

THE
WEDDING
GUIDE



W E L C O M E

Hello friend and Bride-to-be, and welcome! This is such an exciting time for you! I'm sure your mind is racing with all that needs to be planned. It's all very exciting, but it can also be somewhat overwhelming. You're planning the day that you've been anticipating your whole life and you only get one shot at it. By the time you get the hang of it, the planning is over! My goal as a wedding photographer is to make this one aspect of the planning process simple. Photography is more than just images, it's a huge part of your day. Not only do you deserve beautiful images, you also deserve an amazing photographic experience. The goal of this guide is to help you plan your wedding day in a way that will allow me to provide you with the *best* experience possible. Since you're officially a Williamson Imaging Bride, the next step is to plan your engagement session and then start chatting about wedding day details as we get closer to your date! I'm beyond excited to be working with you! Karis and I cannot wait to get to know you two during your engagement session and even though you may never meet Lewis, he says "Hi" too! From our family to yours, welcome! It's an honor to be your wedding photographer!





GET TO KNOW BENNETT

In case you haven't already guessed it, I love what I do! Capturing your wedding day is such a joy for me personally. Documenting your wedding day is such an honor for me! Since we'll be spending a lot of time together on the big day, I want to make sure you feel like you really know me. Being comfortable with the person behind the camera is honestly the best way to feel comfortable in front of the camera. Keep reading to learn more about which parts of your wedding day are going to be especially important to me!

WEDDING DAY FAVORITES

You may not realize this but every photographer has parts of the wedding day that they favor. My favorite moments of the day stem from my own wedding day as well as the experience I have had photographing many weddings. I look forward to these specific parts of the day every time I'm shooting.



GETTING READY

I love starting off the day with beautiful details. I consider this my "warm up" time. These details allow me to be creative from the moment I begin shooting on your wedding day. I love having this time to prepare for the rest of your day.



BRIDE + GROOM PORTRAITS

Portrait time with the bride and groom is hands down my favorite part of the day! This is when I produce my best work and when my couples really get to enjoy being together on their wedding day. I especially love the moment when the groom sees his bride for the first time! If I could photograph first looks all day long, I would.

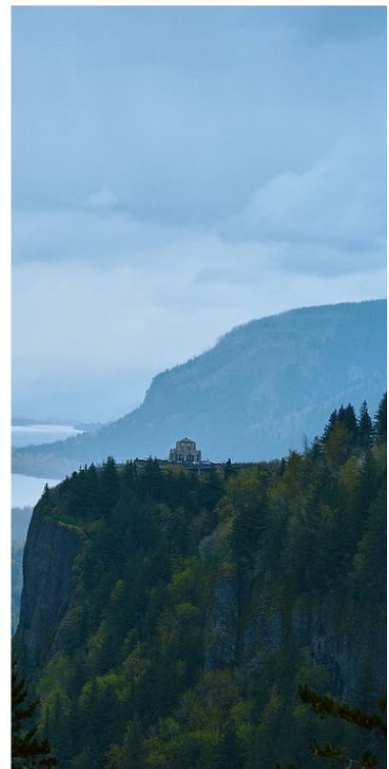
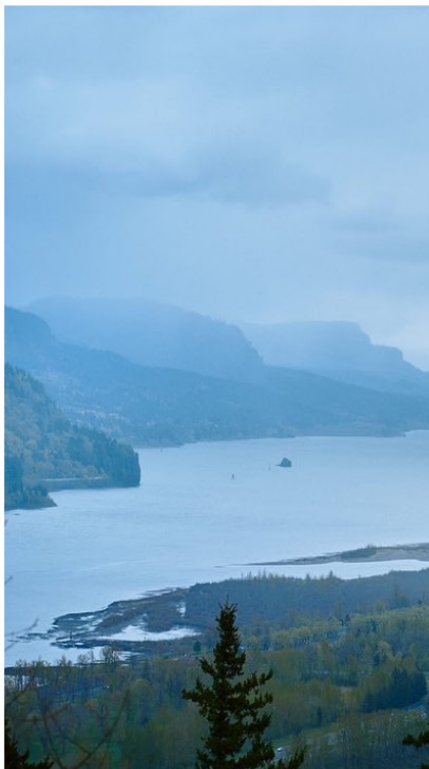


RECEPTION

The first few moments after the ceremony are so special as well! This is when the couple gets to hug, laugh and cry with those they are closest to. It's emotional, and it's so very special. Emotions are high and it's a part of the day when everyone seems equally excited and relieved that the pressure is off and they are looking forward to the party.



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LET'S TALK ABOUT
me and you





the gift of
FRIENDSHIP

This may not be what you were expecting to find in your photographer's client guide, but if you don't read anything else in this magazine, please read this. It's so important for me to explain how I view my relationship with my couples. The reason I do wedding photography is because of you. It's because I love the relationship I am able to build with my wedding clients. I love getting to support you throughout the entire planning process while getting to know you. My wedding clients are not just clients, they are my friends. I am so thankful for every client I'm able to get to know and invest in and support throughout the entire wedding planning process. Weddings are such a personal event, and I believe that the photographer you choose, should be someone you are known by and comfortable with. That's my greatest joy, is building relationships with my clients and really getting to see the beauty of what God is doing in your relationship and capturing that. Taking technically great pictures doesn't really excite me, to be honest. But taking deeply meaningful pictures for people that I know and care about, that's what it's all about for me.

