

LOOK FOR THE LIGHT PHOTO & VIDEO

THE STRESS FREE

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# WEDDING

PLANNING GUIDE



CREATE A DAY THAT'S ALL ABOUT  
WHAT MATTERS MOST



**YOU DESERVE  
TO A WEDDING  
THAT'S  
BEAUTIFUL.  
AND YOU  
SHOULD ENJOY  
IT WHILE  
YOU'RE IN IT.**

*It's so easy to get caught up in the stress and little details that come with planning a wedding- especially one that takes place during a time when the world is a little crazier than usual.*

*I'm Celine. I'm a wedding photographer & videographer located in Knoxville, Tennessee, and I've seen a lot of weddings in my day- ones that have gone smoothly, where the bride and groom are relaxed, in love and present with their friends and family.*

*I've also seen ones where they didn't have the best experience. I created this guide so that my brides could have the best experience, and I thought I'd share it with the world.*

**HEY THERE, I'M CELINE**

*& I'm obsessed with capturing couples.*

I capture irreplaceable memories for couples who want their story told in a candid, emotional and adventurous way.

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# First off, Congrats!

I'm so excited for you.

I know how fun this time of your life is- full of showing off that ring, dreaming up a future with someone who loves you, and stocking up those pinterest boards with all your favorite ideas.

I also know how stressful this time of your life is- full of worries, doubts, insecurities, and wanting to make this day meaningful & beautiful.

I wanted to pass on some of the best advice I've ever heard:

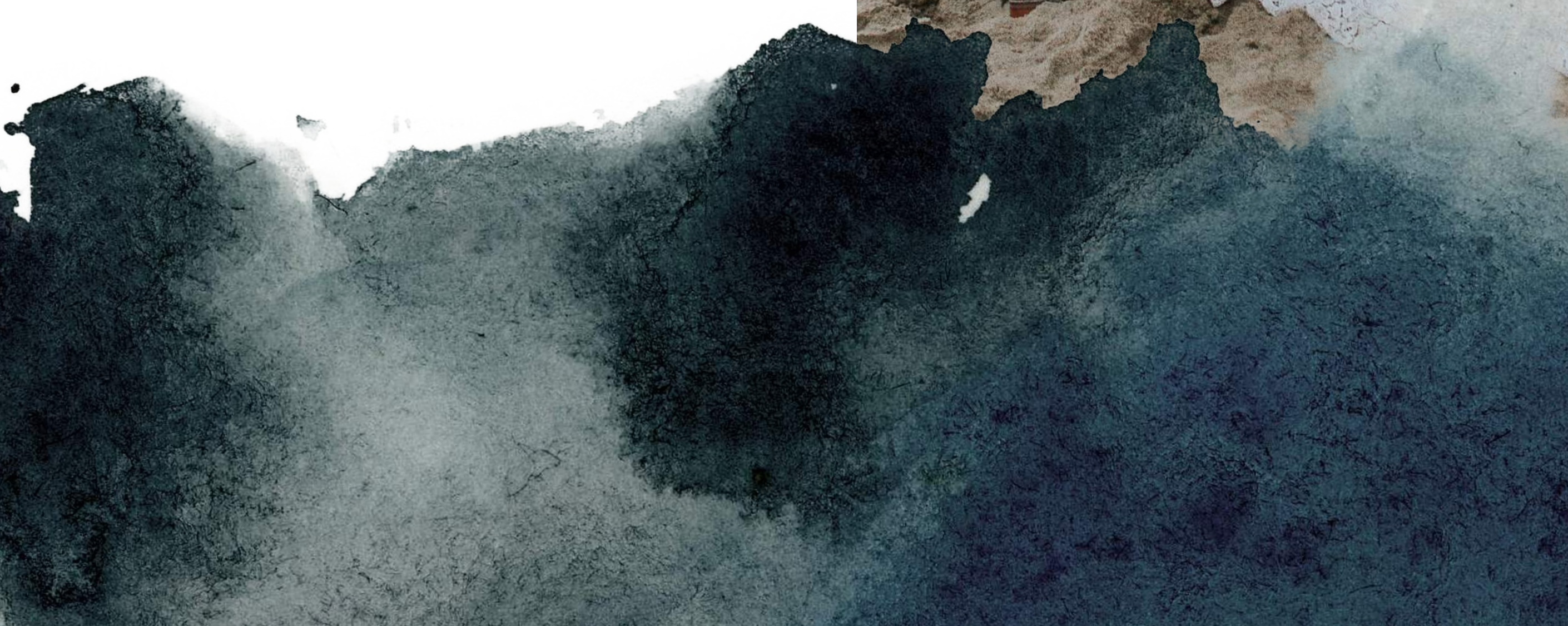
**PICK THREE THINGS THAT YOU CARE ABOUT,  
AND THEN JUST LET EVERYTHING ELSE FALL INTO  
PLACE WHERE IT NEEDS TO.**

