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Olivia and Sam

18 JULY 2022



WELCOME TO THE WEDDING OF

Olivia Isabel Chapman

and

Samuel Christopher Richardson

DATE 2pm, Saturday 18th July 2022

VENUE

St. Luke's Church West Orchard, Shaftesbury SP7 0LJ

RECEPTION

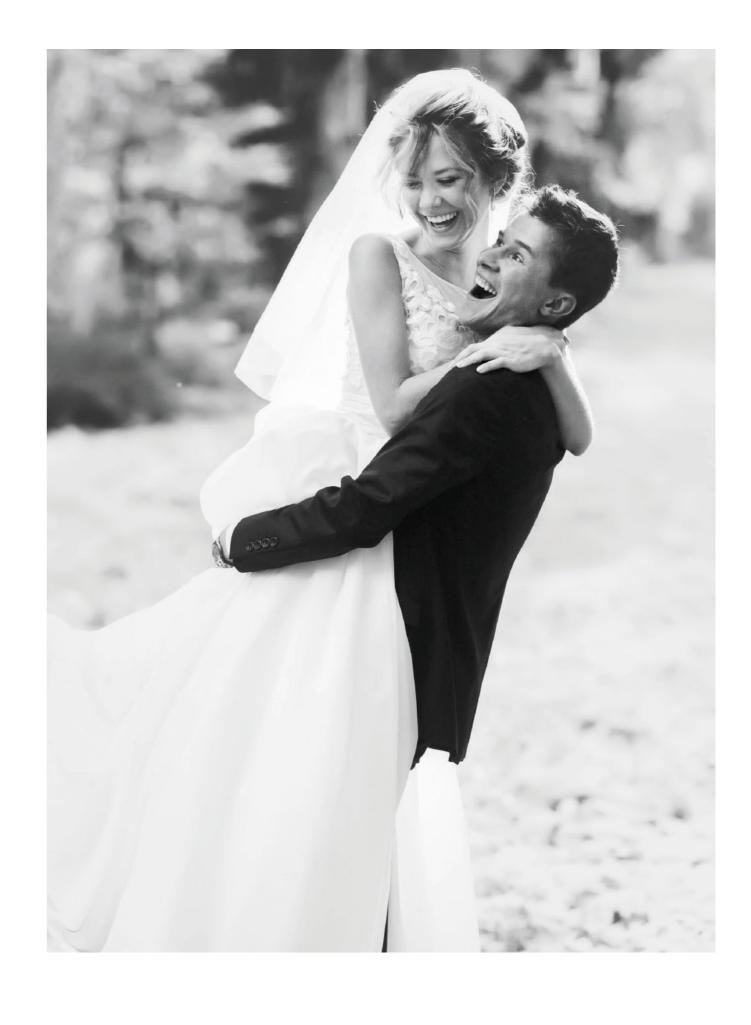
The Eden Suite The Crown Hotel, West St, Blandford Forum



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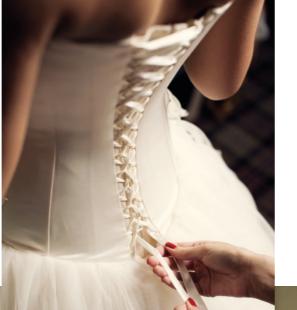
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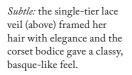
Olivia and Sam



Olivia and Sam

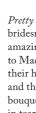








THE FINER DETAILS



"It's such a stunning dress - thank you Mum for coming with me for all those fittings!"

Olivia and Sam



Contrasts: white lace heels added a vintage and feminine touch but the pastel pocket flowers made a modern masculine statement

Rolls Choice: Olivia *Rolls Choice:* Olivia always said she wanted to arrive like a princess. And they don't come more royal than a classic Phantom

Pretty in Pink: My bridesmaids looked amazing (thanks to Madison!) with their hair all tied up and those gorgeous bouquets - we were all in tears at the fitting!

Olivia and Sam







THE BRIDE by Sam

It's funny how much one three-letter word can change your life. But that's exactly what happened when Olivia said yes that night on the sand in Albufeira. It was early evening; we'd had a day of sightseeing in Faro old town and I got the taxi to drop us at the beach as the sun went down over the Monchique mountains. The setting was perfect and I knew then the time was right. I didn't really have any doubt what the answer would be, but I still couldn't quite believe it when she said yes.

My father always used to tell me life is a journey best not travelled alone. I always knew where I wanted to take that journey but only when I met her did I realise who I wanted to take it with. To some, ours may have seemed something of a whirlwind romance but, if I can quote my mum this time . . . when you know, you know. And that's exactly how it was for me. I knew all I needed to know after just three dates. And every day after that only reinforced everything I felt.

Olivia is my soulmate, my best mate, now and forever. Thank you for saying yes. I promise to spend every day convincing you that was the right decision.

