

Happily EVER AFTER

KATY SISTERS KELSEY AND KAILEY
MARRY BEST FRIENDS IN LAVISH CEREMONIES

Written by Tassie Hewitt | Photography by Nancy Aidae

KELSEY & JEFF SMITH



Kelsey and Kailey both wore their great-grandmother's wedding ring, as did their mom before them



Two hundred guests were sent custom invitations

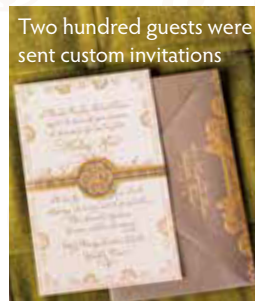
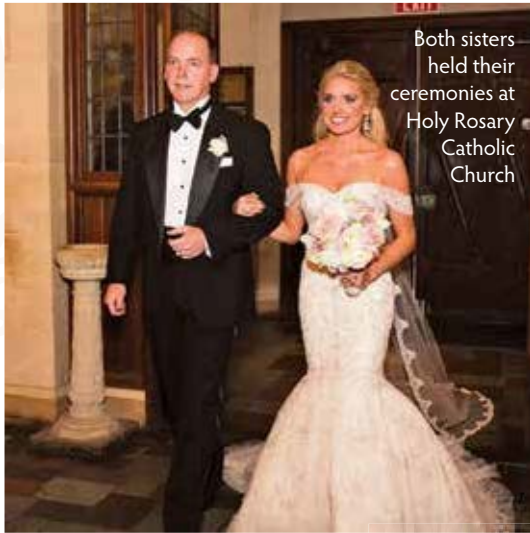


Table decor included large candelabras and cascading florals

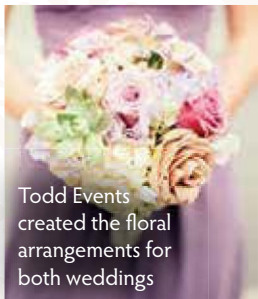


The reception was held at the Hotel ZaZa

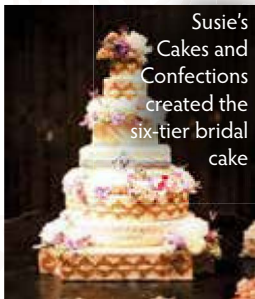
KAILEY & MIKE MCCOLLUM



Both sisters held their ceremonies at Holy Rosary Catholic Church



Todd Events created the floral arrangements for both weddings



Susie's Cakes and Confections created the six-tier bridal cake



Kailey's reception took place at The Corinthian in Houston



The Tissue family never expected a blind double date could lead to two of their daughters, Kelsey and Kailey, marrying best friends, making them brothers-in-law. In less than a year, they planned two glamorous weddings with intricate details celebrating their unique personalities.

A BLIND DATE

"It was all Jeff's idea," says Kelsey Tissue Smith, a graduate of Cinco Ranch High School. She was introduced to her future husband, Jeff Smith, by a mutual friend their second year of law school. Shortly after they started dating, Kelsey met Jeff's roommate and best friend, Mike McCollum. "Mike is a really sweet, caring, funny guy. Jeff saw pretty early on that Mike and my sister, Kailey, would click."

The two introduced Mike to Kailey when she came back into town from New York City where she was working in the fashion industry, and the four went on a double date.

"It was casual," says Kailey Tissue McCollum. "We went out to eat. Mike asked for my number. Every once in awhile we would text." When Kelsey and Jeff graduated from law school, the two met up again at the graduation. "Mike took me on our first date when I came back, and the rest was history."

THE PROPOSAL

Kailey suspected something was up when Jeff took her to Austin for the weekend. "I knew it was coming," she admits. "We had designed my ring together. We have a family



The beginning of a "savingful" relationship.

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jeweler whose dad actually sold my mom and dad their engagement ring."

"He took me to the top of Mt. Bonnell, overlooking Lake Travis at sunset," says Kelsey, who had no idea family members were hiding in the bushes videotaping and taking pictures of the big moment. "He proposed up there. We all went on to have dinner after that - they all surprised me."

A few months later, Mike popped the question to Kailey. "We knew early on in our relationship that we were meant to be together," says Kailey. "We couldn't wait to get married and start our life together." Even though the couple had discussed their future and gone ring shopping together at the same jeweler, Kailey had one request. "I told him I didn't want to know when it was going to be. I didn't want to know anything about it. I love surprises," says Kailey. "Please, just surprise me."

Mike did not disappoint her. After a regular date night of Mexican food and frozen yogurt, he drove Kailey downtown by Minute Maid Park. "I'm a huge Astros fan and I thought we were going to an Astros game," says Kailey. "He started walking really fast toward The Grove restaurant, and the light bulb went off. I knew what was going to happen."

