

THE  
WEDDING  
EXPERIENCE





# welcome!

Hello and welcome! I am so excited for you both as you embark on this exciting new adventure. Even the most organized and detail-oriented couples can sometimes feel overwhelmed by the process of wedding planning, so I am here to help simplify things!

I have taken my years of wedding experience and education and condensed it into an easy to digest wedding guide which you are now holding! By taking the time to read through the guide and apply what you learn, we can create the best wedding experience possible and set ourselves up for beautiful wedding portraits that tell your story for years to come.

Hugs,

Paige

# getting to know us

We're Paige and Dave, husband and wife team and parents to the sweetest little guy, Beau! We are high school sweethearts who got married at just 20 years young, and remain best friends to this day. Most days you'll find me hanging out in the kitchen cooking up a new recipe, or organizing a random closet in our home. I love to-do lists, coffee and spending my days chasing after Beau! Dave is my balance and my rock. He keeps things fun and light, and reminds me to kick my feet up every now and then. When he's not working along side me, or making Beau laugh, you'll find him hunting!





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THE CELEBRATION OF YOUR UNION IS REQUESTED BY  
CHRISTOPHER & MORGAN GREEN AND BETH TAYLOR  
AT THE WEDDING OF

**EMMA ELIZABETH**  
&  
**RYAN TAYLOR**

SATURDAY, THE SEVENTEENTH OF JULY  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY ONE  
AT HALF PAST FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

THE HADSON CLUB  
MADISON, WISCONSIN

COCKTAILS, DINNER, AND DANCING TO FOLLOW

PLEASE RSVP BY JUNE 17TH, 2021 AT  
EMMAANDRYAN2021.MINTED.EN







# YOUR ENGAGEMENT SESSION

## *why*

The reason we include an engagement session as a part of the experience is because we believe it sets us up for an even more positive relationship with one another. During your engagement session you'll have the opportunity to get to know us, experience how we shoot and how we handle posing and lighting. This session will make a lasting impact on the flow of your wedding day as well. It gives me insight on how you interact, what your best poses are and how to photograph you in the most genuine way. It also allows the two of you an opportunity to practice and build confidence in front of the camera!

## *when*

Your engagement session can be scheduled anytime before your wedding day. I recommend 3-6 months in advance. Since our weekends are dedicated to weddings, engagement sessions are shot on weekday evenings typically between 5-7pm depending on the light and time of year. If your session takes place in the winter, 3-5pm is a normal timeframe!

## *where*

When planning for your session, I encourage you to brainstorm location ideas. I love it when couples pick a location that is sentimental or special to them in some way. If you don't have anywhere in mind, I am happy to help! As long as the lighting is great, we can work with a variety of locations. I've photographed couples on beaches, at parks, coffee shops, alleyways, you name it! The more creative, the better. Keep reading to learn more about outfit ideas and inspiration!

# what to wear

We recommend a maximum of 2 outfits for your engagement session to ensure that we have plenty of time to capture both looks before sunset!

Opt for a formal outfit and a more casual one, so that you have plenty of variety to choose from later!

The goal is COORDINATING outfits instead of MATCHING! We also recommend avoiding BOTH of you wearing white as a top. White doesn't allow for any contrast in your images.

- Neutrals such as blush, tans, link pinks, faint blues and teals, creams, grays and whites will create a timeless look. These colors photograph softer and more romantically!

- Guys, we recommend that you avoid patterns that are smaller than a dime! These small patterns can create strange visual effects in a digital camera. Close-toed shoes photograph well, and we recommend avoiding graphic tees and tennis shoes!

- Gals, we recommend that you wear something that flatters the parts of you that you love the most and also allows you to be extremely confident! If you are uncomfortable when you look in the mirror (having to suck in and only like the way you look from one angle), then that probably isn't the best outfit choice for you. We want you to be really confident in your outfit, because we know that you will love your portraits so much more if you're not worrying about how your clothes fit! If you're really looking for a soft, feminine look, I recommend a flowing, maxi-length dress or skirt! The movement of this type of fabric photographs beautifully!



