

NOTHING BUT BLUE SKIES

These college sweethearts designed an elegant weekend packed with sentimental touches, serious dancing, and a classic china pattern they reworked into a symbol of their modern love.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROEY YOHA! PHOTOGRAPHY TEXT BY BECKY MICKEL

WEDDED KISS

Having made it official, newlyweds Honor McGee, in Oscar de la Renta, and Jay Lundy, in Ermenegildo Zegna, got cozy on the grounds of Winvian Farm.

Opposite: A chinoiserie china pattern was the inspiration for the day's blue-and-white palette.

Can men and women be just friends? When Harvard first-year Honor McGee met sophomore Jay Lundy in the fall of 2006, her answer to that eternal question was yes, of course. “We both got along so well from the start,” says Honor. “But I was 18 and not looking to date anybody.” Jay had other ideas. “Part of me always hoped there was something between us,” he recalls.

Then in spring 2009, during Jay’s last semester, Honor’s heel broke at a 1920s-themed party. Although he hated leaving the cigars and cocktails, Jay walked her home to change shoes, and something else they couldn’t quite pinpoint changed between them, too. Jay finally asked Honor out on an official date. Like a modern Cinderella, Honor realized that the shoe fit as far as Jay was concerned, and the friends started dating at last. Nearly five years and six cities later, the two entrepreneurs settled in the Big Apple. They were on a vacation in Harbour Island, Bahamas, during the local “Junkanoo” New Year’s celebration when Jay popped the question, orchestrating a beach proposal that was captured by a local photographer disguised as a cabana man.

Given the pair’s well-traveled past, picking a place to get married was tricky. “We wanted our wedding to feel like ‘coming home’ but also to recognize the places and influences that shaped us,” says Honor. Her parents wed in Connecticut, so she and Jay searched the state, finding the ideal spot in Winvian Farm, a 113-acre property near her family’s country house. Then they partnered up to plan the big day, creating what Honor calls an “English garden party meets Paris in the Jazz Age” soirée. It reflected both the look of their venue and the feel of the night that sparked their romance. Inspired by a blue-and-white chinoiserie fruit bowl that sat on Honor’s kitchen counter when she was growing up and their interest in the pattern’s history, the duo even worked with a stationer to create a different custom design for every event of the weekend.

A version with lovebirds graced the invitations, which brought 186 guests (plus 13 children) to their wedding on June 6, 2015. A judge (and family friend) led the secular ceremony, which was punctuated with

a Yiddish poem translated by Honor’s maternal grandmother and read by her paternal grandmother, and a single tear from Jay. “I just couldn’t control it when I saw Honor in her dress for the first time,” he says.

After the emotional vow exchange came outdoor cocktails, then dinner, toasts, and cake under a tent; followed by cigars and dancing to DJ-spun tunes from Motown to Jay Z in a converted barn; and finally, charcuterie and cheese at 1 A.M. in the main house. The weekend was capped off with a Harbour Island-themed brunch in honor of Jay’s Bahamian proposal—and a definitive answer to that question: Men and women *can* be friends. And, if they’re lucky, best friends can end up as husband and wife.



Ms. Catherine B
 320 Regency
 Apartme
 Vero Beach,



Please join us for our Rehearsal Dinner Friday at 7:00 PM at the Winston

Please visit our website www.honorandjaywedding.com for additional details about our wedding

Kindly respond before the sixth of April

M _____ would be delighted to attend the Ceremony and Reception
 _____ would be delighted to attend the Rehearsal Dinner
 _____ would be delighted to attend the Sunday Brunch
 declines with regrets

Please indicate your meal preference for the Reception

ART NOUVEAU

Though the pattern repeated on this letterpressed suite looks like a replica of the popular "Willow" design first shown on 18th-century porcelain, it's actually updated just for Honor and Jay. They added her parents' Connecticut house, Winvian architecture, and the Litchfield Hills.



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CLASSIC MOMENTS

1. Following tradition, Honor walked down the aisle to the tune “Here Comes the Bride” with her father at her side. **2.** Ribbon-tied programs detailed the ceremony, which included readings from the Eloise and Berenstain Bears series of children’s books. **3.** Canvas welcome bags screen-printed with a map were filled with snacks, lip balm, and photo-op essentials (namely, tortoiseshell shades labeled on one side with #honorandjaywed and a white disposable camera). **4.** Ring bearers carried bands on his-and-her pillows that the bride’s mom embroidered with the couple’s first initials.



2



3



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SIGNATURE TOUCHES

1. Monogrammed paper boxes of popcorn seasoned with truffle Parmesan or rosemary sea salt were served to ready guests for the vow exchange. The tasty touch was Honor's idea because when she was growing up, "my dad and I would go see a lot of movies together," she says. **2.** Attendees left relationship advice for Honor and Jay at the guest-book station. **3.** A white-clad string quartet escorted loved ones to the ceremony. **4.** The newlyweds took a postceremony portrait with some members of the 25-person wedding party. Bridesmaids wore Amsale, and groomsmen, their own tuxes.





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MOVING PICTURES

1. Jay and his mom danced to Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World." **2.** Partygoers snapped pictures in a life-size "frame" during cocktail hour. **3.** The five-tier Tahitian vanilla cake, inspired by the couple's favorite dessert from the Icebox Cafe in Miami Beach, was filled with vanilla and lemon mouseline over raspberry preserves, then covered in vanilla meringue buttercream and Swiss-rolled fondant hand-painted with scenery from Winvian and the surrounding area. **4.** Each place was set with blue somethings, including a midnight-colored runner and chinoiserie vases filled with white buds.