What does that mean?

Think of three things that you want to really care about- the dress, the ring, the photography, the cake, the venue, etc. Fight for those. Put your budget on THOSE.

And then get crafty and chill about everything else. If your venue is important to you, you might have a little less room in the budget for a 5 course meal. But if photography is important to you, invest in that (I mean, it lasts forever right!) and then pick someone who is going to take care of your memories and give them back to you in a beautiful way. (Ahem, hi!)

Doing this means that you can let things go and if there isn't something that's perfect, it's not the end of the world. You have your three things!





## let's start with the basics.



Now that you've picked out what's important, it's time to figure out what kind of wedding you want to hold.

Let's start off with the SIZE.

That's a big one.

Do you want to elope in Europe and then throw a simple party later on?

(One of my favorite destinations to photograph in!)

Do you want to have an intimate ceremony in a National Park?

Do you want to have a big wedding in a fancy venue where you dance all night with all of your best friends?

All of these are awesome options and give you COMPLETELY different experiences. It just depends on what's important to the two of you and what you imagine will be the best way to celebrate.

Keep this in mind:

IT'S YOUR DAY.

No one else gets to dictate how you get to feel or celebrate. Every wedding is special, and you can make it so personal in the way that you get married. If you need ideas, I'm always just a phone call away.

Let's talk venue.

This one is probably the most important to figure out, because that's what sets the tone for your decor, color schemes, and whether you'll need a lot of stuff to decorate or if it comes with the venue. Work on that one first.

The biggest question that comes to mind is "How do I want to feel in this venue?" Are you gonna be dancing all night? Do you just want to feel intimate and close?

Ideas I think are so fun:

Rent out a space in a state park. They're usually so gorgeous and 100 bucks or less. Bring in tables & chairs and make it stunning.


Rent out a GIANT beach house for a week, invite all your family and friends, get married on the beach and then party it up!

Pick a color scheme & style.

Pin a BUNCH of stuff that draws your eye, and ask yourself what colors and style you are drawn towards. Then break it down and see what it is you like by category (cakes, flowers, etc.)

Be realistic about pricing.

Get those big ticket items first and INVEST in the ones that matter to you, and then try to figure out ways to save money in other places. (DIY bouquets, renting your dress, having a more intimate guest list, etc)





THE WEDDING OF

&

DATE:

VENUE:

COLORS:

3 THINGS THAT  
ARE IMPORTANT  
TO ME:

PHOTOGRAPHER:

AT MY WEDDING, I  
WANT MY GUESTS TO  
FEEL:

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I WANT MY VENUE  
TO LOOK LIKE:

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THE EVENTS AT THE  
WEDDING THAT ARE  
THE MOST  
IMPORTANT TO ME:

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MEMORIES AT THE  
WEDDING I WANT  
CAPTURED THAT I'LL  
NEVER GET BACK

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WHEN I THINK OF  
MY WEDDING DAY, I  
SEE:

