyone's life that is full of joint decisions. But these decisions start before the marriage begins, and one of those is to enter into a marriage contract.

Any marriage out of community of property is reached by drawing up an ante-nuptial contract (or ANC). This marriage contract is not to say that the marriage is set out to fail, it is just designed to assist the couple in the future, regardless of whether the couple divorces or not.

The ante-nuptial agreements are the most significant contract that a married couple will sign throughout their marriage. It is carried out before the marriage; the function of the contract is to alter or adjust some or all of the inevitable financial dividends of the marriage. The ante-nuptial is more commonly known as a prenup.

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Dreyer Engelbrecht Attorneys Inc. is an Alberton Law Firm and has satellite offices in Bedfordview, Johannesburg and Vereeniging. We have a well-established network of dedicated correspondents and we can provide legal services, nationwide.

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50 Real Brides Virtual Wedding Expo

Here Comes The Bride ...

Would you like to share the best and most exciting day of your life with the readers of Real Brides?

Brides-to-be the world over constantly seek new ideas to make their weddings both gorgeous and unique. Weddings such as those featured in Real Brides go a long way towards providing inspiration for others.

If you got married in the past year and would like your wedding to be considered for a feature in Real Brides, we'd love to hear from you. Email us at robbyn@topicpublishing.co.za. Include a sample wedding photo, the name of your venue and a list of your service providers.

For more info visit our website www.realbrides.co.za or find Real Brides on Facebook and Instagram.

BIANCA & LOUW SCHMIDT



The amazing wedding package offered by Tsekama Lodge in Limpopo proved to be a real winner for this cute couple.

You first met Louw in an unlikely place?

I went to a motorbike Rally in a small place called Roedtan on the Springbok Flats in Limpopo in 2017 and Louw just happened to be competing in that rally.

How original was your proposal and was it a surprise?

It was a huge surprise and very romantic indeed! Louw organised for us to go on a helicopter ride and then on top of a hill he asked me, on one knee, to marry him!

Tell us a little about the wedding venue you chose.

Tsekama Lodge is about 35 km from Modimolle in Limpopo and they offer an amazing complete wedding package which includes so much. Tannie Marinda Turvey and her team do all the catering, flowers and décor. They offer accommodation on the premises and have their own chapel too! Tsekama is the best venue anyone could ask for as they literally have everything you could possibly need for a wedding.

Were you good at delegating tasks to others?

I always knew what my wedding day should look like! Louw and I decided on everything together. I had a lot of help from my mother, sisters-in-law and Tsekama's tannie Marinda. Everything was always very much under control.

Your advice to brides-to-be when it comes to choosing a dress.

Try on a few different styles of dresses - even if you think you know what style and shape might fit or suit you. Don't rush it when choosing your dress, take your time until you find the right one!

Tell us about your bridesmaid dresses.

I had a few ideas of what I wanted when it came to their dresses but I always consulted with my



A bride with blonde hair, wearing a white lace wedding gown and a long veil, stands on a brick path outdoors. She is holding a large bouquet of flowers, including a prominent protea. The background features a brick wall and lush greenery.

*“Our colours
were navy blue,
soft pink and
burgundy.”*

Venue: Tsekama Lodge, Limpopo - www.tsekama.co.za

Wedding gown: Fynbos Bridal Boutique

Hair: Exclusive Bridal Hair - Yolandi van Altena

Make up: Bennedy Visagie - Makeup@benjakkals

Photography: JCS Photography - Christiaan Schmidt

bridesmaids before making a decision. Finally, we decided on long skirts with white tops. Tannie Marinda from Tsekama (who is such a multi- talented lady) actually made the skirts and we then bought the tops at Woolworths.

Did you do any hair and make-up trials?

Yes, I did a hair trial before the time. I think it is very important to do this because on your wedding day time goes by so quickly and if you are not completely satisfied then there is no time to change it. Bennedy Visage did my make-up for my Matric farewell so I knew that a trial beforehand was not really necessary as she already knew me and what I liked.

Were children included in your invitation?

We have a lot of kids in our family so we did not mind having them at our wedding at all. They were well catered for – Tsekama even had a jumping castle for them and they also had their own table at the reception. I think it's very much a personal choice of whether you have kids at your weddings or not.

The best moment of your day?

There were two moments that really stood out for me! My father did not know what my dress looked like beforehand and one of the best moments was when he turned around and saw me for the first time. It was a very special moment for both of us! The other special moment was when I walked down the aisle and saw Louw for the first time that day!

Colour scheme?

We tried to keep everything simple! Our colours were navy blue, soft pink and burgundy.

How many guests?

180.

Your March wedding just missed the big lockdown, did you manage to go away on honeymoon?

We got married just two weeks before the hard lockdown. We went to Cape Town for the week but, with the Covid-19 regulations that had already been set in place, most of the places that we wanted to visit were already closed. That was a great pity but just spending time alone together was enough! ♥





Tsekama Lodge

Wedding and conference venue

www.tsekama.co.za



Relax while our team take care of every small detail to contribute to the *perfect* day in your life.

We understand the dreams and wishes of every bride and groom, and will go the extra mile to make sure that all requirements are met. Tsekama is the perfect venue for adding a touch of magic and style to your wedding day.

Tranquil, serene and picturesque, providing a natural but very romantic atmosphere.

The Lodge is a mere 130 km north of Pretoria near the Kranskop Toll plaza and offers the ideal location for a wedding with a difference.

Imagine your ceremony in the natural splendor of the African bush with buffalo, giraffe, zebra and a wide variety of antelope partaking in your wedding celebration.

Please note we have a 80 guest minimum and a 300 guest maximum.

Contact Marinda: 082 416 2363 or Ilze: 084 497 8388
e-mail: info@tsekama.co.za





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Stewart Attorneys is owned by multi award-winning Annette Stewart *BA Law, Honn Psychology, B Procc, LLB*. She has been an admitted attorney to the High Court since 2002 and has 18 years of experience in Labour and Family Law. She started practicing under her own name in 2015.

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'I am an attorney,
but first I am a
woman.'

