

# FLOWERS & PEARLS

WINTER 2016

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## WOODLAND WEDDINGS

+ HOW TO GET THIS YEAR'S HOTTEST WEDDING LOOK

## CRAFTY WEDDINGS TRENDS

+ ACHIEVE THE LOOK YOU WANT FOR LESS

## ENGAGEMENTS

+ POPPING THE QUESTION AND THE RING

## THE TOP HONEYMOON SPOTS

+ FEATURING 5 OF THE MOST POPULAR HONEYMOON SPOTS ON EARTH

## THE LITTLE DETAILS

+ SMALL TOUCHES THAT MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE





# CONTENTS

TOP HONEYMOONS	2
INVITATIONS	3
CRAFTY WEDDING TRENDS	6
<b>WOODLAND WEDDINGS</b>	8
THE LITTLE DETAILS	12
ENGAGEMENTS	14
TIPS & TRICKS	15

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## HOW TO CHOOSE THE PERFECT WEDDING INVITATIONS

BY JACKIE ASTA

Similar to choosing the perfect wedding dress, ordering invitations can cause bridal panic attacks. First impressions last forever, and wedding invitations set the tone and theme for the entire affair.

**THEME** - Many brides struggle with creating the perfect theme for their weddings. In my experience, brides begin with a theme in mind, but it goes out the window once they see invitation samples they love. Keep an open mind about invitations, especially if you have no locked-in theme.

**DESIGN** - Outgoing brides could feel that a metallic pocket fold perfectly sets the stage for an elaborate, flashy wedding. On the other hand, traditional brides may love classic invitations, featuring a white cotton cardstock. In any case, I have found that bold-colored ribbons or colored rhinestone embellishments have negative effects on wedding invitations. These aspects can make invites appear “Sweet 16-ish.”

**VENDOR** - Shopping for invitations online can save brides a lot of time, money and stress. Wedding marketplaces like Minted, offer a vast selection of vendors who provide custom design invitations to fit each bride’s unique requirements.

**FINAL THOUGHTS** - Shopping for invitations online can save brides a lot of time, money and stress. Wedding marketplaces like Minted, offer a vast selection of vendors who provide custom design invitations to fit each bride’s unique requirements.

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# THE TOP HONEYMOON SPOTS

BY MARIDEL REYES



## SANTORINI

IF YOU'RE  
LOOKING FOR  
THE PERFECT  
GETAWAY --  
**THIS IS IT.**

THE MOST VERSATILE RANGE OF ACTION-PACKED, CULTURE-FOCUSED,  
AND RELAXING GETAWAYS AROUND THE GLOBE

YOUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IN SANTORINI IS TO HIT THE COLORFUL BEACHES — the black and red sands make for a memorable visit. Next up, indulge in the archaeological delights of the impressively preserved Ancient Akrotiri. or climb the ancient stairs that lead to the historic city of Manolas in Thirassia. From there, catch a breathtaking view of the caldera,

a brilliant turquoise pool of water that serves as nucleus for the varied isles of this archipelago. Some would say you only need a day to enjoy these islands' charms (they are a popular port of call for cruise ships), but to really drink in all Santorini has to offer, you'll need a few days to a week. Then you'll have plenty of time to learn there's more to these comely dots of the

Cyclades than meets the eye. Maui is not nearly as large as the Big Island, nor is it as small as Lanai, as bustling as Oahu or as quiet as Kauai. For many Hawaii vacationers, Maui is just right — offering a taste of just about everything the Aloha State has to offer, from impressive wildlife to intriguing history and culture. While on a visit here, you can shimmy alongside professional hula dancers, golf along coastal fairways, snorkel alongside five different types of sea turtles or simply lounge along some of Hawaii's most beautiful, notable beaches. It's breathtaking.

Venice is enchanting. Yes, that may be cliché to say, but once you see the "City of Water" for yourself, you'll surely agree. Step from the Santa Lucia train station, and you'll find the breathtaking Grand Canal sprawling before you. Water taxis bob along, drifting underneath the Ponte degli Scalzi (Bridge of the Barefoot). You might hear the faintest hint of a

serenading violin, or is that your imagination? Romantic gondolas carrying smitten couples coast along the web of waterways.

