

LINDSAY MICHELLE TESTA *to* JAY HOWARD STEWART ~ MARCH 27, 2010

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Kindergarten teacher Lindsay Testa credits her classroom organization skills with helping her plan a perfect spring wedding to fiancé Jay Stewart. "I loved every second of the planning process," the bride says. Maybe that's because she was preparing to marry the man who almost wasn't her groom. Though the couple instantly connected when they met at a dinner out with friends, after a year of casually dating, when Jay wasn't ready to get serious, they called it quits. Two months later, after Lindsay lamented that no other guy could compare to Jay, her Mr. Right called to say he couldn't live without her, either. "It was a magical moment that I will never forget and truly one of the best nights of my life!" she says.

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But it couldn't have been better than the night of her wedding, which began with an interfaith ceremony in the Aspen Room of The Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa, where Lindsay, in a custom gown from Winnie Couture, exchanged rings from Zadok Jewelers with her groom. Lindsay's bridesmaids wore Priscilla of Boston, while Jay's groomsmen wore tuxedos from Al's Formal Wear.

After the intimate and emotional ceremony—overseen by a rabbi and a pastor, to honor the Jewish and Christian teachings the pair hold dear—guests made their way to a seated dinner in the hotel's Forest Ballroom. There they dined in an elegant space decorated in shades of champagne, cream and pink by Abraham Hakakian and his talented Plants 'n Petals team.

While the gourmet dinner, and divine cake by Susie's Cakes & Confections, stood out as high points of the wedding, it was the dancing that really wowed the crowd. From the newlyweds' first dance to Kenny Chesney's "Me & You"—"The words to this song describe our relationship perfectly," Lindsay notes—to guests' rocking out to the evening's live '80s band, "I have never seen so many people having so much fun," she says. The groom adds that one of his favorite wedding memories is dancing to "the best wedding band ever! Don't believe me? Ask all 250 guests!"

For other brides-to-be, Lindsay offers this sage advice: "Just have fun! Your wedding should be a celebration of your love for each other. Don't allow yourself to stress over the small stuff. Relax and enjoy the whole process ... all the way up to the wedding day!"