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# engagement session tips

Engagement Sessions are such a fun way to showcase your romance before your wedding date, and get comfortable and relaxed with me when I've got a camera pointed at ya. Usually we'll plan a consultation that revolves around what's unique about you guys and what adventure you'd like to go on. Then, we'll stock up on road trip snacks, drive to some of the most beautiful locations in the world, and spend a couple of hours exploring and capturing YOU. Here are my favorite tips:

Don't feel like it's gonna be awkward. I'm right there with you, getting you laughing, moving, and posing. I'll make sure you'll have all the flattering angles to make you feel beautiful. We're going to be blasting music and wandering around some epic places, so get ready! You're going to be using these images forever: Save the dates, wedding invitations, custom guestbook albums, and you can even order some gorgeous prints that you can display on your wedding day and on tables.

Having your hair or makeup done is never necessary, but if you want to feel confident and want to do a fun trial run for your wedding day, I feel like these give the images such an extra pop, and you're smiling a little bit bigger because you feel as gorgeous as you truly are!

# outfit ideas

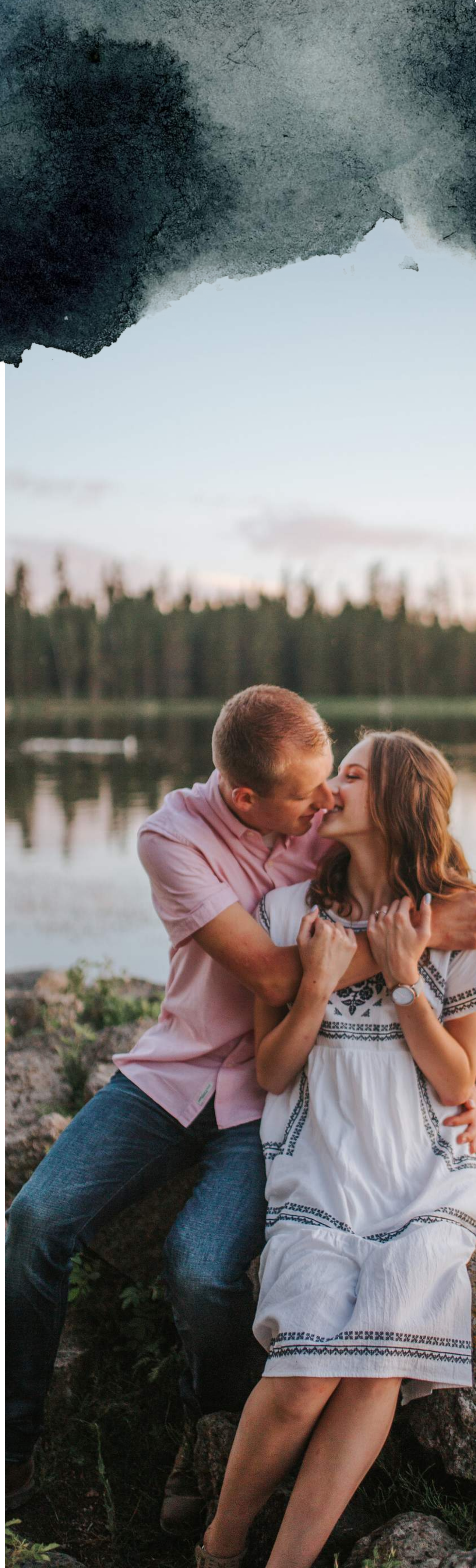
Choose outfits that you feel confident and comfortable in. I would recommend bringing at least two outfits: one more formal and one that is more casual. When you're in your casual outfit, we'll do more fun poses and do more adventurous locations (things you can get wet in or dirty in) with formal outfit, I'd recommend having more of a flowy dress or something that can move when I'm posing you.

I recommend looking at your wedding color scheme and choosing colors from that. It makes them look so complimentary with your save the dates and at the reception. For example, a navy shirt or a maroon dress.