The small island of Bora Bora (just six miles long and 2.5 miles wide) overflows with beauty. Dormant volcanoes rise up at its center and fan out into lush jungle before spilling into an aquamarine lagoon. In fact, author James Michener, who wrote *Tales of the South Pacific*, called Bora Bora "the most beautiful island in the world." The 18th-century British explorer James Cook even coined it the "pearl of the Pacific." The very definition of a tropical getaway, blissful Bora Bora abounds with luxurious resorts, sunny skies, warm waters, and friendly locals.

Picture it: A private villa stands over crystal blue water; days finish with orange sunsets that make you hungry for local citrus; gourmet room service and a masseuse are on call to avoid any unnecessary trips from your porch; and the only

thing to make you want to leave is the breathtaking coral reef and underwater creatures that demand a scuba session for a proper introduction. This is the Maldives.

Honey-dipped sunsets, chocolate-sand beaches, aquamarine skies — Kauai has mastered seduction. But the oldest island in the Hawaiian chain doesn't have to resort to over-the-top luxury or tourist traps to entice. You prefer rural to resplendent? Kauai's your island — there are only two major highways, and some regions can only be explored on foot.

If there was one word to describe the Greek island of Crete, it would be "diverse." Bustling modern cities share coastline with ancient ruins. This island maintains a sense of unity felt whenever you step onto the street, dine at a local taverna or enjoy a glass of raki at a sidewalk café.

Want to truly get off the grid? The name says it all at this



## KAUAI

middle-of-nowhere resort set at the southern tip of the vast Andes. This little city, tucked amid the Tuscan hills, casts a long shadow through history. The wellspring of the Renaissance, Firenze (or Florence) sheltered the powerful Medici family and inspired artists like Michelangelo (David) and Brunelleschi (the Duomo). If it weren't for the fashionable Italians and chic shops lining Via Tornabuoni, you might think you had traveled back in time to the 14th century.

Stunning beaches border tropical rainforests and towering

cathedrals share skyline with an imposing volcano. Tourists and residents crowd the store-lined streets and restaurant-filled back alleys of Fort-de-France, while a few miles north, foliage dampens the sounds of bird tweets and hikers. In a word: Martinique. If you want to hit the beach one day then get the adrenaline pumping the next, you'll find that this island offers both — and does both — well. Just ask a local.

Miles of shoreline, dozens of resorts, French cuisine to die for—Tahiti has all the making of a honeymoon destination. But beach

bums often pass over Tahiti's dark sands in favor of Bora Bora's ivory shores. Despite its idyllic reputation and accessibility, Tahiti is more of an off-the-beaten-path stop than a romantic getaway. However, that doesn't mean Tahiti deserves to be ignored. Leafy forests sit beside sandy shores, French crêpes are served alongside Tahitian poisson cru (raw fish)... If there ever was a place that embodies the beautiful duality of the French Polynesian archipelago, it's Tahiti.

Turks & Caicos has the perfect antidote for your hectic lifestyle; nearly abandoned, blinding-white

with "heaven." The only difference between them is that you can actually visit Bali. Most of us have never been to this Indonesian island. Yet, the word "Bali" conjures daydreams of the most fantastical landscape: towering volcanoes wrapped in a deep green canopy, sandy shores that slide into turquoise water, and curving coastlines crowned with staggered pagodas. And believe it or not, Bali rarely disappoints.

With its turquoise waters, glittering sands, and luxe resorts, Fiji is similar to many other tropical getaways. Likewise, the set of 333

islands caters to lovebirds of all kinds, and we do mean all kinds: 2011's Bachelorette, Ashley even spent some time here with a few eligible beaux. Plus, adventure-seekers, like surfers and divers, appreciate the archipelago's decent waves and coral reefs. But Fiji differs from other sultry destinations in its otherworldliness. Since it's more than 1,300 miles from New Zealand's North Island in the South Pacific Ocean, Fiji affords you the delectable feeling of seclusion.