Sam



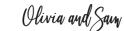
THE GROOM by Olivia

When I first set eyes on Sam I thought he appeared a little arrogant (something he reminds me of constantly, btw); a little loud, cocky even. When he asked me out I admit I was flattered. It was obvious he'd caught the eyes of a lot of the girls in the room. But what surprised me was that, within the first hour of our first date, I realised how wrong first impressions can be. That cockiness I'd seen was confidence: confidence in himself, who he was and what he wanted out of life. And that for me was everything.

From the start it was nothing less than a meeting of minds. Never had I met anyone whose views, whose aspirations, whose beliefs were so in synch with my own. With him, I truly feel part of couple: which is why we often find ourselves doing those couple things like completing each other's sentences.

I'm looking forward to life as Mrs Richardson, to seeing where life takes us. I can't imagine life any other way. Thanks to my Sam, I'm now the one who's exuding confidence. As anyone who knows me will tell you, I was never the most self-assured of girls. But the past six months have seen an entirely new me, a transformation that became complete the moment I became Mrs Richardson. It's the me I always wanted to be and always want to be.

Olivia



"SAM'S JUST THE LOVELIEST GUY - ALL THESE YEARS TOGETHER AND I STILL GET THAT FLUTTERY FEELING..."

Olivia and Sam



When the time came to choose my bridesmaids there were really only three names who were going on that list -Charlotte, Sophie and Tilly.





Hello Ladies: (left to right), Charlotte, Tilly, Olivia, and Sophie.

THE BRIDESMAIDS written by Olivia

When the time came to choose my bridesmaids there were really only three names who were going on that list - Charlotte, Sophie and Tilly. I've known them all since primary school - and we've celebrated everything together: from birthdays to promotions to Tilly's bat mitzvah, so it would somehow have seemed not completely "real" had they not been there, if that makes sense. We'd been together for every major life event and they didn't get more major than this.

Having them with me sort of rubber stamped it: the whole gang's here. It's OK. Go for it. It's official! And there's safety in numbers, of course. Anyone who's been through this will tell you, if you lose a button as you're putting on the dress, you need a Charlotte; if your hair isn't sitting properly you need a Sophie and if it's just someone who knows exactly what to say – or to pour into a glass - to calm your nerves it's a Tilly you need. Besides, we were an irrepressible, inseparable foursome, a bit - or make that a lot - like the Sex and the City girls. I was Carrie by the way. I'll leave you to work out who the other three were. But here's a starter for ten: it was Samantha who caught the bouquet!



The best man, Matt, with Sam (right)



HE BEST MAN

Introducing. Mister Matt Williams!

"I'm so proud to be Sam's best man - he's just a top bloke and Olivia's a very lucky lady! I've travelled the world with this guy and we've never had a bad word to say about each other. The phrase 'brothers in arms' comes to mind quite often. We can often be seen laughing so hard it hurts! I wish you both a lifetime of love and laughter, and hope to repay the invitation some day myself!"

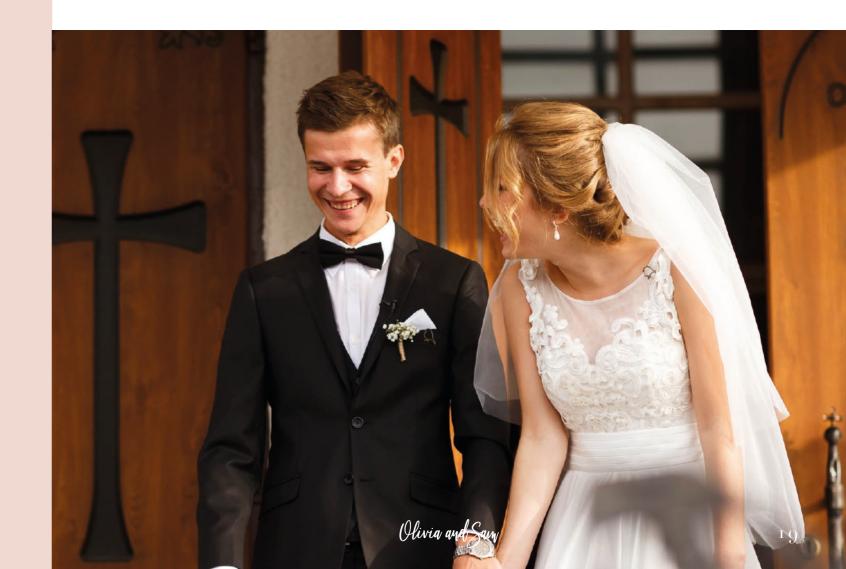
THE VOWS

"Olivia, I could promise to hold you and to cherish you. I could promise to be in sickness and in health. I could say, til death do us part. But I won't. Those vows are for optimistic couples, the ones full of hope. And I do not stand here, on my wedding day, optimistic or full of hope. I am not optimistic, I am not hopeful, I am sure. I am steady. So this I am sure, you are my partner, my lover, my very best friend, my heart, my heart beats for you. And on this day, the day of our wedding, I promise you this: I promise to lay my heart in the palm of your hands, I promise you... me".

