

ELIZABETH + ETHAN

QUEENSBURY, NEW YORK

{LOGO DESIGN ABOVE} BETSYWHITE {PHOTOGRAPHY} HEATHER BOHM-TALLMAN {RECEPTION SITE} PRIVATE RESIDENCE



“FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM WAS SIMPLE AND IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID,” SAYS ELIZABETH.

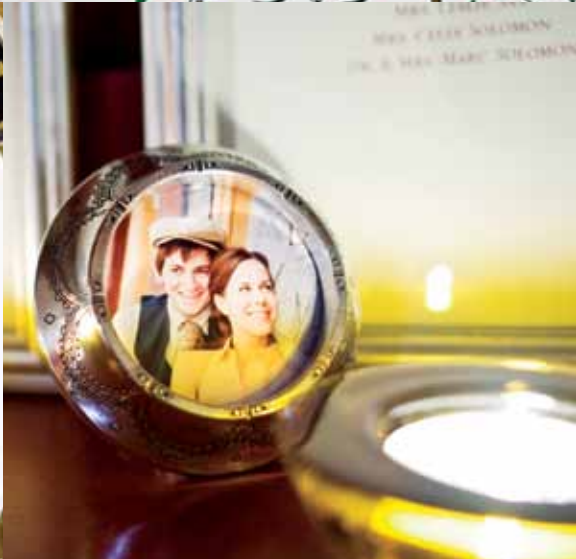


When Elizabeth Finkelstein danced in a local production of *The Nutcracker* when she was a little girl, there was no way of knowing that in the audience was a little boy named Ethan who would grow up to be the man she would marry.

As a young woman, Elizabeth lived with her friend Rachel in Brooklyn. Rachel was Ethan's cousin and had also danced in *The Nutcracker* as a child, which was why Ethan had attended. When Ethan also moved to the city and got a job there, Rachel took him out for a celebratory toast, and Elizabeth tagged along. It was the first time they officially met, and as soon as they did, they hit it off right away. They worked in the same neighborhood and began to meet often for lunch. Soon they were spending all their time together, exploring Brooklyn and discovering all of its quirks. “I knew that I loved him when we biked across a bridge in Brooklyn and stopped to kiss in the middle in a thunderstorm,” says Elizabeth. “Falling in love with him was simple and impossible to avoid.”

One winter day, Elizabeth was invited by Ethan to join him and a few friends on a last-minute weekend getaway to the Poconos. She agreed to go on the trip, but when she and Ethan arrived, his friends were nowhere to be found. “Ethan pretended to talk to his friends on the phone, who supposedly were running late,” says Elizabeth. While they waited, she and Ethan wandered around town in the direction of Grey Towers, a beautiful historic mansion. It began snowing, the first snowfall of the year, as the couple sat on an iron bench on the mansion's grounds. “It was chilly and perfect. It was then that he told me that his friends would not be coming,” says Elizabeth. Getting down on one knee, Ethan asked Elizabeth to be his wife. Elizabeth accepted as the snow fell around them, unable to imagine a more perfect proposal.

For their wedding, Elizabeth and Ethan chose the themes of “where we're coming from” and “where we're going.” The celebration was held at Elizabeth's parent's home in Queensbury, New York, where she had spent her entire childhood and where she had always dreamed of getting married. It was important for both to incorporate Brooklyn elements since it was not only their current home but also where they had met and fallen in love. However, they felt it important to involve elements of their families and personal histories as well. Elizabeth and Ethan decorated every table at their wedding with old pieces of china, silver, and crystal they had salvaged from their mothers'





and grandmothers' basements. Elizabeth's mother spent a lot of time in the months leading up to the wedding scouring eBay for vintage napkins suitable for the celebration, and they also had an antique typewriter and dozens of blank vintage postcards on which guests were encouraged to write words of advice to the bride and groom.

The couple wrote their own vows and included their families as much as they could in the ceremony. Elizabeth was walked down the aisle by her father to a fiddler's rendition of "You Are My Sunshine." Elizabeth's sister, who had also been married at the family home, read a passage from *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and Ethan's mother read a prayer she had chosen herself. During the ceremony, they asked their grandmothers to come forward with words of advice for the couple. At their reception, Elizabeth and Ethan had The Blue Vipers of Brooklyn perform, a band that they often saw playing on the streets of their neighborhood. The day was a successful blend of the old and new — but the newlyweds knew that the best was yet to come.

featured WEDDING PROFESSIONALS

CATERING: KIM KLOPSTOCK'S THE LILY & THE ROSE
LILYANDTHEROSE.COM (PAGE 19)

EVENT RENTALS: RAIN OR SHINE TENT COMPANY
TENTRENT.COM (PAGE 15)

FLORAL DESIGN: HEAVENSCENT FLORAL ART
HEAVENSCENTFLORALART.COM (PAGE 166)

GOWN: SOMETHING BLEU BRIDAL
SOMETHINGBLEUBRIDAL.COM (PAGE 96)

PHOTOGRAPHY: HEATHER BOHM-TALLMAN
HBTPHOTO.COM (PAGE 123)

{OTHER PROFESSIONALS}

HAIR: HAIR CREATIONS

MAKEUP: BARBARA HERMANCE

LOGO DESIGN: (ON PAGE 57) BETSYWHITE
BETSYWHITE.COM

ELIZABETH & ETHAN'S ADVICE

No. **1** treat the planning process as a fun way to get to know some local businesses, to be creative & to think about what values you want to carry into your future together.

No. **2** look inside yourselves to find out what you really want out of the day by the time you're finished planning, you might just know a little bit more about yourselves.