If you associate the Caribbean with a laid-back atmosphere, a

tranquil beach and a quiet sunset, then you haven't been to feisty St. Martin and St. Maarten. What's the best part of visiting this dual-governed island? You can get a taste of two distinct, lively cultures all for the price of one vacation. This 37-square-mile dot is increasingly popular with travelers who like to eat well, party hard and duty-free shop in between trips to the beach. The north side, St. Martin, is controlled by the French government. It's the home of the island's tastiest restaurants and party beaches. This is a location that you don't want to miss, and



sand fringed by shimmering azure water, colorful coral reefs, crispy conch fritters and a sleepy, light-hearted atmosphere. Even as recent years have generated more tourist activity, more chain restaurants and more commercially driven experiences, Turks & Caicos still holds tight to its reputation as an exclusive and secluded getaway. And regular vacationers to these

skinny strips of white sand will tell you that they wouldn't have it any other way.

The British Virgin Islands, or BVI for short, are some of the most exclusive and least developed islands of the Caribbean, but this only adds to their appeal. The resorts, villas, restaurants and other tourist attractions on this paradisiacal tax haven are known

to emphasize spare luxury over sprawling expansion, and they attract travelers with deep pockets and a love for sailing and seclusion. Many travelers who visit come by ferry boat from another Caribbean isle, especially as some find opulent exile too hard to enjoy for longer than a day or two.

Shangri-La, Elysium, Arcadia, Utopia, and Bali are all synonymous



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Cretans are well known in the Mediterranean to use their body and facial gestures as a means of communication so it helps to be observant when talking with locals. If you're a tourist and you want to ask for help, don't worry. Cretans are known to be the most helpful people and most of the population speaks English and German.

# CRAFTY WEDDING TRENDS

create this year's popular wedding looks for less with these trendy pinterest boards & tumblr blogs



BY ANGELA BOOZER

**D**o it yourself wedding decorations and favors are all the rage right now. From hand-lettered place cards to banners and signs, DIY projects are one of the most popular ways to make your wedding unique. With Pinterest being at its peak, you can let your creative mind run wild with all of the possibilities there are for your wedding online.

**HERE'S A LIST OF MY FAVORITE BLOGS AND PINTEREST BOARDS FOR BEAUTIFUL, SHOW-STOPPING WEDDING CREATIONS:**

## PINTEREST BOARDS TO FOLLOW

- + Ez Pudewa
- + Chic Vintage Brides
- + One Fab Day
- + Bridal Musings
- + Raphaelle Seraphina
- + Style Me Pretty
- + Kanako Yamaguchi
- + Ophelia's Renaissance
- + Green Wedding Shoes