Not only is my friendship with my clients a gift to me, but it positively impacts your' wedding day experience. When you are getting ready on the morning of your wedding day, it will be a relief to feel like a friend walks through those doors with a camera and not a random hired vendor. Friendship breeds comfortability and comfortability leads to trust ... and trust is something that every single bride needs to have in their relationship with their wedding photographer. With that said, I'm so excited to get to know you during your engagement session!

PREPARING YOUR GROOM





PREPARING YOUR GROOM

If you're a bride that is a little anxious about how your groom is going to react to this whole "picture" thing, you're not alone. I am constantly surprising couples by discovering their hidden modeling skills and this is the most common response from our Grooms: "That wasn't as bad as I thought! It was actually fun!" Boom! Mission accomplished! When the groom says taking pictures was fun, I have done my job well. Your engagement session is supposed to be fun and relaxed, not forced or awkward. As you prepare for your shoot, there are a few things that you can do to help your groom know what to expect.

First of all, I highly recommend sitting down together and showing him 2-3 of your favorite engagement sessions that you like from my portfolio or other pics you find on Pinterest. Spend some time together scrolling through a few blog posts. This will allow him to gauge what his expectations should be. I also recommend that you allow for plenty of time to get to your shoot. There is nothing worse than a couple showing up late, and they have been arguing in the car before they arrive. Last but not least, remember to have patience with him and don't assume that he's not going to have a good time ... I think you'll be surprised how much you will both enjoy your session.





PLANNING YOUR WEDDING DAY

More often than not, my couples are planning a wedding for the very first time, and it can seem incredibly overwhelming. There are a lot of unknowns:

How do you get what you ultimately desire? What are the best practices for the timeline of the day? How do you get the most out of your photography investment? What are common mistakes to avoid? There is so much to consider and I'm here to help you make the best decisions for your day.

Overall, the most impactful decisions have to do with your wedding day timeline. I have seen poorly planned timelines wreck wedding days, and I have seen strategic timelines save wedding days when emergencies arise. If you want to focus your energy on really being intentional about one main thing in your planning process, direct that intention towards the timeline for the greatest impact. Let's get started!

SAMPLE TIMELINE

Let's talk about the Timeline | These next two pages will outline an ideal wedding day working off of a 6pm ceremony time frame. This ideal timeline is also based on a wedding day that includes a first look. Ninety-percent of my couples choose to do a First Look, and you can read more about that option a few pages over. Remember that all wedding days are different, and your timeline may differ due to travel times and unique situations.

Bridal Details

12-12:45



Every bride loves having those beautiful shots of her bridal details. It's an important part of the story, and I love having some time to shoot the dress, shoes, jewelry, invitations, etc. These shots allow me to get warmed up for the rest of the big day. I normally like to allow at least 45 minutes for this part of the day. I'll be working on these photos while you and your bridesmaids are starting to get ready.

Bridal Party Prep

12:45-2

After the details have been photographed, it's time for the bride to get into her dress. This is a big moment. I'll pop in and out while you and the bridesmaids are finishing up make up and getting dressed - obviously always checking to make sure you all are decent! During this time, I will also be getting photos of the groom and groomsmen getting ready. After the bride is in her gown, she can put on her jewelry, veil, shoes, etc., and I will shoot some additional bridal portraits. We might move to a secondary location with better lighting for mother-daughter putting on the dress shots.



First Look

2:30



This is one of my favorite parts of the wedding day. I will find the perfect location for my couple's First Look prior to the getting ready portion of the day. Don't stress about your portrait locations. I will make sure the location is private, has great natural light and is as secluded as possible.

Portraits 2:45-3



After the bride and groom take their time with the First Look, I will begin taking a few romantic portraits of the two of them while the initial excitement is still present! I will find the locations for these shots as well! Remember, the *light* determines where we shoot and so I can't decide on portrait locations until the day-of. As I shoot these portraits, the bridal party can start making their way to me for bridal party portraits.

Bridal Party Portraits 3:30-4



Now it's time for Bridal Party shots! One way to make sure we stay on schedule for bridal party portraits is to have someone designated to put the boutonnieres on the groomsmen before they arrive for portraits. During Bridal Party portraits, I will make sure to take some great shots of the guys and girls both separately and together.

Family Portraits 4-4:30



We'll need about 30 minutes for family formals, and you will have sent me a list of family groupings to smoothly get all the family photos you are hoping for. I recommend shooting portraits outdoors if possible so that they resemble more of a natural family portrait style, especially if the ceremony location is dark.

THE TIMELINE CONTINUED

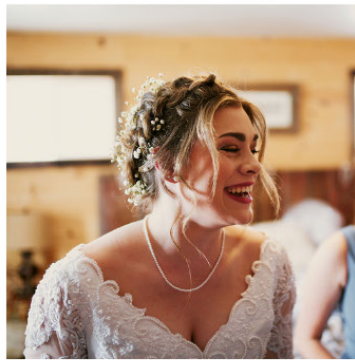
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Reception Details 5:30-5:50



If the reception is at the same location as the ceremony, I will use this time to shoot the reception decor *untouched*. If the ceremony and reception are in different locations, I recommend having a cocktail hour outside of the main reception area if possible so that I can grab some great shots of your reception before the night begins and guests start laying down purses and coats on their seats.