*outfit inspiration*



# ENGAGEMENT SESSION

approximate start times



*winter*

DECEMBER-MARCH  
3-5PM

*summer*

JUNE-AUGUST  
6:30-8:30PM

*spring*

APRIL-MAY  
VARIES

*autumn*

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER  
VARIES

A couple is shown in profile, kissing on a wooden dock. The man is on the left, wearing a dark jacket and pants, and the woman is on the right, wearing a white jacket and dark pants. They are standing on a wooden pier that extends into a body of water. The background shows a calm lake and distant hills under a soft, overcast sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area in the center of the image.

# LOGISTICS

Engagement sessions are photographed on weekdays, since weekends are dedicated to weddings.

I recommend a maximum of two locations for engagement sessions.

I can do sunrise sessions if necessary! I recommend this if you want to shoot along lake Michigan or at a crowded location such as the Madison Capitol.





# preparing your partner

I understand that sometimes both partners are not equally as excited about having their photo taken. If this is you, read on!

Many of my couples arrive anxious and nervous for their session but leave saying things like "that was actually really fun!" which means I've done my job well. Remember, your engagement session is a fun and relaxing experience that helps kick off all the excitement still to come. If your partner is NOT feeling excited here are a few tips to help prepare:

- Sit down together and scroll through some of my previous engagement sessions. This will help to gauge expectations!
- Give yourselves ample driving time to arrive at your shoot. Being on time or even early, tends to reduce any arguments in the car, and keeps everyone feeling more calm ahead of time.
- Be patient with your partner and don't assume the worst. You may surprise yourself with how much you really enjoy the experience!



YOUR  
WEDDING  
DAY



# sample timeline



## DETAILS 1PM-1:45PM

Details are an important part of your wedding day story and are often one of the first things we forget about. We like to include shoes, cufflinks, perfume, invitations, jewelry, ties, etc...but more on that later!

## GETTING READY 1:45-2:15PM

Here comes the big moment of slipping on your dress or suit jacket. I recommend that parents and wedding party members are fully dressed at this time to ensure everyone looks their best in these images. After, we will have time for portraits as well!



## FIRST LOOK 2:30PM

This is one of our favorite parts of a wedding day. Upon our arrival, we will locate the perfect spot for you to share this incredible moment. It can be as private or public as you would like!



## PORTRAITS 2:45-3:15 PM

After taking the time to enjoy your first look, we will roll right into some romantic portraits of just the two of you while all the excitement and emotions are still running high. Once again, I will locate the perfect spot for these, based on the LIGHT!

## BRIDAL PARTY 3:20-3:50PM

Here I will make sure to snap large group photos as well as individual pictures with your wedding party members. We always buffer in a little extra time here for fun shots and any hold ups. Afterwards, you will have time to reset and recharge in private before your guests arrive.



## CEREMONY 4:00PM

Typical ceremonies last 30 minutes, however if yours is longer we will make adjustments to your timeline! When planning for a winter ceremony, remember the early sunset time. If you do NOT wish to have a first look, you'll need to opt for an earlier ceremony to allow enough time for portraits in natural light.

# sample timeline cont'd



## FAMILY FORMALS 4:30-5PM

I recommend planning family formals AFTER the ceremony to ensure everyone is present. David and I will call off members by name to have this process run smooth and quick! Then you'll send everyone off to cocktail hour happy!

## RECEPTION 5:30PM

After wrapping up your formals, we will snag a few more wedding party portraits and then head inside to begin capturing your reception details. This gives you time to relax as a couple, or head to your cocktail hour/reception!



## SUNSET PORTRAITS

This time will vary by season, but it's great to sneak away 20 minutes prior to sunset for some romantic portraits just the two of you. This usually happens during dinner and your guests don't even realize it!