## TUMBLR BLOGS TO FOLLOW

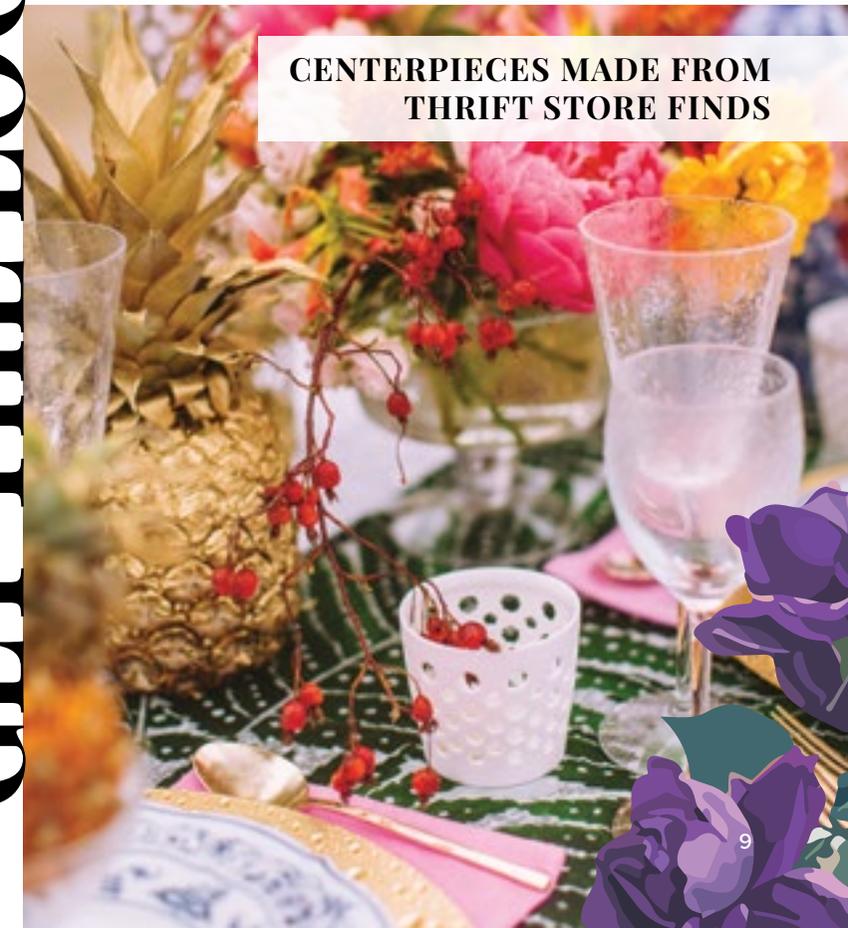
- + Wedding Wonder
- + A Beautiful Cliche
- + Pretty Little
- + Wedding Things
- + Weddingtopia
- + Wedding Whimsy
- + Borrowed & Blue
- + Enchanting Weddings
- + The Wedding Tree
- + A Wedding Scrapbook
- + Wedding Inspirasi

ACCESS THE LINKS TO THESE BLOGS AND MORE AT [>>>](http://FLOWERSANDPEARLS.COM)

### HAND-LETTERED INVITATIONS



### CENTERPIECES MADE FROM THRIFT STORE FINDS



GEMINHE LOOK

# WOODLAND WEDDINGS

BY SARAH VALENTINE

WOODLAND WEDDINGS ARE THIS YEAR'S MOST POPULAR THEME FOR WEDDINGS. READ ABOUT HOW TO GET THIS UNIQUELY NATURAL LOOK.

**T**HE BIG WEDDING THEME THIS YEAR LOOKS RUSTIC AND NATURAL WITH SOPHISTICATED, GLAM ACCENTS.

So maybe the centerpieces are branchy and green with lots of lush flowers and a pop of sparkle with a sequin or faux fur table overlay. For fashion, long wedding veils and gowns with ethereal lace and floral embellishments are romantic ideas. Your bridesmaids can echo the look with sparkly, mismatched dresses and loose braids in their hair. And don't forget the flower girls: Flower crowns made out of branches and small dainty flowers are just right for your littlest attendants. Finally, finish your decor off with something really different like a tent (lit with twinkle lights) for the kids to play in or a fun animal motif printed on everything from the invites to the ceremony programs, escort cards, and more.

Ruffled Blog describes on their blog the woodland wedding that Jaimee Morse shot as, "If you like the look of woody rustic weddings but want to make sure there's still a touch of romantic femininity, look no further than this styled shoot from Jaimee Morse, Simply Elegant Bridal Consulting, and Julia's Blooms. Hints of the lightest blush pink, gold accents contrasted against wooden details, and beautiful calligraphy pull everything together, all topped off by a scrumptious pie dessert table!

I worked with some great vendors to develop this mix of urban and woodland romantic themed shoot. We used touches from nature along with beautiful soft tones of pink, gold, and silver. We developed two vignettes with one being the dinner setting and the second being the dessert/pie setting – and we got to eat the pie afterwards so that was probably the best part of the shoot. This shoot is filled with the more glamorous side of the woodland wedding theme.