Bride in Hiding 5:30-6:00



After bridal party portraits are complete, the bride will go into hiding so that early guests don't sneak a peek, and the ushers will begin their duties.

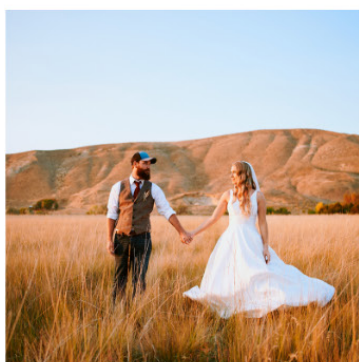
Ceremony 6:00-6:30

It's time to get married! Most ceremonies are 30-minutes long. If your ceremony is longer than 30 minutes, we'll be sure to make adjustments to the timeline. Cherish these moments! Your ceremony will pass by so quickly.



Golden-Hour Portraits

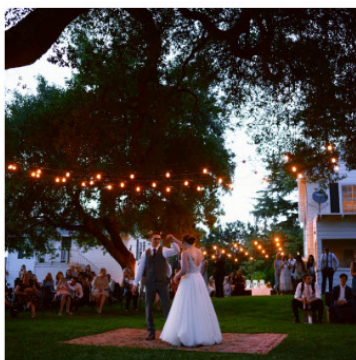
7:15-7:30



7:00pm is the best time of day for portraits in the late spring, summer and early fall! This is when the sun is glowy and golden. I love having a few extra minutes with the bride and groom to take a few "Just Married" portraits right after family formals.

Reception Begins

7:30

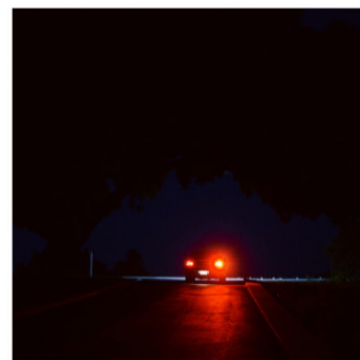


This is when the bridal party lines up for introductions and the party begins! By this part of the day, my timeline isn't as strict. I work off of the natural light and so after the sun is set, my portrait time is over and I begin focusing on the reception events.

The Exit

10:30

At the end of an excitement packed day the grand finale of a momentous send off can be so fun. I've seen great success with sparklers, creating a glowy tunnel for you and your groom to run through, but you can tailor your send off to your preferences from flower petals to bubbles. Just make sure you have a plan for how your guests will have the supplies to send you off.



APPROXIMATE TIMES:

DETAILS & PREP : 2 HOURS

FIRST LOOK & PORTRAITS : 20-30 MINS

BRIDAL PARTY : 30-40 MINS

FAMILY FORMALS : 30-40 MINS

SUNSET PICTURES : 15-30 MINS

WEDDINGS &
SEASONS





Seasonal Portrait + Timing Tips

WINTER

Winter weddings are gorgeous. However, they do take some additional planning simply because of the sunset time. The hard part about a winter timeline is the fact that the sun sets around 4pm. This means that all of your portraits have to be done before then. This isn't a problem if you're having a late afternoon wedding. However, if you're planning on having a late evening wedding, you may have a bit of down time from 4pm until the start of the ceremony.

SPRING

Spring weddings are wonderful because they are the perfect temperature. However, I recommend having plenty of Claritin and Zyrtec on hand just in case allergies start to flare up during portrait time. Spring weddings normally mean the potential for some blooms. If we happen to find any type of blooming tree or plant, it will be worth it to give us a few minutes for portraits with it! You'll love the result!

SUMMER

Summer weddings are amazing! I love that there is so much daylight. In some months, the light will last until 8:30pm. So, if you're having a summer wedding, you'll need to plan on having a few minutes to slip out of the reception for your glowy, sunset portraits. You will not regret this! This is the absolute best light of the day and you're going to want to have portraits taken during this time period. Usually these portraits happen during dinner or open dancing so that no one even notices that you're gone for a few minutes.

FALL

Fall weddings are absolutely stunning! The temperature is amazing and I love the fall colors! Even one colorful tree will give your photos that fall feeling you are looking for. Your portrait time (and fall colors) will vary depending on your wedding date. We'll be sure to discuss this when we approve your final timeline.



PRE-CEREMONY



Let the day begin!

This portion of The Wedding Experience really sets the stage for the entire wedding day. The next few pages will share tips and tricks that will ensure a seamless morning of bridal preparation and beautiful portraits.



GETTING READY

It's the morning of your wedding! Hopefully all of the little details are taken care of and you're relaxing with your best friends while your hair is being done. If certain items haven't been checked off of the to-do list, it's time to hand them over to someone else. Delegation is a key part of a stress-free wedding day. I know it's hard to hand over the decorating duties and all of the last minute things that need to be done, but it really is important to relax the morning of your wedding. The rest of the day is going to be fast paced and filled with a lot of emotions. Take advantage of this down time! There are a few things to consider about the "getting ready" portion of the day. Do you want to share a "first look" with your dad or any other person who plays a huge role in your life?