My goal is to make
sure that women
are protected in
the best possible
way.'

Annette



STEWART
ATTORNEYS

NICKI & JASON HOULISTON



This bride, who originally hails from far off Myanmar, fell in love with a South African and they chose to get married in the beautiful Western Cape.

How did you and Jason meet?

I am from Myanmar (Burma) and Jason is from South Africa. We were both living in South Korea when we first met. I was out with a friend on a Friday night and Jason was out with his friends - we just happened to be in the same place at the same time.

Your love story in a nutshell?

Jason fell head over heels with me during our first few dates but I took a bit of time to warm up to him! We did however both enjoy every single moment that we spent together and we soon became inseparable. Jason has been by my side during good times as well as very bad times and I cannot imagine doing life with anyone else.

Did you have a set idea about what type of wedding you wanted?

We wanted a small, cosy and intimate wedding rather than a big, fancy/flashy type of wedding.

What made you choose Vredenburg Manor House as your venue?

We fell in love with the beautiful Cape Dutch-style building and lush gardens the first time we visited the venue. The kindness and professionalism of Luke and Leon, who are the managers of Vredenburg Manor House, made the decision-making process so effortless!

Who helped you with your planning and how long did you have to plan?

Both Jason and I were involved in the planning process. We started planning our wedding pretty much right after our engagement in February 2019 and we got married in December 2019.

Where was your formal ceremony held?

We had our ceremony in the barn on the grounds of the Vredenburg Manor House.



A bride in a white wedding gown is walking away from the camera down a stone path. The path is lined with lush green trees and foliage. The bride is looking back over her shoulder with a smile. The gown has a lace back and a long, flowing train.

“All our thoughtful gifts were put towards our move to Australia.”

Venue: Vredenburg Manor House, Somerset West – www.vredenburgmanor.co.za

Wedding gown: Enzoani from Wedding Boutique, Cape Town

Hair & make-up: Makeup & Skincare by Ché

Décor & catering: Vredenburg Manor House

Photography: Lauren Pretorius Photography

Outdoor reception?

We had a perfect outdoor reception, with the backdrop of the manor house under the stars and fairy lights, it was beyond perfect!

Did you find it easy to find your dream dress?

Surprisingly yes! I first saw my dress online but when I went to the shop (The Wedding Boutique in Cape Town) for my first try-on session, they didn't have it in stock at that time. So, I ended up trying on other dresses and also went to a few other different shops to try on some other dresses. The Wedding Boutique then ordered a sample of my dress and I fell in love with it the moment I tried it on. They then ordered one in my size and did a few alterations to make it perfect for our big day.

Just one bridesmaid?

Yes. I only had one bridesmaid/maid-of-honour who is my older sister. I think it was perfect and special for our small wedding.

How many guests?

60 guests. Many of our family members travelled from Myanmar (Burma), France and the UK for our big day. Unfortunately, a lot of our family members and friends from Myanmar could not attend as it is not possible for them to obtain South African tourist visas from Myanmar - they would have had to travel to Thailand. We did however have a second wedding in Myanmar a few months after our South African wedding.

What did you do about wedding gifts as you now live in Australia?

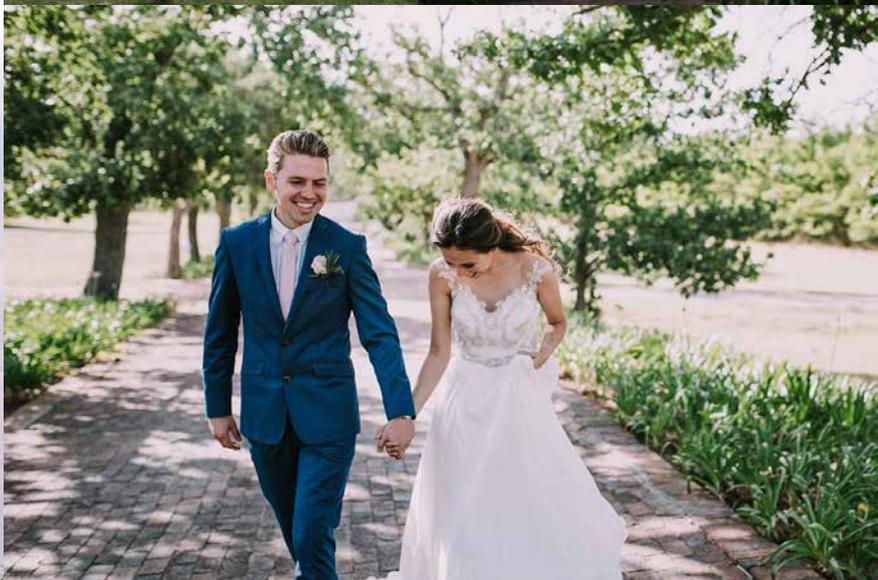
The presence of the guests on our special day already meant a lot to us. Since they were already aware of the fact that we were relocating soon after our wedding, all their thoughtful gifts were put towards our move to Australia.

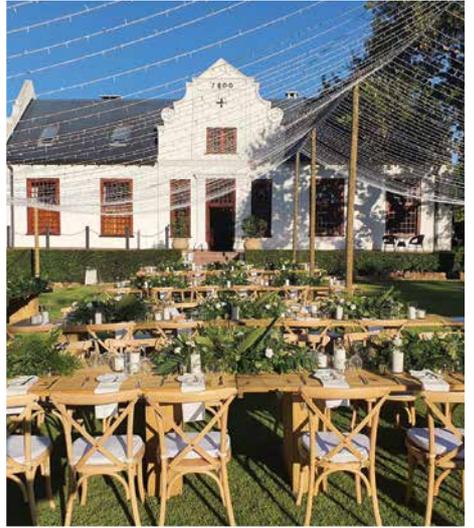
Any special surprises on your big day?

Our best man surprised us with a wedding shoe game, which was a lot of fun and he got my husband's favourite German DJ Duo, Digitalism, to film a congratulatory video for us!

Honeymoon?