NIGHTCAPS

1. After Jay and Honor opened the floor to “I Hear a Symphony” by The Supremes, revelers of all ages broke out their best moves. **2.** Favors were paper-covered boxes of local Thorncrest Farm & Milk House Chocolates, in dark chocolate lavender and milk chocolate with bourbon praline flavors. **3.** In between dance breaks, invitees noshed on fruit tartlets, lemon shortbread, macarons, and other sweets. **4.** After cake, the bride and groom led a “sparklers train” to the barn for dancing. She wore an Amsale reception dress, and he, a Hickey Freeman jacket with a monogrammed collar embroidered by her mom.



HONOR AND JAY'S BLUE NOTES

“Jay and I tackle everything as partners, whether in business or life, and our wedding was no exception. He’s the master logistician, and I took on creative decisions.”

HONOR, ON WORKING AS A TEAM

By the Numbers

1,092

Women in Honor’s Harvard class who could have caught Jay’s eye—but didn’t

1,641

Miles the groom flew with the ring—Boston to Florida, then, weeks later, the Bahamas—before proposing

4

Times the pair traveled to Harbour Island together before Jay popped the question during the holiday

2,250

Feet high the couple rode together in a hot-air balloon before the rehearsal dinner in a little adventure Jay planned at the last minute

24

Iterations of the chinoiserie pattern that decorated centerpieces, cakes, the invite, and more throughout the wedding weekend

13

Sweets on offer at the extended dessert course, including the groom’s favorite: white chocolate macadamia cookies

29

Jazz Age dancing clips that were projected on the barn wall during the DJ-led after-party

SWEET SNAPSHOT

There was no first look for these two. “Not seeing each other before walking down the aisle made the moment even more special than I imagined and magnified the feeling of ‘This is the beginning of the rest of our lives together,’” says Honor. “The ceremony was a complete reflection of my and Jay’s love as our story, history, and planning all came together.”

The Bride’s Charms

Honor wanted to include as many traditions as possible. Naturally, she carried four lucky pieces.

SOMETHING OLD

“My mother’s garter, which I slipped on when I changed into my reception dress.”

SOMETHING NEW

“Custom Prada kitten heels for dancing with my initials on the back and my attendants’ names written on the bottom.”

SOMETHING BORROWED

“A diamond necklace from my friend’s mom.”

SOMETHING BLUE

“A patch sewn into my gown embroidered with *HML*—to honor our two families’ coming together—and our wedding date.”

TOKENS OF AFFECTION

“I gave Jay a bottle of Johnnie Walker Blue Label along with a handkerchief inscribed with a note about being his wife,” says Honor. And for her dad: “Cuff links that double as locketts filled with pictures of me as a child.”

“I got Honor a Barbie-size Mini Cooper convertible as an ode to our old one we had in Miami,” says Jay. “I added a Curious George doll because we’ve always adored him, and it was one of the first birthday presents I bought her.” Plus, something sparkly: a diamond bracelet.

KID STUFF

“I ran with the idea to have babysitters all weekend,” says Jay. “I love kids, but I wanted my sister and Honor’s cousins, who have younger children, to enjoy themselves. The littlest came to the reception for an hour or so, but when we moved to dinner and toasts, the sitters took the kids to their own party with chicken fingers, *Frozen*, iPads, and more. They were happy as can be.”

THE AGENDA

FRIDAY NIGHT FÊTE

The outdoor family-style rehearsal dinner began with ricotta gnocchi, ended with s’mores, and included 10 toasts from Jay’s brothers, other family members, and close friends.

SATURDAY HANGOUT

Partygoers took a dip in the on-site pool, played corn hole and croquet, and snacked on gourmet sandwiches and ice cream from food trucks.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

Guests said farewell at a Harbour Island-themed brunch with jerk chicken, key lime pie, and a rum bar at the bride’s parents’ Connecticut home.

GRAND FINALE

The newlyweds hopped in a vintage Rolls Royce to drive around and thank their local vendors, then stayed one last night at Winvian. They left the next day for a mini moon in Newport, Rhode Island. A longer honeymoon, with stops in Paris and Seychelles, is on this year’s docket.

SOURCES

Location and catering Winvian Farm **Flowers** Diane Gaudett of Custom Floral Designs **Photography** Roey Yohai Photography **Videography** Well Spun Weddings **Stationery** Phyllis Roth of By Invitation Only Designs **Calligraphy** Yellow House Calligraphy **Cake** Ana Parzych Cakes **Music** Dolce Vita Strings; Hank Milligan; DJ Nick De La Cruz (after-party) **Rentals** New England Country Rentals; Party Rental Ltd. **Tent** Sperry Tents **Bride’s gown** Oscar de la Renta (ceremony); Amsale (reception) **Bride’s accessories** Oscar de la Renta (veil); Jimmy Choo (ceremony shoes); Prada (reception shoes) **Hair** Elise Bueno **Makeup** Alicia Oliveri **Ring bearers’ attire** Vera Wang Black **Groom’s tuxedo** Ermenegildo Zegna **Accessories** Hickey Freeman (dinner jacket); Thomas Pink (shirt); The Andover Shop (bow tie, suspenders, studs, and cuff links)