



Bill & Heather
Austin, Texas
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photography by
Shawn Childress

Crowning GLORY

Blind dates rarely work out as planned. Generally, some well-meaning friend with your very best interests at heart manages to arrange an evening with “your perfect match.” This friend usually winds up wasting 3-5 hours of your valuable dating life on someone you wouldn’t even speak to unless a nearby house was on fire and your cell phone was dead.

Not the case here.

Heather Hutto and Bill Lehmborg had missed a set-up a few years before, but they have really good friends. Determined friends. Friends who waited until the time was right and arranged a dinner party where Heather and Bill would be the only two who didn’t know each other - and the only non-couple.

Imagine Cupid’s contentment as he (or in this case, she) looked on as Heather and Bill defied the laws of blind dating and went right ahead and liked each other. They

REAL WEDDINGS



liked each other so much , in fact, that one year and three months later, Bill went diamond shopping.

Then one night in February of last year, Bill started a spontaneously romantic conversation. He started to tell her how much he loved her and that he wanted to be with her all of the time. After completely exhausting his stock of charming declarations, he asked her, "Will you have me?" To which Heather replied, "Of course, I'll have you," thinking it a cute question, but missing the point a bit.

Slightly confused by Heather's lackluster response, he asked, "Well, aren't you excited?? We're engaged!" An equally confused Heather responded, "We're not engaged. You never asked me!" And, yes, she made him ask again - concisely.

Laughing lightheartedly as she reminisces about that night, she explains, "It's a running joke that I may be the only girl who's ever made a man propose twice."

At the time of the engagement Heather was living and working in San Antonio and Bill in Mason, Texas. Heather says the very first thing she did was reserve the ceremony and reception location: Old Glory Ranch in Wimberley. Her grandparents have a ranch just a few miles from the venue on the Blanco river. Heather said that it looked so much like the place she had spent so much time during her childhood, she couldn't imagine not getting married there.

She confessed that she didn't start planning in earnest until July when she moved home to Llano, a mere three months before the wedding date. She recalls, "The staff at Old Glory Ranch paid unbelievable attention to detail." According to Heather, the staff there either booked everything outright

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for her or recommended places to go to get even the smallest things. "I could not believe how relaxed I was through the whole process."

Heather started her wedding day having a light breakfast and getting pampered with the bridal party at Becky's Sunberry Patch a few miles from the ranch. The party then retreated to the house the family had rented on the grounds of the ranch. Heather spent the hours between the salon and the ceremony relaxing with friends and family. They got dressed, chatted and had pictures taken. "I couldn't believe I was so calm. I had one hundred percent faith in the staff. I kept thinking to myself, 'When is it going to hit me?'"

Heather got into the car with her parents for the half-mile ride to the chapel and took her place outside the chapel doors. She remembers, "As soon as the doors opened, it hit me like a rush of warm wind, then came the tears. I was so happy, so overwhelmed, that I couldn't stop crying."

Theirs was a simple, traditional service complete with the lighting of a unity candle. As Heather recounts the ceremony she laughs, remembering some of what she refers to as "trademark moments." The mothers of the bride and groom were so nervous about having to get up in front of the crowd, they practiced the lighting of the candle "about a hundred times." Heather and Bill, on the other hand, decided that candle lighting was a pretty straightforward exercise, so they bypassed a rehearsal and went on to other matters. When it came time for the candle, the mothers were at the ready. The couple, on the other hand, ended up lighting the wrong candle, blowing them out and relighting them the proper way.



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Heather laughingly says, "It was a great moment and a wonderful ice-breaker for the congregation."

Then, as the ceremony progressed, the time came to recite the vows. As Bill began to repeat after Pastor Daniel Calhoun, the officiant stopped. Bill was still facing - and vowing to - the pastor. He very politely suggested that Bill "might want to look at Heather." The congregation laughed with the couple as they faced each other and, with true mirth in their eyes, pledged their lives to one another. "That's one of the stories I'm going to really enjoy telling my grandchildren someday."

The reception that followed was a genuine fall festival in true Texas tradition. The floral team at Old Glory Ranch fashioned the autumn-inspired design by Laura Weems with perfection. The details of the design draped doorways and filled rustic tin and wooden vessels with a myriad of roses, calla lilies, orchids and seasonal berries in shades of terracotta red, complimented by oranges, rust and hints of mango. Pumpkins of all shapes and sizes adorned every table and antique wagon in sight, while vintage chandeliers hung from the oak trees. The beverages were served with Koozies or in plastic cups imprinted with the new couple's names and the wine and beer was chilled in old-fashioned tin tubs. The atmosphere was full-on country chic, complete with bottled water delivery service by adorable miniature donkeys with saddle baskets garnished with their own floral wedding finery.

Guests were treated to a buffet of Greek salad, grilled vegetables, quail, shrimp brochette, rice and French bread catered by Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen.

The couple danced the night away with style. It seemed everyone had a fabulous time. Heather says they are still receiving compliments on the party to this day. She credits the staff at Old Glory Ranch for that. "I knew it would be wonderful," Heather said. "But it turned out to be more than that - it was absolutely incredible!" - *Melissa Mullen* ♦

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