We went to Vietnam for our honeymoon. ♥





Vredenburg Manor House



GUESTHOUSE, CONFERENCE AND FUNCTION VENUE

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NATASHA & IWAN KRÜGER



From as early as Grade 6 this bride had eyes only for one boy!

Was your proposal a surprise?

HUGE surprise and it couldn't have been more perfect. Sunset picnic at the Cradle Boutique Hotel, a song to dedicate his love, lots of gifts to throw me off, a photographer who hid in the closet capturing every moment (and scaring the daylights out of me) and last but not least a trip to Cape Town the next day to go and break the big news to my best friends!

You used a great wedding App?

We used Appy Couple. We sent out a Save the Date a year in advance. The App later turned into the actual invite as we could literally change anything on it, which would reflect on our guests' App accordingly. The App allowed our guests to RSVP, choose their meals, save the Google maps link and send us any advice/info/allergies that we needed to know about. We were then able to pull a spread sheet from the App with all the necessary info already categorised. It made planning much easier and quicker.

How long did you have to plan your wedding?

23 Months. Family, friends, bridesmaids and groomsmen all played a role. My parents helped with a lot of the planning, décor, building seating charts, doughnut boards etc. and Iwan's mother did an amazing job with the flowers. Some of our guests even showed up the day before to help us put everything together. We also couldn't have done it without our wedding co-ordinator Sam and her team.

Kitchen tea, hen's night or bachelorette party?

Kitchen Tea: Black and yellow New York-themed, organised by my wonderful mother. Bachelorette: FRIENDS and Star Bucks-themed, organised by my beautiful bridal party. Iwan's Bachelors: I am crying with laughter at the very thought of it – he had to wear a unicorn suit, carry around a pink, unicorn glittered Sippy-cup and apparently the rest would be too sensitive for your readers!



*“Remember
everything,
regret nothing.”*



***Venue: The Stone Cellar
Dress: Morilee by Madeline Gardner
Hair & Make-up: Ubella Beauty Boutique
Flowers: Christa's Creations
Wedding Co-ordinator: Something Blue, Sam
Photography & Videography: Mighty Fine Productions***

How many dresses did you try on?

Far too many - I just couldn't find the right dress for months, until I saw a picture of it on Instagram. My dress almost didn't make it to SA in time but it eventually did and under budget. My parents helped me make the final choice. My grandmother however wanted to see a bit more skin and something sexier so she definitely contributed as well!

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue and a sixpence in your shoe?

Something blue was my garter and my something new was my wedding gift from Iwan, a Kruger Rand 1/10th necklace as I was becoming a Krüger. My grandmother lent me a 1930 sixpence to wear in my shoe as something old and borrowed.

How many guests?

118 including about 18 little ones. Best decision to include kids - they made our wedding so special and memorable.

Unusual wedding favours?

Black coffee mugs that change colour when you pour in hot water, revealing a thank you note and a passport stamp truly reflecting what we both love - coffee and travel.

Doughnuts go down well?

We bought a small cake and doughnuts from a well-known store instead of having them made. They were only put out shortly before dessert to prevent them from drying out and went really well with the TimTams and funky flavoured ice-cream provided by the venue.

Your songs?

Aisle: Stand by Me by Bootstraps - a surprise for Iwan as it's a very special song to both of us. First Dance: Chad Brownlee's Forever's Gotta Start Somewhere, a fun country/'sokkie' song as we wanted something different. Dance with my Father: The same song he and my mother danced to on their wedding day!

Any advice for sticking to the budget?

Identify 3 or 4 things that are really important to both of you and which you won't regret spending more on, and spend less on the things that really don't matter to you as a couple. Remember everything, regret nothing.

Honeymoon?

Paris and Greece in Aril 2021 hopefully. My grandfather always wanted to take me back to Greece so we decided to plan our honeymoon there to celebrate the life of a man who was an inspiration to both of us. ♥



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PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY



OLIVIA & ANDRIES LABUSCHAGNE



This cute couple met as university students and got married at the gorgeous Bell and Blossom.

How did you and Andries meet?

We both studied at North West University Potchefstroom and met at a gymnastics competition. On our first date we sat on the grass between our hostels and drank rooibos tea and ate rusks! It felt like we were a perfect match from the start. We got engaged 4 years later.

How much of a surprise was your proposal?

We went on a trip to the Victoria Falls for my 23rd birthday. It was a beautiful day. Andries popped the question in front of the falls and a beautiful rainbow. It wasn't that big a surprise but it was still one of the best days of my life.

The most difficult part of planning a wedding?

Balancing what I wanted for the wedding with what was possible within our budget. The budget affects everything - like narrowing down the guest list, menu options etc.

Your dress?

I had no idea what I wanted until I met Gerrit Pienaar. He was able to show me what would fit my body as I am very short! My worst fear was looking like a little girl who'd stolen her Mom's dress! Gerrit made my dress and I really felt like a princess.

Any hair trials before the wedding?

Yes, but we ended up changing a few things on the day.

What made you choose Bell and Blossom as your venue?

I only had the opportunity to see the venue after we'd booked it. We really wanted to get married on the 29th of February - the Leap Year date turned out to be very popular and in demand. My mother went to the venue while I was at work. I really value her opinion highly, so when she loved it and showed me a few pictures I took a leap of faith and booked. Bell and Blossom ended up being the perfect venue!



*“I didn’t limit
our décor and
flower team.”*



Venue: Bell and Blossom, Pretoria – www.bellandblossom.co.za

Dress: Claris by Gerrit Pienaar

Hair: Loreen, Salon Bederf

Make-up: Karin Roode

Cake: Cheese from Fairview

Décor: Love and Grace

Flowers & bouquets: Love and Grace

Photography: Michelle Kalp

Three things you really liked about Bell and Blossom?

The wonderful staff! They really go the extra mile. The grounds are neat and clean, which was a really important aspect for me. Both the halls have either glass walls or panels which can open. You feel like you are outside but with all the perks of having a roof over your head.

Outdoor ceremony?