To keep your images looking timeless, avoid wearing brand names, logos, or trendy patterns. Avoid neon, because it can make your skin have a different color cast. If one of you is wearing a pattern, I'd recommend having the other wear a solid color so that there isn't clashing.

Make sure that the colors you two wear are complimentary. Wear comfortable shoes. You're welcome to bring a pair of shoes that are fancy, but I tend to have my clients out and exploring.

Remember that there might be limited places to change outfits if we're in a remote location.





**CREATE A DAY**

*full of emotion*



# BEST TIPS & TRICKS FOR BEING PRESENT

I know, I know. I should have warned you. This is NOT a wedding planning guide about superficial stuff like finding the most amazing bouquet combinations or how to get a venue for cheap. For me, when I work with my brides, I want them to have the best day ever. And I've seen budgets of all shapes and sizes. The things I'm writing about are things that matter no matter the size of your day.

*Let's get real.*

This day is one that you've probably thought about for the majority of your life- getting stuck with the love of your life in front of your family and friends, and then celebrating with them.

I have had SO much fun on the dance floor with some of my brides, getting down while everyone screamed their favorite lyrics. I have had tears streaming down my face while one of my brides danced with her father, who was losing a battle to an illness. I have laughed, cried, danced and been overjoyed. Weddings are such an emotional event.

if you can do this right, you're going to be fully present for your wedding. You're going to intentionally create moments for yourself where you can take in your wedding day and feel all those beautiful feelings, INSTEAD of stress and frustration because things aren't going as planned. (Hint: THEY WON'T!)

Here's my tips:

1. Give your schedule some breathing room. Things are going to run late. Sometimes the catering won't be there when expected. Sometimes you need a minute to breathe when surrounded by family and friends. However, have a timeline and stick to it. Make sure it's out for everyone to see, and that your photographer is aware of it so that they don't miss a moment.
2. Plan moments that are emotional. Whether that's writing a letter to your fiance and reading them, giving gifts to your bridesmaids, having breakfast together before you get ready, or a moment where your grandmother helps you into your dress- those moments are going to DEFINE your day.
3. Plan time to spend with your fiance ALONE. It's your WEDDING day, and you're going to be feeling all the emotions. People will be pulling you in all directions. But taking a moment to share all your feelings with your person is so important.

# TIMELINE *tips*

I would hate for you to feel rushed on your wedding day. I think sometimes it's hard to know how long things take and one of the biggest stressors I've seen for brides have been being rushed or things going a little too long. This is a list of how much things take & an ideal timeline on how to plan things so you get good lighting and a happy crowd.

## GETTING READY:

I would say plan at least 1.5/2 hours for yourself, depending on if you have a hair & makeup artist team. If you're doing hair and makeup for your bridesmaids, plan 30 minutes for hair, and 30 for makeup for them. Obviously there will be an assembly line set-up, so let your makeup artist lead the way. Give yourself a 30 minute buffer just in case you have a dress/hair/makeup malfunction.

- Plan a "reveal" moment for your friends & parents to see you in your dress. Looks so good in photos.
- I need about 30-45 minutes to get those detail shots of you getting zipped up in your dress and your makeup artist to fake-apply makeup.
- Plan an extra 15 minutes for any photos you want with all your bridesmaids & your mom/grandma.

## CEREMONY:

If you're reading vows/having any musical numbers, plan time for that. But typically they run at about 30 minutes.

## COCKTAIL HOUR:

This hour is usually taking place when you're doing bridal party portraits/family photos, so make sure you have a lot of fun activities for party guests to do/a lot of booze to keep everyone entertained.

## BRIDAL PARTY PORTRAITS :

20-30mins depending on the size of the party. We always capture just the bridesmaids, just the groomsmen, the entire group together and then individuals with the bride and groom separately. Even with my super fast work flow, this can take some time!

