

Our Story

October
& Chris

Chris and I met in the Air Force while stationed in Maryland. He was a Godsend! The first time my eyes looked into his on that warm summer day in June, I knew that I had met my soul mate.

A year later, Chris left the military and decided to take a break from the east coast. It was a long, rough eight-month separation, but it was worth the wait. We discovered that we wanted to be with each other and start a fresh new life together in Maryland. All was absolutely perfect!



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For the Thanksgiving holiday, we planned a weekend getaway at Shenandoah Skyline Drive. While taking a walk one day, Chris led me up a hill to a small overlook with a phenomenal view. As we were staring down into the valley, I reached over to feel for his arm. When I didn't feel him next to me, I turned to my right and there he was, kneeling before me on one knee and holding an open ring box with a tiny light shining on the most beautiful diamond ring I had ever laid eyes on. At that moment, I was the happiest person alive!

Growing up, I always imagined my wedding a simple one, outside in a well-groomed yard on a summer afternoon. So, we planned to have everything at our own home, with only a small group of family and friends. Since I believe that a wedding is the joining of two families and is everyone's day, I involved the people closest to me: my Grandpa Joe to conduct the ceremony; my baby brother to walk me down the aisle; my three closest friends to be bridesmaids; my baby cousins to be ring bearer and basket boy; my good friend to sing for us; my Aunt Gina to bake our special wedding cake; my Aunt Jennifer to coordinate the dinner; and my uncle to cook-out for the rehearsal dinner. Most importantly, I asked my Mom to fly out early and help me prepare during the stressful week prior to our wedding day.



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The other wedding details fell into place nicely. For photography, we chose a package that included a beautiful 32-page leather album; an engagement portrait; a large, framed wall portrait; and a DVD slide show of all our photographs set to music. Our photographer captured wonderful images of our day that will be family heirlooms for years to come. For the flowers, I contacted a local woman who made silk flower arrangements, as I wanted the flowers to be



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a lasting keepsake. Our focal flowers were daisies, which represent loyal love and innocence. I chose long, simple satin dresses in lilac for my bridesmaids, and for the groomsmen, light grey tuxes with lilac vests and ties and white shirts. My most gorgeous Groom would wear an all black tux and vest with white shirt and tie, and for the lovely Bride (that's me!), I chose an all white, strapless satin, A-line gown without a train.

I woke up bright and early on my wedding day. Despite the sunny skies above (the forecast had predicted rain), I had a 'minute' breakdown just before my hair appointment. I looked around and thought the house was a wreck and started to cry. My Mom assured me that everything would be taken care of and then whisked me off to the salon. Thankfully, I began to relax while sipping wine at the salon. Two glasses later, my hair was perfect and my Mom looked stunning. When we arrived home, chaos reigned but the house was miraculously neat and tidy!

After slipping into my wedding gown, my hands started to sweat and my heart to pound. I was getting married! Suddenly, all was quiet and the music began. As I linked arms with my brother, I turned towards my groom and our eyes locked. Chris stood in the soft sunlight looking magnificent. We joined hands and turned towards my grandfather as he performed the ceremony. We also performed the 'Rose Ceremony,' exchanging two red roses symbolizing the giving and receiving of lifelong love.

After dinner, speeches and toasts, we danced our first dance together, holding each other tightly. I then presented my husband with a poem I had written for him, and as he smiled and gazed at me, I knew it was more than enough. I wondered how it was possible to have such a miraculous day, and then thanked God because I knew I was truly blessed! The reflection of how perfect the day was brought me to tears.

We said good night to all and hello to our brand new beginning.

*October D. Blodgett
resides with her
wonderful husband,
Chris, in Waldorf,
Maryland.*



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