I always dreamt of having an outdoor ceremony. The day of the wedding actually started off with a light drizzle. The venue set up the small hall just in case the rain didn't clear up, but luckily it worked out like we'd hoped.

What were you thinking as you walked down the aisle?

All I can remember is how nervous I was! It felt like the butterflies were about to explode out of my throat! All the nerves however disappeared when I saw Andries waiting for me at the end of the aisle.

The best decision you made with the wedding?

I didn't limit my décor and flower team. We only discussed the colour scheme and the rest I gave them free rein. It made it super exciting because I had no idea what the décor and flowers would look like. It turned out beautifully!

How many guests?

75-80 guests.

Your wedding cake was a cheese tower?

Yes! I LOVE cheese and my whole family is cheese crazy. It felt like the best choice. We had no problem with heaps of leftover "cake". Our guests devoured over 7kg of cheese with ease!

Two things that you think brides should not bother with.

Looking back, I would not bother with a guest book. I also wouldn't bother with dance lessons. Having a choreographed routine only added more stress. The guests want to see you having fun.

Name two things that you think are essential.

Comfortable shoes are essential! It is a long day and your feet are going to kill you! A make-up touch-up kit. A few hours of nerves and heat can ruin your makeup!

Honeymoon?

Covid-19 unfortunately resulted in a delayed honeymoon. We hope to take a trip at the start of 2021. ❤️





 **Bell & Blossom**
Wedding Venue

Bell & Blossom Wedding Venue is a one-of-a-kind venue in Pretoria, nestled in a forest like surrounding with stunning evergreen gardens.

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Our beautiful chandelier lit glass chapel is also perfect for saying your "I do's" in a romantic setting.

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0828526184 to book an appointment to view

SUNÉ & CEDRIC BRUMMER



Red is the colour of love and this bride used it to good effect at her pretty wedding.

How did you meet Cedric?

I went to see a client at a dealership where Cedric was working and we bumped into each other. It was love at first sight – we were introduced and the rest is history.

How romantic was your proposal?

We went on a game drive through the Pilansberg Game Reserve. We got out at one of the hides on the route we were on and after taking some pictures we walked through this beautiful passage decorated with leaves. The sun was peeping through, lighting it all up and making it look magical. Cedric asked me to turn around and he went down on his knee and proposed. At first I thought he was joking but then soon realised this was really happening! It was the most perfect moment that I shall never forget! We started with our wedding planning right away and after 1 year and 2 months we got to say "I Do".

Three reasons why you chose your venue?

Green Leaves Country Lodge and Venue was our first choice and our first viewing of it confirmed that it was everything we wanted for our special day. They went above and beyond assisting with planning and the food was delicious. We also decided to use their onsite company for décor and flowers, NDM Events, and wow they did not disappoint.

Fun or frustrating finding your dress?

Fun! I had a very good idea what type of dress I was looking for, simple, classic and princess-like. At my very first appointment at Bride and Co they gave me a few dresses to try. When I tried on the first dress I knew right way that I had found what I was looking for - my dream dress!

Your colour scheme?

Our colours were Navy, Wine Red and White.



*“We received
a honeymoon to
Phuket as a
wedding gift.”*



*Venue: Green Leaves Country Lodge & Venue
Dress: Bride and Co
Hair: Armon Bridal
Make-up: Chanteleze from Beauty by Chanteleze
Décor: NDM Events, Samantha and Chantelle
Invitations and website: JC Crafford Productions
Photography & Video: JPB Media Productions*

Your kept your table décor simple?

The first thing I mentioned to Sam from NDM Events was that I wanted a “less is more” feeling when it came to the décor. We chose on a light wooden table, navy lace runners and decorated the tables with beautiful red roses and white candles to give it a romantic feel.

How many guests?

80.

Any “oh no” or really funny moments?

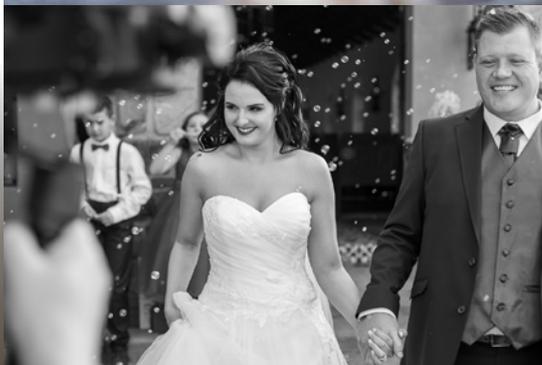
Both Oh No and Funny! My Dad and I planned a special treat for the guests when it was time for our Father/Daughter dance but as soon as the music changed, the DJ thought something was wrong and pressed pause. Luckily Cedric ran to the rescue and my Dad and I could still do the well-rehearsed hip hop ending to our dance. Definitely a crowd favourite for the night!

First dance song?

We chose to dance to Brett Young's Here tonight.

Honeymoon bonus?

We were lucky enough to have received a honeymoon to Phuket as a wedding gift from someone close to us. It was amazing and we had so much fun! ♥





Cake Brothers



*Cake is the answer
no matter the question*

Brothers Chef Bryan and Chef Malcolm are the faces behind Cake Brothers and have a wealth of experience in the bakery, restaurant and catering industry.

Chef Malcolm is trained in the Hot Kitchen, Cold Kitchen, Chocolate and Cakes. He has lectured extensively overseas, including the Middle East creating wedding cakes, birthday cakes and specialized cake desserts.