## CONTROLLED EXIT 8:30 PM

I include 8 hours of coverage so that I can be present for the main events of the reception and about an hour of dancing. If you are interested in having your exit photographed, you can either add additional coverage OR plan a controlled exit with your wedding party! Let me know if this is something you're interested in learning more about.



*approximate times:*

DETAILS AND PREP: 1.5 HOURS

FIRST LOOK AND PORTRAITS: 30- 40 MINUTES

BRIDAL PARTY 30-40 MINUTES

FAMILY FORMALS: 30 MINUTES

EXTRA PORTRAITS: AS MUCH TIME AS YOU'LL GIVE ME!





# SEASONAL TIPS



## winter

These weddings are gorgeous with some additional planning. The sun sets around 4pm which means all portraits must be done before then. For this reason I recommend a late afternoon wedding.

## spring

Spring provides the perfect temperature, and if we're lucky, blooms as well! I recommend keeping allergy medicine on hand in case of a flare up during portrait time.

## summer

Summer weddings provide so much daylight! Since the sun won't set until 8pm or so, I highly recommend sneaking out for some romantic sunset portraits.

## autumn

Fall weddings are my most popular! Trees change at different times each year, so the best way to ensure colorful portraits is in your bouquet and bridal party attire! The sunset time also changes in this season, so we will be sure to plan your timeline together.



PRE-CEREMONY

# getting ready

The morning of your wedding day should be as relaxing as possible. If there are still items on your to do list, it's time to hand them off to someone else.

Delegation is a key part of a stress free wedding day. I understand this can be hard to let go of, but having a relaxing morning is so important. The rest of your day will likely be fast paced and highly emotional, so take advantage of the down time. When preparing for this part of the day, there are a few things I would like you to consider. A first look, an exchange of gifts or letters, and who you would like to help get you ready!

A first look can be shared with your future spouse, a parent, grandparent, or anyone special to you! If you plan to exchange gifts or love letters, consider who will deliver those items and whether or not you'd like that photographed. Lastly, every one is different about getting ready. Some people would prefer it to be an intimate moment with just one or two close people, and others consider inviting parents, grandparents, aunts, godparents, siblings, you name it! There is no right or wrong choice here. Either way, we will save your jewelry for very last, so we can get some elegant shots of you putting the finishing touches on.



## WHAT TO INCLUDE BEFORE WE ARRIVE

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dress  
veil /hair piece  
all three rings  
shoes  
bouquet  
loose florals (you can request these from your florist ahead of time)  
boutonniere  
jewelry  
perfume  
invitation suite  
borrowed and blue

## THE TIMING

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### *hair and makeup*

Bridal makeup should be finished before getting ready portraits.

### *dress and jewelry*

Save this for last, I will look for a natural light location to do this in.

### *bouquets and boutonnieres*

Have these ready for your first look!

### *veil*

You may opt to wait until after the first look, and save it for the ceremony. This gives you a little variety in your photos and still saves something special for the ceremony.

It is wise to give yourself a 20 minute cushion to account for any mishaps!

# DETAILS & TIMING





# the first look

## MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

If your partner is not very emotional, or does not show emotions easily, don't expect that to change on your wedding day. Often times, we get caught up in the fairytale vision of our partner bursting into tears at the sight of us. While that happens for some, it is not a guaranteed experience for all. Some partners just embrace one another without ever shedding a tear, and that is equally as beautiful. What I have also learned in my years of wedding photography, is that sometimes the overall stress and nerves of a wedding day can make it hard for couples to express their emotions. The ceremony can be a lot to take in all at once, and in front of an entire audience. This is a great reason to share a first look. It allows you both to embrace one another in a more intimate setting and can also calm some pre-wedding jitters. Regardless of what you choose, remember to ENJOY one another no matter how the other reacts to seeing you.