Bellenza offers seven steps for helping you achieve your dream woodland wedding. "Would you like to go beyond the traditional rustic wedding theme? Why not give it a whimsical spin and go for a woodland-inspired wedding? As you'll see from these 7 inspiring finds, this theme can have a certain out-of-the-box elegance that turns woody into dreamy. Take some ideas from here on how to pull off a perfect woodland wedding, and you'll have an awesome occasion that will leave a lasting impression even years later. Start off by making guests go "Wow!" with invitations featuring that handcrafted look. Choose a simple stationery suite, like this one on kraft paper, and play with creative fonts and charming hand-drawn graphics. No need to overdo the decoration, as even a spare design can turn out this stylish. In keeping with this motif, a nature-inspired escort card display is just the thing. Here's one fabulous idea that

uses 'slices' of tree branches to hold each guest's name card, then presents them on a moss-covered table. Perfect!

Delight guests with a cake that's as gorgeous as it is delicious! We were instantly smitten by this creation, trimmed with a woody vine and ivory-colored blooms. Plus isn't that tree stump just the ideal rustic cake stand for this theme? For a woodland-inspired wedding dress, we suggest a style that is soft, flowing, and ethereal-looking, like this one that seems designed for a wood nymph. Of course, thou shalt not forget a lovely floral crown for a romantic finish! With the forest as an already magical venue, your ceremony backdrop can be as simple as draped fabric adorned with a wreath of fresh greenery. Just imagine yourselves framed by this elegant accent piece as you exchange your I do's! Here's one woodland-perfect bouquet idea with a sophisticated air! Notice how the flowers are all in gorgeous neutral tones, accented with fruits (in this case, figs) and finished with a burlap strip for a wrap. Lady guests will be all excited to catch such a special bouquet!

**"HINTS OF THE LIGHTEST BLUSH PINK, GOLD ACCENTS, WOODEN DETAILS, AND BEAUTIFUL CALLIGRAPHY PULL EVERYTHING TOGETHER."**



**FLOWER CROWNS ARE A BEAUTIFUL, SIMPLE WAY TO ADD AN INTERESTING ELEMENT TO YOUR BRIDAL PHOTOS.**

Your reception menu printed on a wooden slab couldn't be more perfect for this theme. Love how the silhouette graphics of deer, pine needles, and leafy sprigs complete the fairyland forest effect. Other charming accents you could add? Think mushrooms (or should it be toadstools for this theme?), birds and butterflies, miniature figurines of deer, rabbits, owls, or foxes. For touches of greenery, consider ferns, moss, and ivy; while for rustic textures, try baskets, tree bark, wood chips, woody vines, raffia, straw, jute, even pebbles or river stones.

According to Botanica Events, there are three different types of woodland weddings. These three are bohemian, rustic, and whimsical. "When planning your wedding, finding the perfect location should be at the top of your list. The location sets the tone for your theme, flowers, décor, and even your wedding dress. Being a California Bride, means that there are an abundance of perfect locations. Beaches, mountain resorts, lush gardens. But today we're going to talk about a rising trend for California brides: woodland weddings!

Whether you're in Tahoe, Yosemite, Berkeley, or any of California's many wooded forests, being surrounded by nature certainly gives an entirely unique atmosphere. There are so many possibilities with lighting and centerpieces, not to mention all of

the photo opportunities. With so many possibilities, the decisions seem endless! We're here to help.

For the eclectic bohemian bride, playing with color and the different natural mediums such as glass, metals, and woods help capture the earthy look that you're going for. This look is very organic and I think it makes flowers an even more significant aspect of the centerpiece. Brides who want bright and bold colors for their décor should consider going bohemian. But if you're the type of the bride that likes a more classic look then rustic design might be the better choice for your woodland wedding. A rustic theme enhances the forest setting with simple adornments like wood slices, tree branches, mason jars, and barrels. Paired with classic floral arrangements and twinkle lights, this look is extremely romantic. The rustic theme is timeless, which

makes it a popular choice for woodland weddings. What if you want something that's completely different from the norm? A style that has touches of bold as well as classic. Go for whimsical!