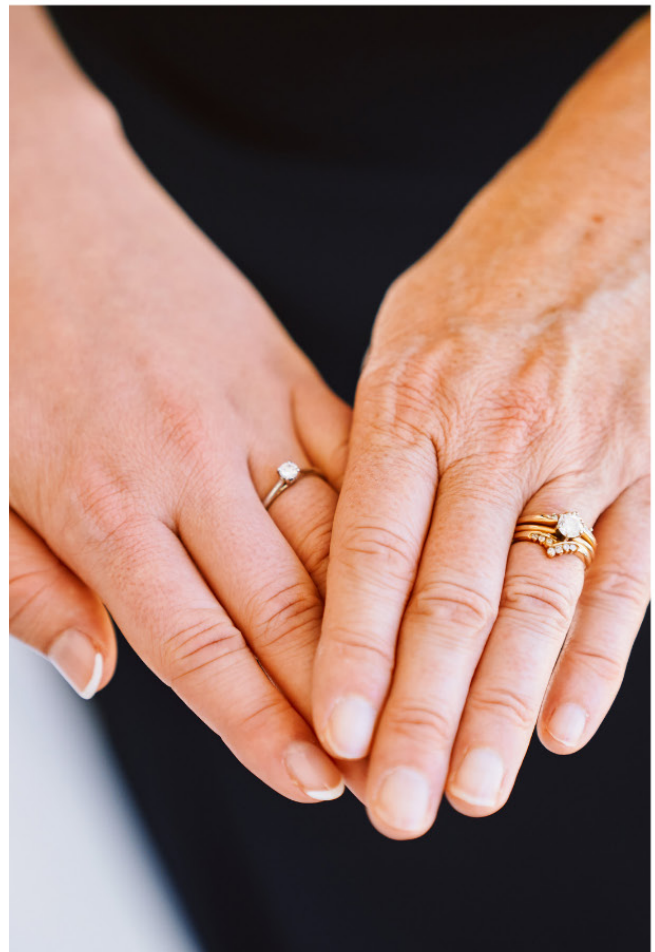
Will you and your groom be exchanging gifts during this time? If so, who would you like to deliver them? Are there certain women in your life who would appreciate seeing you get into your gown? Some brides want very few people around for this moment. Other brides love having aunts and grandmas present! It's totally up to you! A few other things to consider ... as you get ready to put your dress on, refrain from putting any jewelry on. I love shooting all of those final steps once you're in your gown! Speaking of the gown, if your gown is on a plastic hanger, try to make a note to bring a wooden hanger along for picture sake.



THE WINDOW DIFFERENCE

This is something that will make a dramatic impact on your pre-ceremony photos. By having just a simple window in the bridal prep area, I am able to create beautiful portraits with soft light. If there are no windows or natural light in the getting-ready area, I will more than likely have you do some faux "getting dressed" shots somewhere on the property where we can access natural light. This may be another room or just a simple doorway. Without natural light, my style of photos that you have come to love is nearly impossible. So natural light is very much a necessity. If you don't have any control over your bridal suite location, don't worry, I will work some magic to ensure that you still have detail shots and getting-in-the-dress shots that are photographed in natural light.

When you're planning a wedding day timeline, the best advice I could give is to *add plenty of cushion time*. Sometimes the most simple things can take an extra 20 minutes and then all of a sudden, the whole morning is thrown off. Plan for at least an extra half hour of buffer around getting ready. A smart idea is to add in an extra ten minutes here and there so that we have some wiggle room to work with. This way, if one part of the day gets thrown off by 20 minutes, I can help you compensate for that time in other areas. There are so many different things to think about when you're planning a wedding day, so here are some tips for the pre-ceremony timeline! I realize that every single wedding day is different and so not all of these tips will apply to every wedding day schedule. Something else to consider is that not everything will go as planned, and I promise you, that is completely normal.



BOUQUETS AND BOUTONNIERE

You will need your bouquet & boutonniere for your First Look. Have them delivered to the room where the bride is getting ready.

TRAVEL TIME

Be sure to think about the travel time and *traffic* to and from your getting ready location and your venue.

HAIR & MAKEUP

I encourage brides to have at least their makeup at least started before I show up, because who wants a ton of shots without their makeup on?!

GROOMSMEN PREP

I will shoot groomsmen getting ready while the bridesmaids are finishing up their makeup. If they are not in the same location, we'll need to plan for this travel time in the timeline.

TIMING TIPS

GETTING IN THE DRESS

I'll instruct you to get into your dress close to a window and it would be fabulous to have your bridesmaids dressed when you're getting in your gown! If you'd like to pray with your bridesmaids, this is a great time to do that.

CREATE A CUSHION

A 10-minute cushion every now and then is a great idea. It's amazing how fast time slips away the day of! This will relieve so much stress! Having down time is so much nicer than being stressed.



YOUR FIRST LOOK

Your first look is an amazing part of your wedding day. If you aren't sure about this tradition, the next few pages will explain why it would be a romantic addition to your wedding day celebration that not only adds to the experience but also reduces stress. Please know that I would never want any of our couples to feel pressured to go with this option. However, I do want to make sure that I share all of the benefits of a first look, because there is a reason most of my couples do this and love it.



THE
FIRST LOOK
explained

First looks are awesome, however, not everyone is aware of how wonderful they truly are, because they get caught up in how “non-traditional” it is and they immediately write it off. But, from my experience, first looks are becoming the new normal. While I will be happy to work with you to plan a timeline that works for you, there is good reason to plan a first look.