First looks can also be shared with someone other than your partner. A parent, grandparent, or close sibling may also enjoy sharing this special moment with you.



Suesanna



# the ceremony

## TIPS FOR A BETTER EXPERIENCE

### lighting

Ceremony lighting is most often overlooked, but so incredibly important. If you are planning for an outdoor ceremony, I suggest beginning 2 hours prior to sunset to avoid any harsh light or squinting. If you are NOT planning for a first look, you'll want to plan your ceremony for 3 hours prior to sunset to allow ample portrait time after. For an indoor ceremony, look for soft even lighting all across. Often times, couples are in a spotlight, which makes wide bridal party shots uneven.

### programs and details

Prior to ordering your programs, have multiple people spell check them! That way, there are no errors, and when they are photographed and preserved in your final gallery you can rest easy knowing everything was perfect. I'm also going to let you in on a money saving secret, not every guest needs a program! Most families will only take one, and couples are left with tons of wasted paper. Programs and ceremony decor can be planned by you in advance, but then delegated to someone else the day of. The last thing you need to do before your wedding is run around and make sure floral arrangements are in place.

### coordination

Hiring an event planner or a day of coordinator is a life saver. Often times, if someone is not responsible for this, the task falls on a bridesmaid or a mother, which takes away from the ability for you to enjoy the day together. I would say that the majority of stressful wedding situations I've witnessed could have been avoided by having a coordinator in place!

FAMILY  
*formals*

# HELPING THEM RUN SMOOTHLY

I love meeting your families on the wedding day! To help things run as smoothly as possible, we've developed a system that is efficient and allows your guests to head off to cocktail hour in no time! Prior to your wedding day I will ask for a family formal list. This keeps us organized, and allows everyone to be on the same page! In addition to the list, here are a few things to help:

- Consider your group wisely. If you plan to gift or print these family portraits, they are likely worth including in your shot list. If you just want to make sure to have a picture with all of your old kindergarten pals before the night is over, this is something we can accomplish at the reception! Formals should be reserved for immediately family, and close extended members.
- Communicate with family members AHEAD of time if they will be in the photos. Sometimes extended members are unsure if they will be included, so its so helpful to get everyone on the right page ahead of time.
- Organize your list by family side and order them from largest grouping to smallest. That way, if your great Uncle Jerry is only in one large cousin photo, he's not sticking around the entire time!
- Ask whomever is marrying you to announce when and where family formals will be taken before dismissing your guests. This is a great reminder for people to get where they are supposed to be.



# romantic portraits

While all of your wedding day images are important, chances are the photos you'll gush over the most are your romantic portraits. I'll be honest and say I'm biased towards these, because I LOVE love! These portraits of just the two of you are likely the ones you will have printed by your bedside or framed on your walls. They will also be the images that fill your heirloom album for generations to enjoy. These are often the sweetest and most beautiful images of the day! For this brief moment, the two of you get to be together, looking your best, relishing in all the emotions and wonder of your special day. It's the perfect opportunity to love on one another, connect, and relax before the party really begins. Romantic portraits are often shot after the ceremony, some time before the sun sets. I will be sure to walk you through this when creating your timeline, as it can change drastically by season! The best advice I can give you for these is to leave finding the perfect location up to me. I am trained to understand light and composition, and sometimes the tree or brick wall that you thought would make the perfect backdrop, just isn't in the right light. Be open and flexible to spots you hadn't considered, and I will be sure to find the best possible scenario for your portraits!

# IN THE CASE OF RAIN...

Don't panic! This happens. Try as we might, we cannot control the weather and stressing about it only steals you of your joy. I have shot countless rainy weddings, and they still turn out beautiful. In the event of rain here are a few things you should know:

We always arrive on site with plenty of clear umbrellas for you and your bridal party.

All of our gear has it's own rain protection too, so we will be able to shoot in the rain if you wish!