The Lovely Find describes a woodland wedding perfectly while also giving a tip for a unique idea that you could definitely use while walking down the aisle, "This wedding makes me fall in love with weddings all over again. After several generations of the bride's family were married on the farm, she knew that Merry Acres was where she had to have her ceremony. The bride carried nine wedding rings with her on her walk down the aisle, all of them tied up in a trailing love knot, all of them belonging to family members. The oldest ring the bride carried belonged originally to her maternal grandmother; the ring was purchased in 1881. DIY details

abound at this rustic wedding, and the bride's mother helped with many of the decorations."

Another blog describes a woodland wedding, "The ceremony was held by a lake on a perfect fall day. Bridesmaids carried antique candle holders instead of flowers and the bride's bouquet was beautiful and tied in the earthy theme of the wedding. Steal these ideas: Instead of a sign in book they had the guests fingerprint a tree that was painted on canvas by the bride. The cake rested on a tree trunk stand. Don't fight football. The Nebraska game was on TV (the bride is a fan!) at the reception. When the guests clinked glasses for the bride and groom to kiss, Andrea and Michael had a basket with guest names and whoever they picked had to kiss as well. These are all interesting tips that could be used differently! ▲

**"THE RUSTIC THEME IS TIMELESS, WHICH MAKES IT A POPULAR CHOICE FOR WOODLAND WEDDINGS. WANT SOMETHING COMPLETELY OUT OF THE NORM? GO FOR WHIMSICAL - A STYLE THAT HAS TOUCHES OF BOLD AS WELL AS CLASSIC."**



# THE LITTLE DETAILS



FLOWERS ARE MORE THAN BOUQUETS. IT'S PLACE SETTINGS, FAVORS, FLOWER CROWNS, AND DECORATION. THIS IS ALL ABOUT THE LITTLE DETAILS.

BY ANGELA BOOZER



These cool little beauties are hot right now and they're perfect for favors to give to your guests. Succulents are more meaningful than matchbooks and something your guests can take home and watch grow.



Don't forget the decorations! Flowers on a simple wooden arch make this rustic wedding photo complete.



You're not the only one that needs to get dressed up for the occasion. Flower crowns are for cute little dogs, too. Pets are a member of your family and including them in the wedding photos is a must and the crown option is a lot more trendy than the usual bow tie.



Flower crowns! When you're ordering your flower arrangements, request some simple extra baby's breath to assemble into a crown. It will add some nature to your photos.

# alexandra & jackson

PHILADELPHIA, PA

“My boyfriend of eight years took me to the Morris Arboretum in Pennsylvania for a fake engagement shoot. I know a photographer, and about eight months ago, we got asked to do a mock engagement shoot for his portfolio. Well, fast forward: We were getting asked again by one of the new photographers who joined the team. I thought nothing of it—just that we were helping out our friendly photographer build his portfolio. After a couple of regular pictures, my boyfriend got down on one knee and proposed—right then I realized it was all planned. We were able to not only get it on camera but we got our engagement photos at the same time. I had no idea.” -Alexandra Beisel



DAINTY GOLD RING BY LARIS

## TOP 10 TIPS FOR YOUR SPECIAL DAY

BY MIKE SPOHR

- 1 GIVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME TO GET READY.
- 2 WEAR A DRESS SHIRT WHILE GETTING YOUR HAIR AND MAKEUP DONE.
- 3 DON'T OVERDO THE PERFUME.
- 4 PUT YOUR PHONE AWAY.
- 5 STOP AND TAKE IT ALL IN BEFORE THE CEREMONY.
- 6 PACK SOME CUTE FLATS FOR THE RECEPTION.
- 7 HAVE A MOMENT ALONE WITH EACH OF YOUR PARENTS.
- 8 APPOINT SOMEONE TO SAVE YOU FROM CHATTY GUESTS.
- 9 ASK GUESTS TO LEAVE PHOTOGRAPHY TO THE PROS DURING THE CEREMONY.
- 10 BREATHE.

