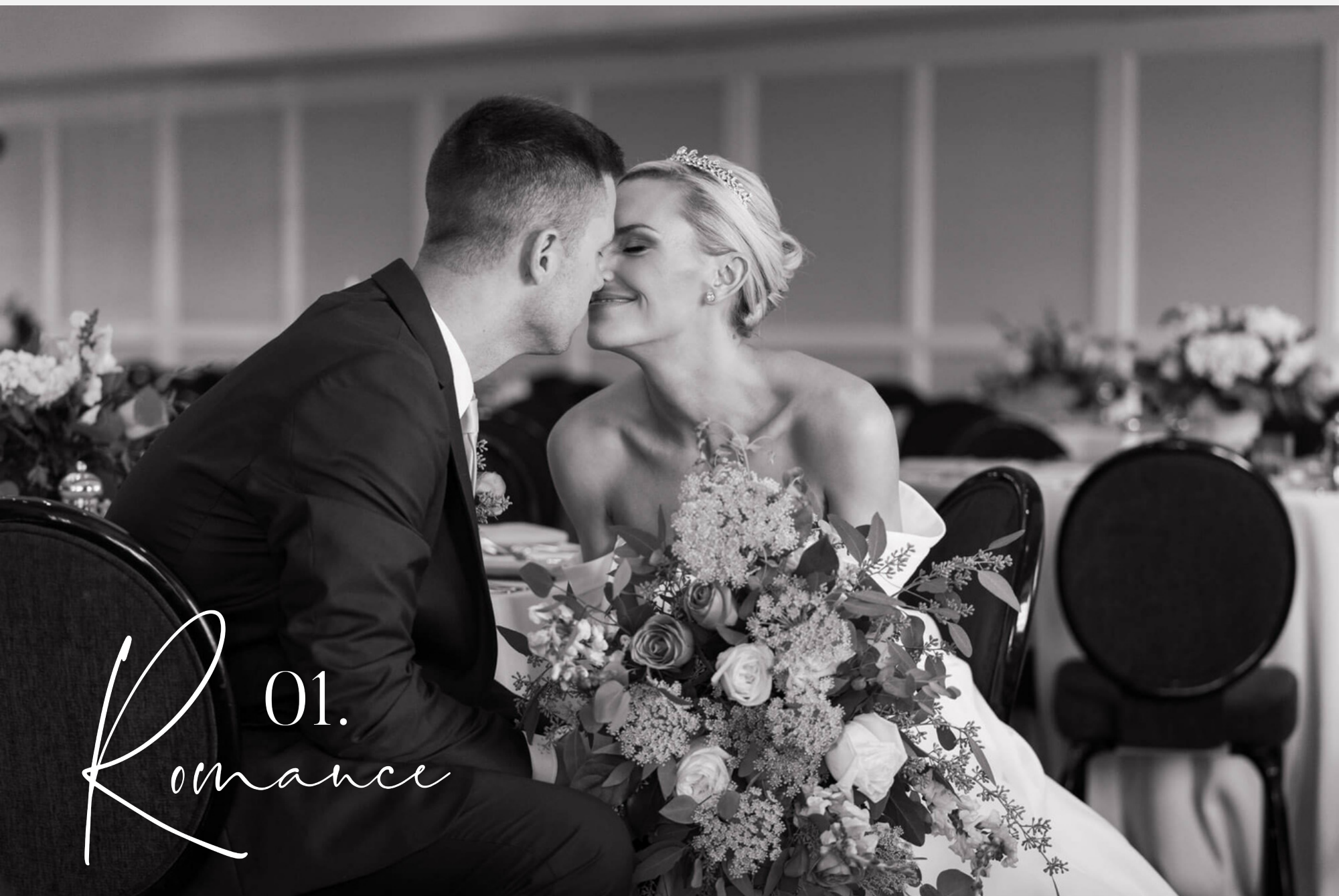


SHANTI
KNIGHT

CONSIDERING
the first look

**8 REASONS IT WILL MAKE YOUR
WEDDING DAY MORE ROMANTIC,
MORE FUN, & MORE MEMORABLE**



01. *Romance*

LET'S GET THIS OUT OF THE WAY.