After experiencing my own wedding and shooting many others, I've come to this conclusion: some brides love “traditions” ... but what a bride *really* wants when it comes to her groom seeing her for the first time is a *reaction*. Those who are not interested in a First Look usually think that by seeing each other beforehand, they will lose part of that reaction. They also assume that it will not be as emotional or as intimate as it would be if they were coming down the aisle. What I have found (this is starting to sound like a research paper!) is so ironic. Everyone knows that wedding days are a bit stressful for the bride and groom. The whole day is focused on them, they need to look their best, they need to be on time, the groom has no idea what side the boutonniere is supposed to go on and little by little ... the tension grows.

Karis and I had a first look and it was a sweet, precious time to cherish one another before the busyness of the ceremony and reception. We were also able to enjoy the time before the ceremony together instead of apart.

It's before the ceremony and the gravity of what is about to happen starts to sink in and the calm, collected groom who was playing golf just a few short hours ago is now starting to feel a little anxious. So what happens next? The groom waits in a little room somewhere for his cue from the coordinator. It seems like it's taking *forever*. Finally, the coordinator leans her head in and hurries the groom to get ready. With clammy hands, the groom enters the ceremony and what does he find? He finds anywhere from 80-300 people and they're all looking where? Right at his face because everyone has expectations and anticipation about his first reaction. This is the farthest thing from a private, intimate moment. Sure, it's powerful and wonderful. It truly is one of the best moments of the entire wedding day! But when Karis walked down the aisle, I wasn't a nervous wreck because I had spent the morning with Karis and our best friends, and the pressure was *off*. By the time our ceremony rolled around we were ready to *enjoy* our beautiful day!

The nerves were gone and when the nerves are gone, true emotions are free to be expressed in a truly unhindered way. So if I were to condense what I just wrote: Basically, Grooms normally become incredibly nervous on wedding days ... even if they seem cool and collected.

For most grooms, the nerves kick in before they see their bride because when they see her, everything becomes *very* real! So when the nerves start creeping in, instead of keeping the groom in a secluded space until his time to enter the ceremony, what if you took him to a private place ... no people, no onlookers, no distractions ... and you let his beautiful bride, the love of his life, quietly call his name and have him turn around to see her for the first time. He would turn around and finally get his first look at his stunning bride and not only would he get to see her ... he could embrace her ... cry with her ... kiss her ... and *enjoy* that moment with her for as *long* as they wanted. As she shows him her dress, twirls a few times and then asks him what he thinks ... his nerves start to diminish. After all, she's the one who can make him most comfortable anyway.

Because they aren't in a time crunch, they casually move into their romantic portraits. No one is around, the coordinator isn't announcing "15 minutes left", and there is no pressure. It's just the two of them and their photographer ... capturing the excitement and the joy of their wedding day. This is their time to *together* ... and to be *alone*. When does that happen on a wedding day? Without a First Look, *it doesn't happen*. After their romantic portraits are done, they meet up with their best friends. Their bridal party joins them and because they still have plenty of time to spare, and the bride touches up a little makeup.

After a few minutes, the bridal party portraits begin and they're fun. They're fun, because there is time to make them fun. There aren't any guests waiting impatiently at the cocktail hour and there isn't a DJ coming to find the photographer to get a time check. It's wonderful!

The guests begin to arrive and the ushers are in place. Pretty soon it's time for the processional music to begin and one by one, the bridesmaids make their way down to the front of the ceremony. As the groom clasps his hands ... they aren't clasped out of nervousness but excitement. The music builds, the mother of the bride stands, and all of the guests follow her lead. The groom looks up, and here comes the *bride!* His best friend, his companion, his sweetheart, and she's absolutely stunning! The closer she gets, the bigger he smiles.

Now let me put a disclaimer on here before we continue ... my clients are not required to do a First Look by any means! However, I've seen the benefits of a First Look over and over again, and so I only share this because I want the *best* for my couples! It's totally ok if couples choose not to share a First Look! It's just my preference to do one for many reasons. Keep reading to find out more about the benefits of sharing your First Look privately. For brides not interested in a First Look, let's start chatting soon about how we'll create a special timeline to fit everything in and still keep the day free of chaos and stress!



40% MORE PORTRAITS & INSURANCE

You're investing a lot into your wedding photography. With a First Look, you'll receive 40% more portraits of the two of you and those are the images you will decorate your first home with! With a First Look, you make the most out of this large investment and get the most for your money. Also, a First Look serves as a type of insurance in the case of rain or storms! Imagine if you didn't do a First Look and a storm sets in during the ceremony? Your window of opportunity for beautiful portraits has passed. However, if you shared a First Look, you have already gotten a large majority of your portraits done!

ENJOY THE SURPRISE FREELY

You actually get to have intimate time on your wedding day with your man. Most brides don't realize that when you come down the aisle and totally *shock* him with your gorgeousness ... he can't even tell you how amazing you look. He can't touch you, embrace you or even *speak* to you. You have to wait until 30 minutes later when the ceremony is over for him to react and tell you how amazing you look. And after 30 minutes of the ceremony, the reaction isn't the same as the initial first glance.