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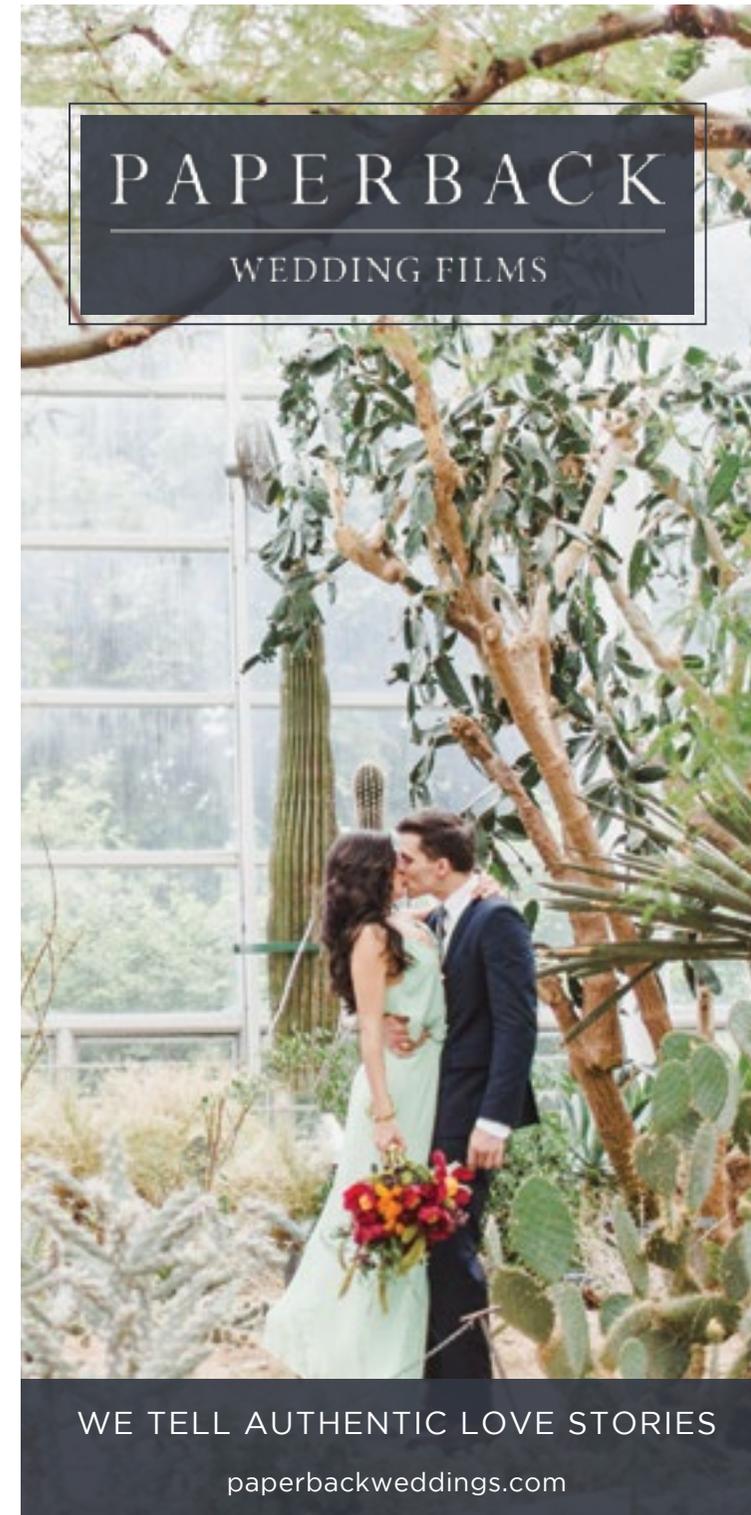
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## EDITORIAL & CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jackie Asta, Maridel Reyes, Angela Boozer,  
Sarah Valentine, Alexandra Biesel,  
Mike Spohr

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Danielle Capitol, Ryan Learoyd, Lynian  
Stable, Emily Jane, Robert Stokes, Adrien  
Craven, Elle Marien, Becka Pillmore

## ART

Angela Boozer [Art Director, Designer,  
and Illustrator]  
Anzhelika German [Illustrator]

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[flowersandpearls.com](http://flowersandpearls.com)

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Flowers and Pearls  
4304 Maple Lane  
Nashville, TN 37204

