

A Dream Come True

GRACE CUMMINGS AND MICHAEL BAY

GALLATIN, TENNESSEE

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PHOTOGRAPHER
Erin McCall Photography
EVENT PLANNER
Bearcat Events



THE PROPOSAL Just days before I met my future husband, Michael, I bought a home in Germantown. All the house was missing was a porch swing and someone to share it with! Enter Michael, with impeccable timing and handyman skills. The moment he learned I wanted a porch swing he told me that he could build it for me. And he did! We spent many, many nights growing our relationship on that porch swing. On May 16, 2019 we celebrated Michael's five-year anniversary of moving to Nashville and ended the evening drinking homemade Manhattans on the porch swing. He recounted his journey of moving and told me that he finally felt like he found his forever home. And that's when he got down on one knee! I said "yes!" obviously for more than just his handyman skills.

THE PREPARATION The vision for our wedding day was timeless, light, and lasting. We used these three words to guide our entire decision making process. We knew we wanted to capture the beautiful light of the property not only in photos but also in experience. Long Hollow Gardens, a botanical wonderland of plants, vineyards, rolling hills, and golden light was the perfect setting to say "I do" and then celebrate. Our timeless and organic style melded effortlessly into the natural surrounding - velvet and leather vintage seating vignettes tucked into porch corners, simply ivory and wild green florals in mismatched vases, and a polaroid camera that floated between guests. Most importantly, we wanted to create a lasting experience that our friends and family would always remember. We chose entertainment, food, and drinks that all had a unique experimental element - a live Motown band, a "build your own" taco food truck, and hand-crafted cocktails mixed behind a mobile bar cart.

THE BIG DAY The bridal party arrived at Long Hollow Gardens guesthouse on a lovely, 70-degree autumn morning. We opted to forgo the first look, so we were both eager for the 3pm ceremony to come quickly! After we exchanged vows, we snuck away for a few private moments together before entering the reception. As the music started for our first dance, I noticed the song was different from the one we picked out. Michael, who is an artist, re-recorded the song and surprised me with his very own version. Toasts given by family and friends were held on the porch and then guests spent the rest of the time enjoying tacos, cocktails, and bite sized cupcakes. We exited in a 1957 vintage Mercedes Benz getaway car. We were dropped off at one of our favorite bars in East Nashville to after-party the night away!

THE HONEYMOON Directly following our ceremony and reception, we went on a mini-moon! Through Airbnb, we stayed in a chic, vintage airstream trailer in Ashland City on No. 9 Farms which is a local farm with several restaurant partnerships throughout Nashville. We enjoyed hiking trails and cuddling up by the campfire at night, reliving the whirlwind of our engagement and cementing memories of our big day. We're planning a full South American honeymoon for summer 2020 and are beyond excited to travel abroad together.





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