EXTEND YOUR DAY BY 3 HOURS

First Looks allow you to extend your wedding day. Normally the wedding day would start when you come down the aisle, then the ceremony would end, you would rush through portraits so that you're not late for the introductions and then it's reception time. With a First Look, your wedding day is extended by almost 3 hours! Instead of being rushed for your bridal party portraits, you actually get to enjoy them and have fun hanging out with your best friends on your wedding day. The *whole* first half of my clients' wedding albums are filled with images just from this time together before the ceremony.

YOUR ONLY ALONE TIME

First Looks allow you to be together and alone on your wedding day. Normally portraits are a little rushed after the family formals, and it can be hard to really get back into that "lovey-dovey" mode ... especially with family around! When you have just shared your First Look, you're *ready* to love on each other, and I always capture some super sweet images during those moments!

FOR THE BRIDE

FIRST LOOK

EXPECTATIONS

Brides, if you have never seen your man cry or get emotional, you can't expect him to be overly emotional on your wedding day. Some guys just embrace their brides and never cry ... and that's okay. Some guys show very little emotion when their bride is coming down the aisle and that's okay too. Just enjoy this amazing day, and try not to put any expectations on him. If you take this advice to heart, I could potentially be saving you a lot of disappointment on your day. One thing I have noticed after shooting enough weddings is that the stress and nerves that come with a wedding day can sometimes make it hard for some grooms to truly express their emotions no matter what the timeline looks like. It's just a lot to take in all at once. This is a great reason to share a First Look and also a great reason to give some grace to your guy! Sure, you deserve to feel beautiful, but my encouragement to you is to enjoy this time together, no matter what his reaction is like!



The Daddy-Daughter FIRST LOOK

This is for all of the brides who have a sweet spot in their hearts for their dad. For a lot of Dads, this is when everything feels real and it hits him ... "My baby girl is getting *married!*" These are precious moments to photograph, and I highly encourage any Daddy's girl to make time in their timeline for this moment. It doesn't take long at all! The hardest part is making sure Dad shows up on time! If Dad doesn't show up on time, the whole timeline can get thrown off. I would recommend building this first look into the timeline and making sure Dad knows exactly where he needs to be and when. Another sweet idea we've seen is having the father of the bride escort the bride to her first look! That is what Karis' dad did, and the three of us have a sweet memory of him giving us his blessing for our wedding and marriage.

FAMILY FORMALS

A Sample List

I love meeting my couples' families on the wedding day! Family formals are normally my first interaction with them, so I love to have a game plan for this part of the day! As we work through your shot list in our planning meetings before the wedding, we can talk about and come up with a list of groupings you would like for family formals. Here is a sample family formal list to help you start preparing what shots you need. Family formals is one of the times that can really disrupt and push back your wedding timeline, so I'll need some help from you. This is the time I would ask two things of you: to communicate with your family members to be there at the specified time and to have someone be there to assist me with ensuring that we have all the photos you hope for.

B&G with Bride's Immediate Family

(Parents, Siblings, Grandparents, Nieces, Nephews) B&G with

Bride's Parents

B&G with Bride's Siblings

Bride with her Parents

Bride with Mom, Bride with Dad

B&G with Bride's Grandparents

B&G with both sets of Parents

B&G with Groom's Immediate Family

(Parents, Siblings, Grandparents, Nieces, Nephews) B&G with

Groom's Parents

B&G with Groom's Siblings

Groom with his Parents

Groom with Mom, Groom with Dad

B&G with Groom's Grandparents

B&G with all family members if time allows



TRUSTING PORTRAIT LOCATIONS

One of my favorite parts of my job is taking something so ordinary and making it look absolutely amazing. This happens most often when it comes to picking portrait locations. If there is one thing that I love and appreciate about my couples, it's that they trust me. Sometimes I select portrait locations that most people wouldn't consider attractive. Many locations I choose to use for portraits may not strike you as stunning, but that doesn't mean that there is something that would make it perfect for photos. Sometimes I just see one unique backdrop, or one small patch of light that I love; and that's all it takes for a beautiful portrait. What might be a great place to take pictures of a beautiful vista may not have suitable light for portrait. So, if I were to summarize, you can trust me even when a location doesn't seem beautiful at first, the photos you will get will amaze you. You don't have to worry about a thing! Trust my locations, and I promise you, you'll *love* the results.



IN CASE OF A
RAINY
WEDDING DAY

One of the most frequently asked questions that I receive during wedding season is, "Soooo, what do you do if it rains?" I want to reassure you that even if it rains, you will still have beautiful portraits and bright colors in your images. Overcast skies mean vibrant colors. I know that rain isn't ideal, and no bride would wish for rain on their big day, but if it happens, it happens ... and it's going to be just fine! Some of my best weddings have been on rainy wedding days. Here are a few things to remember:

1. All I need to create natural light portraits on a rainy wedding day is one porch or covering of some kind. Just one! It's amazing how much variety can be captured in one location when you're in a pinch.
2. Let me worry about the pictures. You have enough to think about. If there is a chance of rain, I'll be sure to do some extra scouting to find a covered location or two for me to use for your portraits. Many times on a rainy wedding day, we will adjust the timeline on the fly to make time for portraits when the radar shows a break in the drizzle.
3. Take it one step at a time. Don't think about your entire day and what will happen if it rains. That will only overwhelm you. Definitely have a rain plan for your venue, but then let your vendors do the work of handling the rest of the day if rain is in the forecast.