## BRIDE AND GROOM PORTRAITS :


I love having 30 minutes before the ceremony and 30 minutes after the ceremony. However, I know this is not always possible. My goal is to be able to give my couples some additional portraits that add a little extra variety from the ones that we took pre-ceremony! If you are not sharing a first look, I cannot stress enough how important it is to at least have 30 minutes of portrait time after the ceremony! Usually I pull ya away during golden hour. I also always give the option to do photos on another day and LOVE IT.

## FAMILY FORMALS:

This is the hardest part of the day as far as photography is concerned. I made it our mission to make family formals fast, easy and as efficient as possible. I recommend 30 minutes for family formals, but not at the expense of your Bride and Groom portrait time. We can always grab large group photos during the reception. Golden sunset light for Bride and Groom portraits has to be taken advantage of right when it's happening because it will disappear quickly!

## RECEPTION DETAILS:

I would love 20 minutes to photograph all of the beautiful details and decor of your reception. However, if I'm only able to have 10 minutes, that will suffice and I will work quickly.



*how much time do you need  
for things on your wedding day?*



# TIMELINE *tips*

## RECEPTION:

1 Hour for Dinner

(I would put toasts, bride & groom thank yous here)

15 minutes for transitioning (Have a fun activity here)

30 Minutes of Dancing (golden hour is typically here, so I would pad some time here for the two of you to plan to sneak away here!)

20 Minutes for all the traditional moments (father daughter dances, mother son dances, etc)

20 Minutes of Dancing

10 Minutes of Bouquet Toss & Garter

10 Minutes to cut the cake

If your party LOVES dancing, this is where you'd throw ALL the rest of the dancing. (As much time as you want!)

15 Minutes Sparkler Exit

## DREAM SCHEDULE:

8am: EAT something delicious and filling (You will forget to eat the rest of the day.) I've had bride and grooms have a quiet breakfast together here. So cute.

10 am Makeup and Hair with all your people.

1:30pm Everyone should be DONE by this time.

1:30-3pm: Getting ready photos, bridesmaid photos, bride photos, first look with dad/parents photos. Groom photos & groom party photos taken here as well.

3pm: If you're planning a first look, this is when I'd do it. We can also do portraits of the two of you here.

4pm: Ceremony

4:30pm Family Photos/Cocktail Hour

6pm: Dinner

7pm: Dancing & Reception

8pm: Bride & Groom Portraits

9:30pm Sparkler Exit (unless you have the venue all night. at which point dance the night away!)