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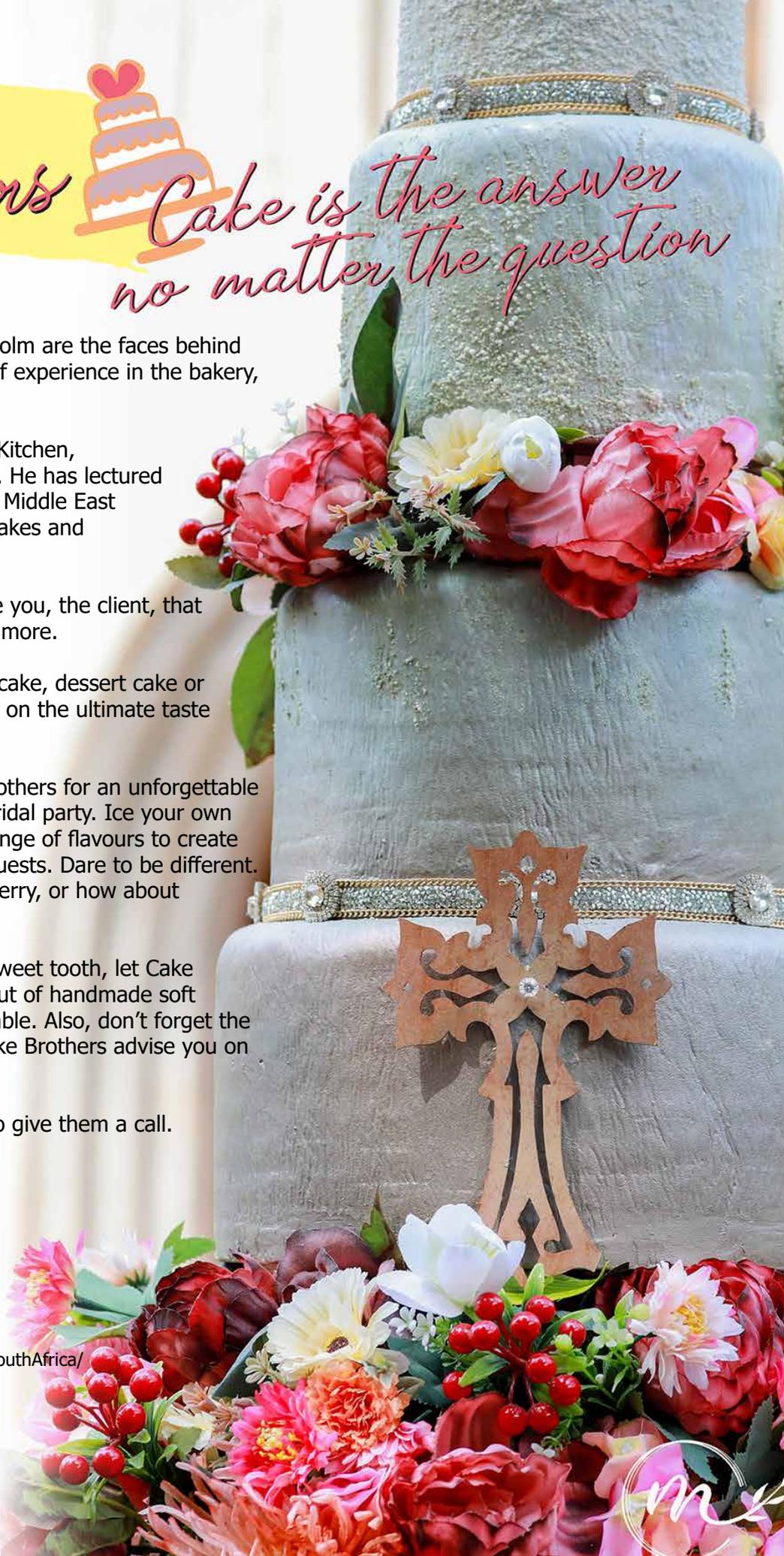
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CAKE TO WOW YOUR GUESTS



ERDA & RUSSELL COXEN



This couple considered eloping but the call to share their big moment with family and friends was just too strong.

Your venue?

An intimate and romantic country setting was perfect and we booked Cradle Valley the same day. It has an open air chapel with a beautiful reception hall. A tranquil stream flows between the venue and chapel and the unique bridge over it now has our initials burnt into it.

Your wedding dress?

I looked for a classic, beautiful, timeless, simple dress to be comfortable in. I found it, and a perfect pearly sprinkled veil, at Bride and Co.

Bouquets?

Suikerbekkie's Lauren made my beautiful bouquet, cascading with white tulips, white wax flowers, wild foliage, pennycorn, orchids, silver brunia and pearls. My bridesmaids had matching mini versions.

Colour scheme/theme?

The colour teal with ribbons, pearls and feathers. I wanted a whimsical fairytale look with a difference.

Your décor?

Our venue didn't need too much extra décor wise. Natural elements were incorporated everywhere. The table centre pieces were our own ginseng bonsai trees standing on a grey white washed wreath with fairy lights curled around from top to bottom. There were two sets of old stacked books tied together with ribbons on each table - ripped brown pages of love stories and love quotes were laid out as runners and each table had its own guest book.

Special dress code request?

We asked our guests wear a scarf or cravat in honour of my Dad who was diagnosed with stage 4 throat cancer and underwent a total laryngectomy last year. He is the bravest, most positive and inspiring person I know.



A bride with long, wavy blonde hair is standing in a field at sunset. She is wearing a white, strapless, floor-length gown with lace detailing and a full skirt. She is looking back over her shoulder towards the camera. The background features a wooden fence and trees with warm, golden light from the setting sun.

*“It was a
privilege having
my Dad walk me
down the aisle.”*

Venue: Cradle Valley, Muldersdrift, Gauteng

Dress: Bride and Co, Rivonia

Hair: Ella Rockafella

Make-up: Donique Leonard

Nails: Peaches and Cream

Bridesmaid dresses: Gelique

Cake: Sweet Joy Cakes

Flowers: Suikerbekkie Floral Design

Marriage Officer: Paul Sheasby

Stationery: 123 Klaar Printing – Suné

Music: Nightlife Productions

Photography: Darrell Fraser

Love letters?

Pastor Paul Sheasby delivered a meaningful message, beautiful sermon and touching words to bind our marriage promise. He asked us to write a love letter to one another before we got married, seal it in a box, and open it and read them on our first anniversary. We did this during lockdown with a batch of Neapolitan chocolate fudge and a homemade pizza, around a fire and we binge-watched Netflix ... best weekend ever!

Your photographer?