All we need to create natural light portraits is just ONE porch or awning!

If needed, I will make suggested changes to your timeline to allow us to capture portraits when the rain holds off. We have multiple apps to help us monitor when this time is, so no need for you to worry, we'll be watching!





# RECEPTION

*details and tips*





## *guest consideration*

Think about your guests when planning your timeline. If you have a lot of elderly guests, you may want to consider cutting your cake immediately after your grand entrance so they don't miss it! Grandmas love this sweet tradition!

## *keep it moving*

Chat with your coordinator or DJ about ways to keep things going throughout the night. Special group dances? Fun games? A photo with every table? The list goes on!

## *make it your own*

There's no need to get tied up in tradition if you don't want to! At our wedding, my mom and I had a choreographed a mother daughter dance and half way through my brothers joined in for a mini flash mob! It was a blast and our guests still talk about it. P.S. If you are planning something like this, make sure to let your videographer and I know ahead of time so we are ready!

## *delegate*

Reception details are pretty and fun to photograph, but if YOU are worrying about them on your wedding day, they will likely steal your joy! Plan your decor before the wedding and make sure to delegate the task of putting it all out to someone else!

## *coverage*

I recommend planning your timeline so that you have one hour of dancing coverage. That's enough to get you through first dances, and a few fun shots of guests. Anything more than that, and it can get a little redundant!

# controlled exits

If your coverage ends before your exit, you have the option of planning a faux exit with your bridal party and a few close family members! This is far more common than you may think, and it allows the party to keep on going! In most cases nobody even notices that you're gone for a few minutes. It's almost impossible to tell in photos that your entire guest list isn't there sending you off with sparklers, bubbles, or whatever else you may have dreamed of! This is an excellent way to save costs as well, while still having a beautiful and less chaotic "grand exit" that you're dreaming of!



# LEGACY ALBUMS

*your first family heirloom*

If our house was on fire, David and I would grab Beau, the pups and our photos. Could we reprint photos? Sure. However there is something so special about creating your first family heirloom. Having digital images is wonderful and convenient, but nothing compares the feeling of cracking open your wedding album on your anniversary, favorite drinks in hand, and reliving your wedding day. It's something you will cherish for generations. These also make wonderful Christmas gifts for parents and grandparents as well, who may not be as tech savvy as you!

Interested in learning more? We can schedule a virtual meeting to discuss options!



ONLINE  
*gallery*

## *downloading*

You can download high resolution images directly from your gallery. These are large files that take up a bit of space so I recommend downloading them to a USB or external hard drive. All you have to do is click the downward arrow and you'll have the option to save a single photo, a set, or the entire gallery! There is a short video tutorial that will walk you through this. Keep in mind that any guests with the download pin will be able to download your images. Please be sure to download and save your images in multiple places. Your gallery will remain up for a calendar year, but technology isn't perfect so it's wise to have multiple copies.

## *ordering prints*

Ordering professional prints has never been more simple. I check all print orders before sending them to the lab, and then they are shipped directly to your door with a guarantee for color and consistency. You are welcome to print your photos elsewhere, but I do warn against 1 hour print labs, as they have been known to distort the color and consistency.

## *sharing and editing*

You have the freedom to share your images in any way that you choose. These are yours to enjoy and I want you to love them so much that you cannot help but share them! I do not watermark my images, but I so appreciate when you credit me on social media! My only rule is that you do not re-edit the images, Let me take care of that! Please do not add filters or change your images in any way, The exception to this rule is the forced crop on Instagram.

# Thank you!

I am so excited for your big day! Thank you so much for trusting me with this very special milestone. I cannot wait to celebrate alongside you! Please remember to enjoy this season of engagement and planning, but above all else, remember that your marriage is far more important than your wedding. If you have any questions at all throughout the planning process, I am here as a resource to you! Don't be shy to reach out!



love,  
Paige





HAPPY  
19 e WISCONSIN e 50