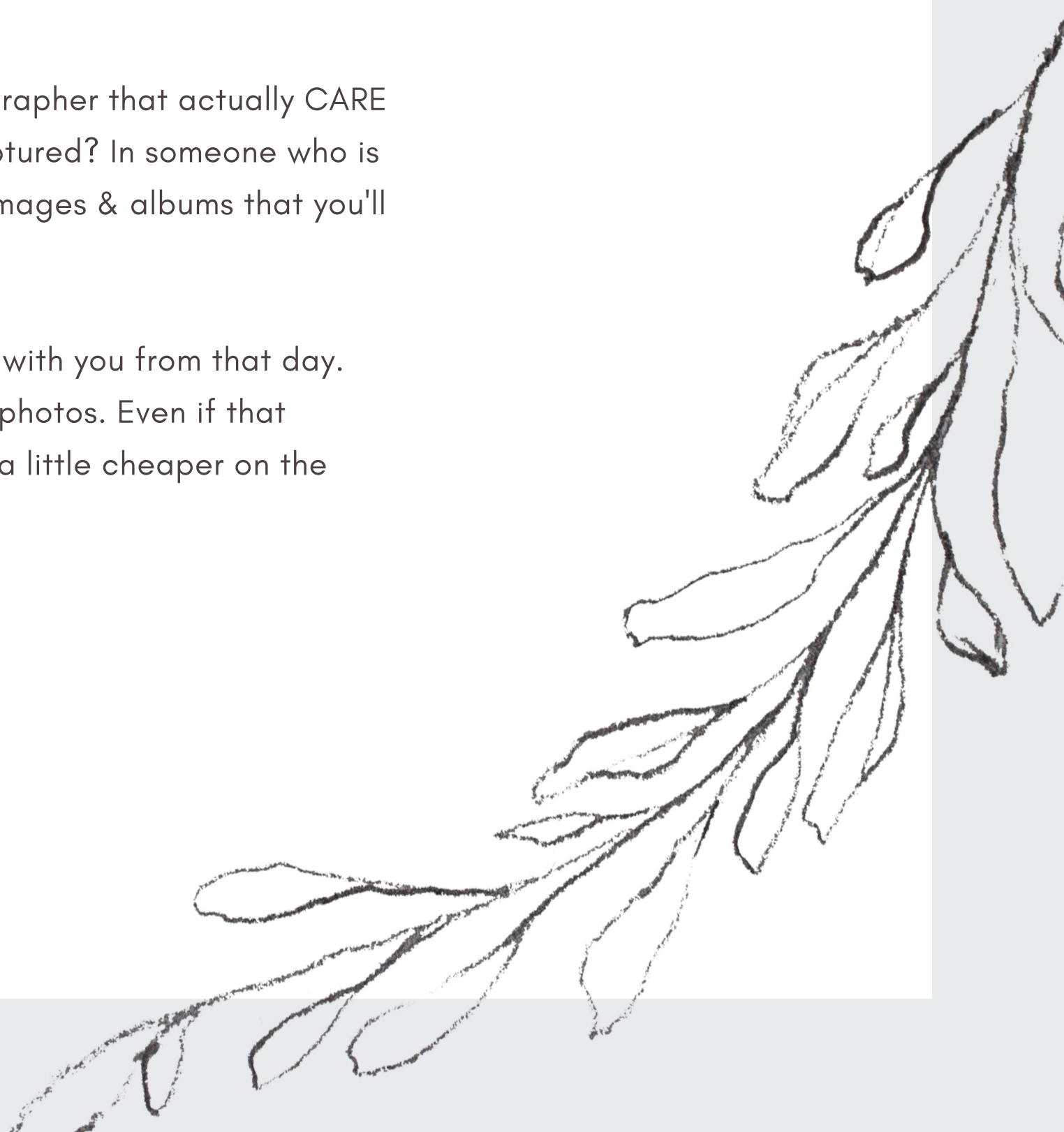


# *Invest* IN YOUR MEMORIES.

The cake's gonna get eaten. You only have the venue until 10pm. Your dress is totally gonna get dirt on the bottom of it. Those flowers are going to wilt.

But investing in a photographer & videographer that actually CARE about what's important to you to get captured? In someone who is experienced and gives you high quality images & albums that you'll have for the rest of your life?

That's the only thing that you get to take with you from that day. So, if you want my advice, INVEST in the photos. Even if that means you do a payment plan or you go a little cheaper on the flowers so you can afford it, go for it. The value of memories is priceless.





# Here's the secret.

When you work with me, you don't have to worry about missing the moments that matter most. I spend the time listening and understanding what's important to you, so that at your wedding, you can focus on the people you love, knowing that you'll have images that you'll treasure for the rest of your lifetime.

CREATE AN EXPERIENCE AS UNIQUE AS YOU ARE.





*Let's do this!*

If you'd like more wedding advice, I have a 5 day wedding planner where I give you tips on how to plan your wedding in bitesize sections.

I also have a ton of posts on my blog dedicated to serving you.

But most of all, friend, I want to be there to capture the biggest day of your life.

I'd love to chat with you and give you \$300 off any photo package and \$600 off any photo & video package. I travel all over the country and internationally, and keep those costs affordable so I can capture a story anywhere it's needed.

Give me a call and let's talk about the wedding you're dreaming of.

Lookforthelightphotovideo.com  
(208) 757-3174