There's this weird rumor going around that first looks aren't romantic.

So I'm here with the truth. Getting to spend see each other for the first time on your wedding day with very few spectators (hopefully just your photo and video crew) is crazy romantic. You get to exchange words without feeling self-conscious and allow your emotions to flow. It's a few minutes to bask in your connection to each other before all the activity of the day gets started.

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02. Shared memories



A couple who chooses to see each other prior to their ceremony spends far more time together on their wedding day than one who doesn't. When they look back on their wedding day, they remember not just the major moments, but the in-between moments that they were both there for, adding a richness to their shared memories.

Let's say a wedding ceremony starts at 3pm. If a couple waits until 3pm to see each other, they're only spending about 7-8 hours together on a day that is, more than any other, about the two of them and their bond. And effectively all of that time is either very structured or time spent surrounded by others, resulting in very little privacy, intimacy, or relaxation together.

For that same 3pm ceremony, I would recommend 12 or 21:30pm for their first look. depending on their shoot list. With this arrangement, the couple is spending almost 12 hours together on their wedding day together, and that's time that includes alone time and downtime for the two of them, plus plenty of time with their respective friends and families.

03.

More time with your guests

When a couple sees each other prior to their ceremony, we are able to take care of the majority of the formal portraits prior to their guests' arrival. That means that after the ceremony, we can take a few fun photos, but mostly, the couple is free to go and enjoy cocktail hour. Instead of spending easily 1-2 hours after the ceremony on photos, they get to spend that time actually visiting with more of their guests — the people who traveled to be present, who brought gifts and are there to celebrate, and who the couple loves enough to invite to one of the most special days of their lives.