This was taken in the rain, and it is proof that the rain can't keep me from taking beautiful images. Don't let the fear of rain steal your joy. You can't control it, and I promise I will make the best of it!



RECEPTION TIPS

It's time to relax, dance and celebrate. Your reception should be a blast! The last thing you need to be worrying about is your timeline. Your coordinator and DJ should take care of making sure that everything stays on schedule so that you can enjoy your night. Here are some tips that will help your reception flow smoothly:

- GUEST CONSIDERATION: Take your guests into consideration when planning your timeline. If you have a lot of elderly guests that will not be staying until the very end, make sure you schedule the cake cutting and toasts at a relatively early time so that they can be a part of it. Grandmas love seeing these sweet traditions.
- KEEP IT MOVING: Chat with your coordinator about how you can plan your reception in a way that will keep guests engaged and moving all night.
- MAKE IT YOUR OWN: If you want to have a special dance with your grandparents or siblings, do it. Make your reception a reflection of who you are and don't feel tied to traditions. For example, Karis and I had line dancing that got everyone involved at our reception! Also, make sure you give your DJ or Band a "Do Not Play" list if there are some songs you really don't want to hear during your reception.
- DON'T GET CAUGHT UP in the formalities and the details. Sure, details are pretty and fun to photograph, but they can steal the joy of the day if you get too caught up in them. Plan your centerpieces, welcome table, etc., well before the wedding date, and teach your coordinator or family friend how to set them up so that you aren't even thinking about those things the day of.

ELISE AND JOSIAH AT
TOWNE ESTATE AND
VINEYARD

June 1, 2022



YOUR ONLINE GALLERY

Your online gallery will be a beautiful, accessible way to not only view your images but download them and share them as well. We want you to be able to save and share your images freely and without any hesitation and so there will not be any watermarks on your images and all of your images will be available to download in high resolution. You will receive a separate online gallery for your engagement session and your wedding day! On the next page, I've listed some important information that will help you understand your online gallery and all that it can do!

DOWNLOADING PHOTOS:

You will be able to download your edited images directly from your online gallery and they will be high resolution! This process is very simple: You can either click the “Download” option that you will find at the bottom of your gallery email or you can view your images in your gallery and download from there! When viewing your gallery, you will need to enter your name and email address initially to set up your account. Once your gallery opens, you will see a “Downwards Arrow Icon” at the top right of your screen. Clicking this button will allow you to see bulk downloading options for your photos! Once you select which folder you would like to download or if you want to download all of your images, you will receive an email in your inbox when the download is ready. It can take a few minutes to package hundreds of images to be downloaded. You can also download your images individually!

ACCESSING YOUR PHOTOS ON YOUR PHONE:

The online gallery system that I use will work on mobile devices as well! It’s simple and easy to download individual photos on your smart phone. We love this feature because it means that you have immediate access to all of your images when you’re on the go! Also, just so you know, your images will be downloaded in high resolution!

ORDERING PRINTS:

You can actually order professional and affordable prints from within your online gallery and have them shipped directly to your house! Print sizes range from 4x6 to 24x36 and are printed in a professional lab to ensure color and contrast accuracy! You are more than welcome to print images on your own. However, I would warn you to avoid Walmart, Target, Costco, etc. I cannot promise that your colors will print true-to-life if you choose to print from non-professional labs.

GALLERY EXPIRATION:

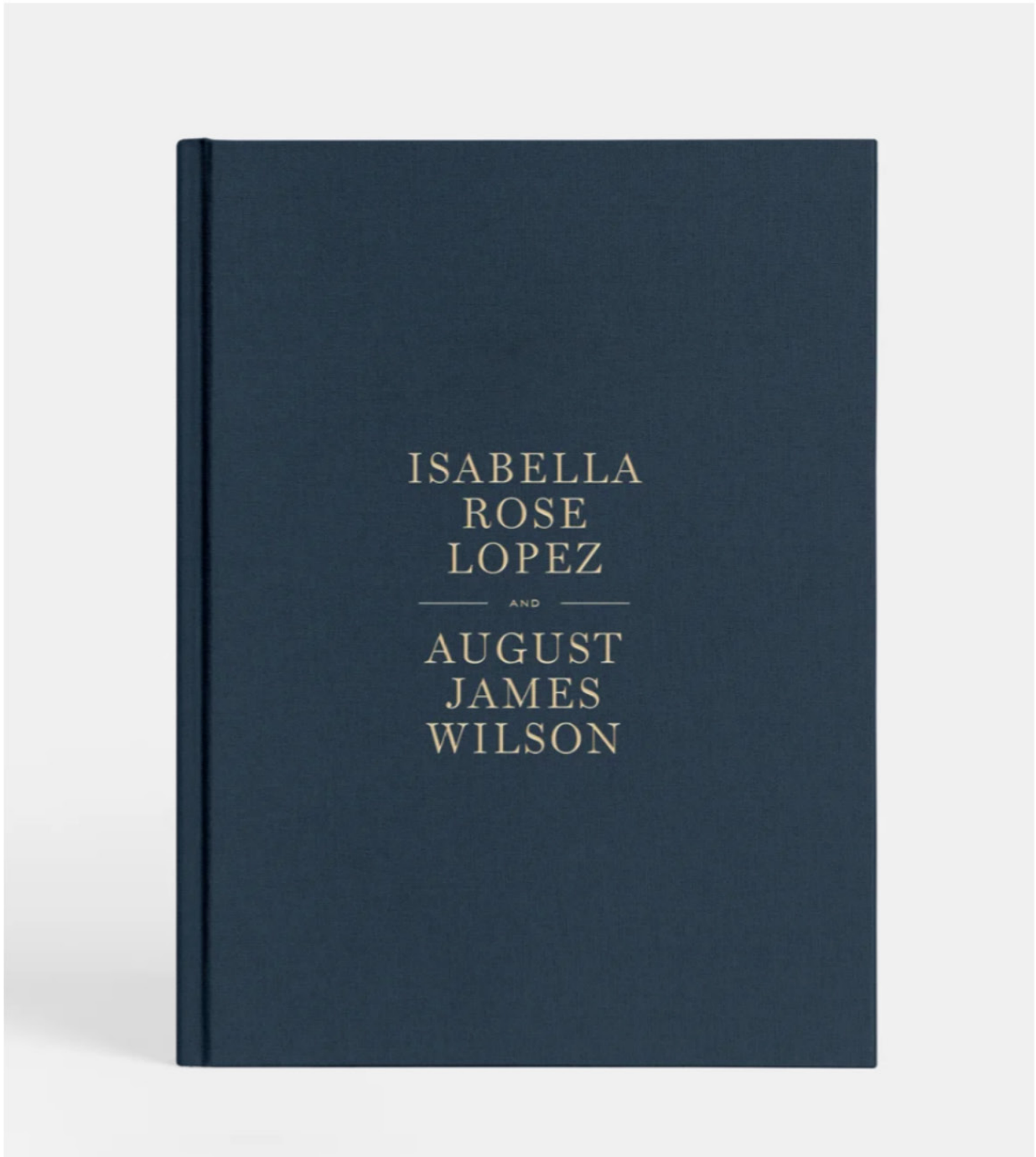
I have great news! Your gallery will be available for an entire year! I would still recommend downloading them and saving them in multiple places as soon as possible for safe keeping! The internet is amazing but it can also be unreliable. *Please* don’t use your online gallery as a way to permanently store your images. I recommend downloading and saving your images on a solid state, portable hard drive as a permanent backup while also using an online backup system like Backblaze.com for a secondary online backup. You could also count having your photos stored in the cloud with iCloud in your Photos app or in Google Photos.

SHARING, WATERMARKING & EDITING:

You have the freedom to share your images in any way that you choose! These are your images and I want you to love them so much that you can’t help but share them! We don’t believe that it is necessary to watermark our images. All I ask for is some type of credit whenever you use an image on social media! We only have *one* rule when it comes to what you can and cannot do with our work. We always encourage our clients to refrain from re-editing their images. Let me do that hard work!

WEDDING ALBUM

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NON-PROFESSIONAL PRINTS

How bad could it really be?



This is the original image that I edited and delivered to my couple. To the right, you'll see the most common print issues that clients experience when they choose to not print through their online gallery that I provide for them. We make sure to offer as many sizes as possible at the most affordable price so that our clients can have access to professional quality prints for the images that they invested so much in. Investing in high-end photography but ordering prints at Target is similar to wearing an evening gown to a date night at Taco Bell. It just doesn't make sense.

SAMPLE PRINTING ISSUES:

High contrast, over-saturation and de-saturation



Once your images have been delivered via your online gallery, you can begin ordering professional prints. Your prints will be printed in a professional lab and then shipped directly to you.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE

While my main role is to help you have a successful wedding day and to capture the day, I would personally like to encourage you to spend time in the season of engagement preparing for marriage just as much as you prepare for the wedding. Not only have I shot a lot of weddings, but I've also experienced marriage personally! We got married during COVID and had to scrap 98% of our plans, but we were thankful to have prepared for marriage, and we still had a *beautiful* wedding. Karis and I had some helpful resources recommended to us, and we leaned into others for help in preparing for marriage.

I want to share just a few recommendations and resources that helped Karis and I prepare for marriage.

1. Do premarital counseling. Seriously, it is so helpful to use the time before you get married to work through issues that can be harder to work through when you're married. It also just sets you up for realistic expectations going into marriage and helps you prepare for the challenges and blessings you may face! If you attend a church you may likely have premarital counseling available for free.
2. Spend time thinking about life beyond the wedding! Your wedding is just the start. It can be a lot of fun to spend time talking about how you want your married life to look!
3. Read books (or listen to them!) that help prepare you for marriage and help you think about the commitment you are about to make. Here are some helpful books my wife and I have read and recommend if you're looking for some.
 - a. The Meaning of Marriage by Timothy Keller
 - b. Before you Say "I Do" by H. Norman Wright and Wes Roberts
 - c. Intended for Pleasure by Ed and Gaye Wheat



THANK YOU

Last, but certainly not least, thank you for trusting me with your special day. I am so honored to be the one to capture your memories, and I cannot wait to celebrate alongside of you. Enjoy this season of planning but also remember that your *marriage* is more important than the wedding. The wedding will come and go in a matter of hours, but your marriage needs to stand the test of time. Continue to make time for one another even with all that needs to get done. As you continue to plan, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have along the way! Depending on your date, our next steps would be to finalize an engagement session and start planning your ideal shot list. I hope this guide has been helpful as you continue to plan and prepare for your wedding day!

Love, Bennett and Karis