Darrell Fraser made our day so special with her cool, calm, enchanting manner and creative shots. Natascha Pottas was our videographer. We are so happy that we have moments we can always look back on and share.

Incredible cake?

Joy and Karin, a mother and daughter duo, are artists who bake! They created our unique wedding cake from my design, which was a stack of edible books with our story written on rice paper - it came out so nicely and was both astonishing and delicious.

Signature drink?

Our pre-reception refreshers were our signature drink "Something Blue". We filled small light bulb bottles with a turquoise-coloured cocktail called Mermaid Water and had them on a bed of ice blocks outside... along with beer, cider and soft drink baths and of course great snacks.

Your wedding songs?

My beautiful cousin Tharien sang Shout to the Lord by Hillsong for us as we signed the register and walked out of the chapel. Rod Stewart's Forever Young was our father/daughter dance and Cher's My favourite scars for our opening dance. We had dry ice and teal lighting - bubble machines and lots of fun!

Best moments?

Our entire wedding was a highlight - a storybook fairy tale. Branding our initials onto the remembrance bridge at our venue was special, as was the privilege of having my Dad walk me down the aisle.

Honeymoon?

We went to a little Hobbit cabin in the mountains for two wonderful winter nights. Our plan had been to jump on a plane, just the two of us, barefoot on beach sand and return home as Mr & Mrs Coxen. But - we also wanted our friends and family to share our special day with us - so we chose to get married the traditional way which meant we couldn't go on an elaborate honeymoon. ♥





SARA-LEE & KEITH SIMMONDS



This Botswana-based couple had a fabulous destination wedding in the Western Cape.

How did you meet?

I'm a midwife in Botswana and Keith and I met in Maun, when he came here looking for work as a bush-pilot.

Tell us about your proposal.

Keith planned a romantic two-night getaway to the Khwai Community area (Ngamiland, Botswana) and we went glamping. He was fidgety all the way there. I had no idea what was coming and was pretty exasperated by the time we arrived. But wow, what a neat spot. We got settled in and over a braai, under a full golden moon Keith suddenly went on one knee and proposed!

Interesting ring designs?

My engagement ring was planned and lovingly designed by Keith and a jeweller crafted it to his specifications. Pinterest was a great source of inspiration for the Victorian fantasy feel. The marquis cut has no claws so it doesn't catch on things. The diamond was ordered and purchased from Russia and the emeralds and sapphires represent the Delta where we met. Keith's family have always had a signet ring with a Griffin on it. He lost his when training as a pilot and I re-gifted him one for his 30th birthday. He loves it and wears it 24/7 so simply switched it over to his left hand when we married.

You live in Botswana but got married in the Western Cape?

Botswana is stunningly beautiful, especially the Okavango Delta where we live but we wanted our wedding nearer to our families. The Western Cape proved to be a good choice. We looked at about 4 venues in the Overberg region.

Your invitations?

I collected all the Facebook, email and WhatsApp information for our guests and then used our engagement photos, a design application (Canva) and a video/slideshow maker (Quik) to compile an



*“Keith proposed
under a full
golden moon.”*

Venue: Murasia, Baardskeerdersbos, Western Cape

Dress: Enzoani - Still White.com

Hair and Make-Up: Studio Michelle, Michelle de Villiers

Flowers: Husband and Wife team - Nel Schrecker

Cake: Cakes by Kirsty - Kirsty Ives

Photography and Video: Red Beard Films - Kobus Pretorius

invitation with all the information. Keith and I picked the song together.

Your dress?

Last year my sister booked a dress-fitting for me in Joburg. I also tried on some more with the recommendations of my sister-in-law in Somerset-West. This helped me to refine my idea of the style and type of dress I wanted. My parents wanted to gift the wedding dress to me so I decided to look online too for the design I had in mind. I Googled 'A-Line, Enzoani, size 16, South Africa' and boom, there it was!

Wedding colours?

A palette of jewel tones with different shades of pink and sage. Each bridesmaid had to find a dress in the colour they liked and it just had to be long. They all went to town on the idea!

Kids at your wedding?

Our families have a few littlies and, as a midwife, I have found its often better to go with something rather than against it. Weddings are also such big events in the life of a child. The result was a fun family vibe.

How many guests?

About 111.

Remembrance table?

We wanted to remember those who we love in memory and wished could be there – people who helped shape who we are. I also wanted to celebrate the strong women I look up to with pictures of their wedding days.

Your cake and the character toppers?

I loved the idea of a small cake and cupcakes so my cake was a chocolate and vanilla creation. We love the movie Wall-E and strongly identify with the love story between Wall-E and Eva. You can overcome any odds with perseverance and mental fortitude.

Your first dance song?

A mashup of 'The Book of Love- Peter Gabriel' and 'Give Me Your Love- Sigala ft John Newman and Nile Rodgers' I made the prototype of the mashup using an app from Google Play. Was very proud of myself! Our DJ said it was the first time he'd ever had a bride make a mashup for him!

Buddymoon?

We decided to take a 3-night break at Kom-tot-Rus at St Helena Bay on the West Coast with our friends from far away. We stayed at a beachside cottage and did nothing but catch up on sleep and each other. Best times! ♥





STORME & MATT DU PLESSIS



All good things come to those who wait – as this bride found out!

How did you and Matt meet?

We both grew up in the sleepy KZN Midland's town of Mooi River and met in our late teens. After many years of me working overseas, despite the distance and tribulations, true love prevailed and I realised my place was back in South Africa and with the love of my life, Matt.

Tell us about your proposal.

Matt and I flew over to New Zealand for my Dad's 60th birthday. Before we landed, I nonchalantly mentioned to Matt that, should he be contemplating marriage, this would be a good time to speak with my Dad! For the next 2 weeks the whole family were on edge waiting for him to "have the chat", but to no avail! But, on the morning of our departure, he sprang it on my Dad! Fast forward to December 2017, by which time my family and I had all but given up hope of him ever proposing. I absolutely LOVE Christmas and that Christmas morning turned out to be the best one ever. We had finished opening our presents together and I was about to phone my family when Matt told me to wait and proceeded to hand me a medium sized soft and squishy present. When I opened it, I pulled out a Brown's Teddy Bear with a ring hanging around its neck! Matt then got down on one knee and asked me to marry him... I was crying so much that I could not even get the word YES out!

