



# heather and tyler 09.29.07

## kiawah island, sc

You can't always dismiss young love as frivolous, because really, you just never know. Take the story of Heather Crispin and Tyler Polk, who met in Connecticut at the tender age of 15. "I had just moved to Maine with my family right before my freshman year in high school and I came back often to visit my friends. During one such visit, I met Tyler," recalls Heather. "He was new to the high school but became friends with many of my friends. The more I came back to visit, the bigger my crush grew." So big in fact, she remembers telling her best friend that she wanted to marry him.

Over the years, they kept in touch, with an occasional visit, but it wasn't until the summer after Heather graduated from college that their visits became more frequent. "We were sitting in the hammock in my parents' yard," Heather remembers, "and I knew we would be together for the rest of our lives."

Their first official weekend together was spent on the Cape with Tyler's parents and extended family. "We had a wonderful time, and on the drive home I asked my sister if I should get married in Maine or on Kiawah Island in South Carolina," Heather laughs. They had been dating for three years when they welcomed their first dog, Bentley, into the family. On the way back from Bentley's first obedience class, Tyler wanted to stop at his parents' house for a quick visit. "He acted a bit odd now that I look back," says Heather, "but at the time I thought nothing of it. It was actually my father and mother-in-law that I noticed were acting strange." They visited briefly and made the short trip back to their house. Once there, Tyler took the puppy outside. When they came back in, Heather noticed something different on Bentley's collar. "I asked Ty if he bought him a new tag, and he said yes and that I should check it out. I moved towards Bentley in what now seems like slow motion. It was a red tag in the shape of a heart and when I turned it over, engraved on the heart was 'Will you marry me?' It was absolutely perfect, especially considering how much we love our dog, and how much I love dogs in general."

They decided to host their ceremony on Kiawah Island for what Heather says was a number of reasons, the main one being fond

memories of childhood vacations. Growing up, her family moved about every five years or so, but they vacationed on Kiawah every summer. "It was one the constant location in my life, and I have so many memories associated with Kiawah Island," she says. "It certainly doesn't hurt that it is the most beautiful place on earth." Her future brother and sister-in-law just happened to be on Kiawah right after Heather and Tyler's engagement. They brought back a local wedding magazine where Heather found Heather Barrie of Gathering Events and Tom Zielenbach, their photographer.

"Heather (Barrie) and I were on the same page every step of the way. She made it so easy to have a destination wedding" says Heather, who chose a color palate of orange, chocolate brown and cranberry. Cotton blossoms were the motif for all of the printed materials and even made an appearance in Heather's bouquet. According to Barrie, Heather wanted unique elements that were organic, natural and somewhat rustic, but still with a modern edge. "We translated this idea in various ways," Barrie says. "The ceremony was held in front of the River Course club under all the old live oaks and we hung colorful balls of flowers from the branches to bring in a pop of color to the natural setting." Heather adds that Tim Zielenbach was also incredible to work with. "Oddly enough, we found out that we are both from West Hartford, Connecticut and he and Tyler actually graduated from the same high school. He did such an amazing job."

Heather found her Melissa Sweet gown at Priscilla of Boston, and if she could, she'd wear it every day of the week. "It was the fourth dress I tried on. We had plans to visit other places, but we cancelled the rest of the day," she says. "It wasn't even what I really had in mind. I'm fairly plain in terms of fashion, and the dress had so much detail, but the woman who was helping us said the dress had been made for me. It just fit really well and had elegance and southern charm. I know everyone says it, but I truly felt like a princess." The bridesmaids' dresses from Thread Design created a slight dilemma. Heather says, "They were such a beautiful color, but it made it hard to find the right tie for the groomsmen. We knew we didn't want to go as formal as tuxedos, so all the boys