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04. *Easing nerves*

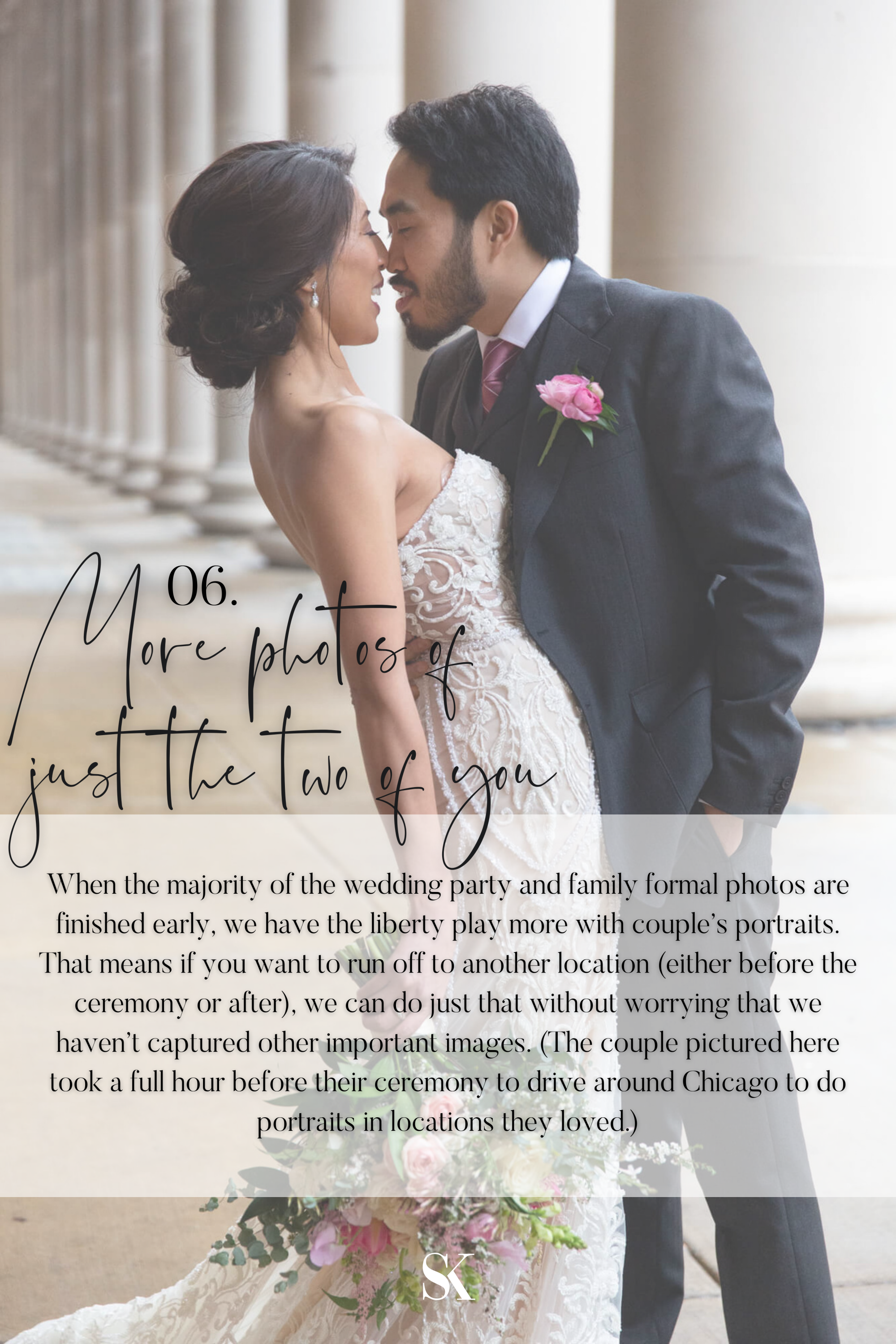


I have worked with so many brides and grooms who, in the first half of the day, were visibly nervous, quiet, stressed, even a little irritable, and who then, after their first look, melted into their warm, easygoing, true selves. Weddings can carry a lot of tension, with the planning and pressure that so many couples experience. This time together prior to the ceremony is grounding. It's a reminder of what you're doing it all for: to share the rest of your life with this fantastic person who calms your nerves and eases your heart. And once that tension is relieved, the couple is free to more fully enjoy their wedding day.

05. Getting all the photos you want



For those with big families or complex friend groups, or even just those who want more playful photos with their loved ones at an alternate location, or those who want to include their dog or their car or their horse or anything else in their photos, having the time to so is essential, and the first look allows just that.

A photograph of a wedding couple in formal attire. The bride is wearing a white lace dress and holding a bouquet of flowers. The groom is wearing a dark suit with a pink boutonniere. They are kissing outdoors in front of a building with columns.

M 06.
More photos of
just the two of you

When the majority of the wedding party and family formal photos are finished early, we have the liberty play more with couple's portraits. That means if you want to run off to another location (either before the ceremony or after), we can do just that without worrying that we haven't captured other important images. (The couple pictured here took a full hour before their ceremony to drive around Chicago to do portraits in locations they loved.)

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07.
Insurance against less-than-ideal weather

If the weather is touch-and-go, couples who have already seen each other prior to the ceremony have more opportunities to get not just more of the photos they want, but also a greater opportunity at some of the best photos of the day. There are days where there is just one short, magic window of clear skies, and if this moment happens before the ceremony, some couples simply miss that opportunity.

08. Fresh hair and makeup for portraits



This is one that's good for everybody— you'll get an extra thank-you from your female family members and friends for getting photos done before everybody is windblown, sweaty, or weepy. Because even on the most special days, we're still humans living in the real world, and hair and makeup aren't indestructible. Getting formal photos done when everybody is looking their freshest (even the flowers!) will delight your loved ones, and you'll benefit from it, too.

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