Tell us a bit about your wedding venue and why you chose it.

I dreamed of getting married in a forest setting and Die Woud, in Caledon, just ticked all the boxes with its green chapel and glasshouse reception area.

Did Matt get involved in the planning?

Matt left most of the details to me. But, he owns a successful signage company, Sign Me Up, so made all our wedding signage, light box seating plan and the vinyl monogram for the dancefloor. His Dad, Ivan, helped too, making all the laser-cut name placers. Matt also had the final say on our wedding venue.





*“The flowers
on my train
looked like they
had been picked
up off the forest
floor!”*

*Venue: Die Woud, Caledon
Wedding Dress: Elizabeth Stockenstrom
Wedding Planner: Tracy @ Trunk Events
Hair & make-up: Adri Hugo
Décor, Flowers and Lighting: Creative Nook
Cake: Crumb Cakes
Photography: Greg Lumley*

How easy was it to find your dress?

I went to over 5 fittings before finally listening to my best friend and visiting Elizabeth Stockenstrom. I explained where I was getting married, and with that in mind, she found my perfect dress. She even thought of little details, like how the flowers on my train would look like they had been picked up off the forest floor!

The bride portrait?

My Mom passed away when I was in my teens, but I still very much wanted her to be a part of my wedding. So, Matt printed her wedding photo for me, to be placed on a stand at the ceremony and the reception. One of my bridesmaids had cancelled and my Mom's picture was placed perfectly in line with my bridesmaids, so it was as if she was meant to be there as one of them.

Theme/colour scheme?

My theme was inspired by "A Midsummer Night's Dream". My favourite colour is hunter's green and so we kept to a pallet of green, white, and gold. To create the feeling of being in a forest, on alternate tables we had tall green arrangements to look like trees. For that enchanted feel, we had draped fairy lights, which reflected off the glass. I also managed to find bridesmaid's dresses in the perfect colour green and even found some gorgeous green wedding shoes!

How many guests?

72.

Some unique elements?

We gave our bridal party bubble guns instead of confetti; to entertain there was live music and pizza and "pimp your Pimm's" stations during the photo session.

Interesting cake toppers?

I found the cake toppers in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico and thought they were fun and quirky! It was a nod to my time working on cruise ships and brought a bit of humour to the day.

Honeymoon?

We wanted to go somewhere I had not seen yet and decided on 10 days in Thailand. ♥



ANDREA & JADE ISAACS



This bride and groom have known each other since their High School days.

Did you feel that you had enough time to plan?

I don't know if there ever is "enough" time to plan a wedding! We were engaged for a year and I'd like to think we were decisive and used our year of planning wisely.

How far in advance did you send out your invitations?

Many of our family members live in different parts of South Africa and a few abroad, this meant we needed to invite our guests well in advance in order for them to make relevant travelling arrangements. We sent electronic save the dates followed by invitations six months before our wedding date.

When it came to your dress, did you know what you wanted?

I only knew that my dress needed to be comfortable and genuinely flattering. My Mom and maid-of-honour were sorely disappointed that our dress hunt was short-lived. I made an appointment at Calegra Bridal House and fitted three dresses - the first being the Shelly dress by Anna Georgina and that was it!

How did you hear about your venue?

We wanted a venue close to home to evoke the feeling of being far away but conveniently nearby. Cradle Valley popped up regularly on my Instagram feed as I followed wedding and photography pages as part of our planning.

Were you any good at delegating tasks?

I did try to do everything myself, the operative word being try! My bridesmaids forced me to let go of all the little things. The venue reassured me they would take care of the details and so I trusted others to help and that was the best decision I made.

Whose advice did you value the most?

There was value in listening to other planning experiences. Many told me the wedding day would go by quickly and it did. I was calm and absorbed every moment. My grandmother told me to eat before



“I was calm and absorbed every moment.”



Venue: Cradle Valley Guesthouse, Wedding, Conference & Function

Dress: Shelly by Anna Georgina, Calegra Bridal House

Hair: Kaylin Muller

Make-up: Kayleigh Padiachee

Flowers: Suikerbekkie Floral Design

Invitation: Design Love Design Studio, Monique Verwey

Stationery: MU studio

Music: RNB Entertainment

Cake: Brides mother, Enid Smith

Photography: GDG Wedding Photography

the ceremony and I did that too - my mother-in-law baked pies that my bridal party and I enjoyed before I walked down the aisle.

What did you do on the evening before your wedding?

I had supper at home with my immediate and extended family. I soaked in the bath, practiced my speech and went to bed early. I savoured every second of my last evening at my parents' home.

Reception set up – did you get involved?

I walked into the venue at 9am and it was all done! Wow I loved it, more than my mind imagined and heart desired. They added lighting too, which I didn't expect.

Only white flowers and greenery used?

We loved the warm rustic feel and we didn't want bold floral colours to overpower that. The green monster leaf, orchids, hydrangeas and black calla lily were subtle in colour but beautiful when arranged alongside the glass tableware and rose gold candle stands.

Any “oops” moments?

I wanted our flower girls to carry specific balloons but they burst before getting to the venue! We got different balloons so it all worked out.

What did you do about gifts?

We set up a registry and posted the details on our wedding website. We were blessed with gifts, money and vouchers, for which we were very grateful.

How many guests?

170 people including our family's children. We both have big families and always wanted to include the children. This is one of the reasons we chose our venue, who handled them so well.

Dress code for guests?

We asked our guests to dress in formal evening attire; our hope was that this would make them feel like they had a dressy night out.

Your cake?

Our wedding cake was made by my mother; I didn't make her job easy! It was a stunning dummy cake, which was light and easy to transport. She baked a separate carrot cake that our guests enjoyed at the reception.

Honeymoon?