"IT'S A GREAT FEELING KNOWING WE'VE ALL COME TOGETHER, AND NOW WE'RE FAMILY. WE'RE HAPPILY MARRIED, AND LOVING MARRIED LIFE."

- KAILEY MCCOLLUM

He proposed to her by a fountain, with siblings watching from the bushes, taking photos of the special moment. "That was a huge surprise," says Kailey. "Afterward, we all went inside The Grove and our whole family was there. It was so special that we got to celebrate with them."

DREAM WEDDINGS

With Kelsey setting her date for late September 2014, and Kailey planning her big day just months after, the Tissue family was soon knee deep in wedding bells. "We had to focus on mine first," says Kelsey. "Once mine was over, we all shifted and focused on Kailey."

"My mom is a pro, and she just powered through it," says Kailey, who asked her mother to sing "Ave Maria" at her wedding ceremony. "She literally planned every single detail for both of our weddings. It would not have been possible without her. Of course, dad was there to calm our nerves and tell us everything was going to work out."

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The girls united in their wedding planning, helped each other choose wedding dresses and venues, shared many of the same vendors, and found that although they shared the same taste in some things, they differed in others. “We both went over the top,” says Kelsey who chose a Monique Lhuillier, modified A-line gown that was fitted past her waist, covered with lace and beads, and flared with tulle at the bottom. “We both liked similar colors for bridesmaid dresses and the same types and colors of flowers.”

Both girls got married at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, surrounded by smoky grays, lavenders, and pinks, but chose different venues for their receptions. “For my wedding, I wanted something very extravagant,” says Kailey, who wore a handmade cathedral veil, and a Kenneth Pool mermaid style gown that was fitted to the knees and flared out at the bottom into a dramatic full train. “It was my dream to have a big, grand wedding, and The Corinthian was absolutely beautiful. It’s a huge two-story venue with a massive staircase. I always envisioned me being introduced and walking down a staircase.”

Kelsey chose the equally grand Hotel ZaZa for her reception, and found a way to make her dad, an avid Texas A&M fan, less disappointed about missing the game during her wedding. “My dad’s obsessed with Texas A&M. We knew he would be trying to watch the game all day,” says Kelsey, who arranged to have a TV at the ZaZa so the wedding party could watch the game while they were getting dressed. “I bought a lot of A&M things for the reception. I gave him a pair of Aggie socks to wear under his tux. It was a Saturday in September, but he could still feel like he was at the game, even though there was a wedding going on.”

UNFORGETTABLE DETAILS

Each sister had something new, a designer wedding gown, and something blue, a garter under her dress. “At Kelsey’s wedding, when her husband, Jeff, did the garter toss, Mike caught it,” explains Kailey, who adds that although the girls helped each other in planning their special days, they never considered a double wedding. “When I wore it at my wedding and Mike did the garter toss, Kelsey caught it.”

They teamed together again to honor a special family tradition for the something old and borrowed part of the ceremony. “I wore my great-grandmother’s engagement ring,” says Kelsey. “My mom wore it for her wedding, and Kailey wore it, also.”

The months of planning, attention to detail, and combined talents of the Tissue family, resulted in two equally beautiful, unforgettable wedding days.

BETTER AND BETTER

“The whole day was just awesome,” says Kelsey. “From the moment all the girls arrived at Hotel ZaZa and started

getting ready, it was the best day. It just kept getting better and better and better.”

“That whole entire day was the happiest I have ever been in my entire life,” says Kailey about her own wedding. Although the first dates, surprise proposals, and hectic planning of the Tissue weddings may be behind them, the special love story of two sisters who met two best friends continues happily ever after. “It’s an even bigger, happier family, now,” says Kelsey.

“The best part is that we’re all so close,” says Kailey. “It’s fun for the guys because now not only are they best friends, they’re brothers-in-law. It’s a great feeling knowing we’ve all come together and now we’re family. We’re happily married, and loving married life.” **KM**

TASSIE HEWITT is a freelance writer who loves planning a good wedding, or two, and cries every time her daughter tries on a veil.

IT'S IN THE Details

Kelsey

WEDDING DATE
September 27, 2014

ENGAGEMENT
7 months

CEREMONY
Holy Rosary Catholic Church

RECEPTION
Hotel ZaZa

NUMBER OF GUESTS
200

BRIDAL GOWN
Monique Lhuillier

CAKE
Susie's Cakes & Confections

BAND
Time Machine Band

FIRST DANCE SONG
“All Through the Night”

Kailey

WEDDING DATE
May 23, 2015

ENGAGEMENT
12 months

CEREMONY
Holy Rosary Catholic Church

RECEPTION
The Corinthian

NUMBER OF GUESTS
185

BRIDAL GOWN
Kenneth Pool

CAKE
Sam Major - Corinthian

BAND
China Town

FIRST DANCE SONG
“Tough Enough”



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