Our family kindly sent us away to a local beach destination. We hadn't planned a honeymoon as we were arranging to move into our home. ♥





NADINE & ARNO COETZER



Choosing a proven venue like Oakfield Farm ensured that this wedding was a success.

How did you and Arno meet?

Arno and I met through mutual friends in 2017 and we got engaged in 2019. We then had our beautiful wedding on 15 February 2020 - beating the hard Covid-19 lockdown.

How unexpected was your proposal?

It was not an unexpected proposal, we booked our wedding venue before I even had my engagement ring. Arno had my ring hand-crafted and would tease me about how it looked. When I finally got my ring it was absolutely perfect.

What do you think is the most difficult part of planning a wedding?

Planning a wedding in 3 months was not all smooth-sailing as we were supposed to immigrate but, as every girl dreams of her big day, I already had an image in my head of what I wanted our wedding to look like. We only invited close friends and family making for a smaller more intimate wedding. Making up the guest list took the most time.

Name something you don't think brides should bother with.

If things are running late you should just focus on yourself for it is your one special day where it's meant to be all about you. By checking in on everyone else, you are only going to stress yourself out even more.

Who helped you find your dress?

My Mom, my mother-in-law and grandmother-in-law came along to give me a hand in choosing my dress.

Have you kept your dress or do you intend to wave it goodbye?

I intend to keep my wedding dress as I am a very sentimental person.



*“Our colour
scheme was navy,
white and silver.”*

Venue: Oakfield Farm
Dress: OMG Bridal boutique
Hair & make up: Maraki by Mantoine
Cake: Taste of Heaven Cakery
Carpets and Draping: Two Way Exhibitions & Events
Décor and flowers: Decor Pro
Wedding stationery: Ishk Event Art
Photography: One Fine Day

Would you ever have considered buying a dress online?

Online shopping is already so tricky and while some brides manage to find the perfect dress online I wanted the whole dress-shopping experience and trying on all the dresses until I found the right one for me.

A special little man in your entourage?

Liam is our son and I wanted him to walk me down the aisle, but he ended up getting stage fright when he saw all the people sitting in the chapel! We invited our guests to bring their children along to the wedding too and Liam had so much fun with all the other little people.

Proteas were your main flower?

Arno said when we started planning the wedding that all he wanted was Proteas - everything else was up to me. Proteas are his favourite flower and so I made sure there were lots of them.

Was there anything that you did yourself that saved you a substantial chunk of your budget?

We made the name tabs for the tables ourselves, it was a very long process but it was a personal touch we wanted to add to the wedding. We also got our Proteas and other flowers directly from a Protea farm in Cullinan, which was a saving.

How many venues did you consider or look at?

We did look at 4 other wedding venues but I had my heart set on Oakfield Farm.

What made you choose Oakfield Farm?

It was mainly all the greenery and the chapel that influenced our decision. I already had an image in my head of what I wanted it to look like and it was so perfect.

Colour scheme?

Our colour scheme was navy, white and silver.

How many guests?

100.

Any amusing or “oh no” moments on your big day?

During our first dance I was afraid that Arno was going to lift me up into the chandelier! We made the men dance with one another while playing musical chairs to see who got my garter. There were many spills and a great deal of laughter but it was all good fun and no one got hurt!

Honeymoon?

We unfortunately did not get to go on honeymoon due to the disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic. ♥







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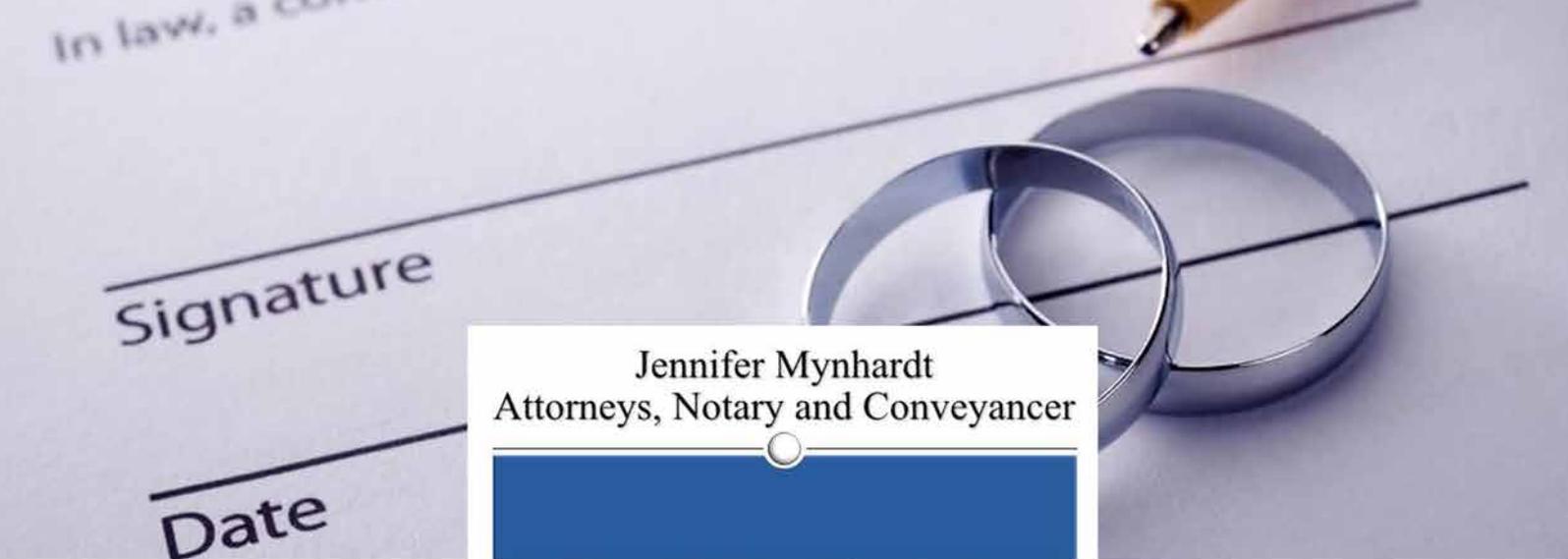
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