"Sam, today we begin our lives together. I promise before our families and our friends to be your faithful wife. I choose to live with you, as your lover, companion and friend, loving you when life is peaceful, and when it is painful, during our successes, and during our failures, supported by your strengths, and accepting your weaknesses. I will honour your goals and dreams, trying always to encourage your fulfillment. I will strive to be honest, and open with you, sharing my thoughts, and my life with you. I promise to love and cherish you from this day forward."



"I was so nervous walking up the aisle with Dad, but as soon as I held Sam's hand, I knew it would be fine..."







INTRODUCING Mr and Mrs Richardson





"We took a walk around the village after the ceremony. Everyone was cheering and waving... Sam in his usual 'Mister Spontaneous' style, thought it would be funny to get a smoothie. So we did!"





THE RECEPTION

lets get the party started!



THE RECEPTION

The couple had one request for the reception – no fuss. Keep it simple, they said. Nothing too OTT. Mum Sonja had one response to that. "I ignored it," she said.

This was Sonja after all, the former Selfridges window dresser who carved a career on the motto, "retail is detail". And it showed. From the "contradicting flowers" that formed the table arrangements - think roses, green leaves with berries, the wildflowers; the varied hues of the vintage stemware, the personalised candles, the tiny terracotta pots - all natural touches perfectly in keeping with an outdoor setting and all waiting to surprise them after the brief stroll through the village they assumed would end with a simple wedding breakfast at the village hall.

"We had no idea," said Olivia. "When Matt, the best man, led us through the gates, we thought we were going for a stroll in the park." Glad mum ignored your advice? "Oh, she was always going to," she added. "I just didn't realise it would be so perfect."

The older children enjoyed the swings hanging from the bough of a 600-year-old Chestnut and the younger ones appreciated the Lego touches on their table. And how wonderful was it to see the wandering minstrels emerge from the trees by the riverbank as everyone sat down?

And the camper van? "That was irresistible. Sam had told me when we first met he'd had a dream of travelling the world in one. When we saw it in the car park, Tilly charmed the owner into letting us borrow it. What a wonderful picture. How did he get me on the roof rack? Put it this way, I'm just glad he didn't put his back out!"

"AND HOW WONDERFUL WAS IT TO SEE THE WANDERING MINSTRELS EMERGE FROM THE TREES BY THE RIVERBANK AS EVERYONE SAT DOWN?"



mingling and partying into the night! Thank you to everyone for getting truly stuck in!"



Olivia and Sam

Olivia and Sam

"We had such a great day - and the reception was jusst perfect. It was so lovely to have all our families and friends all



THE RECEPTION Messages from loved ones

"What a match. I'd say you were pretty much anyone's idea of the perfect couple. Here's to you, your anniversary and all the others right up to the golden wedding! Enjoy every day, you lucky people." CHRIS & MARK HUTCHINGS

"We can't work out whether you're Samson and Delilah, Tarzan and Jane or Bonnie and Clyde. But what we can agree on is that you're the stuff of legend." SUE & MALCOM RICHARDSON

"You fit together. Like a jigsaw - and not one of those boring ones where it's mostly sky. Hey, you know what we mean." ALAN & BRYON Y CHAPMAN

"If I had to invent a perfect couple, they would walk like you, talk like you and look like you. I thought that when I first saw you together and I was even more convinced when I saw you at the altar today. Envy doesn't begin to describe it." CHARLOTTE SMITH

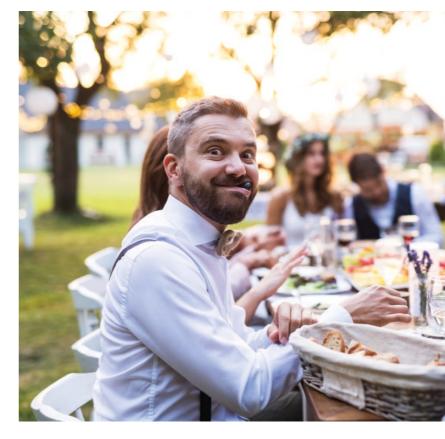
"Sam, mate, you're way out of your league. But I guess she must see something in you. So, until she finally finds you out, what can I say? Enjoy! Enjoy!" GERRY SMITH

"May you have everything you wish for. May your love be eternal and your children be plentiful. May they all look like Olivia." MIKE CHAPMAN

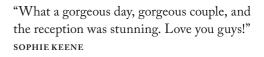
"Guys, you are an absolute inspiration. You give hope to the mere mortals among us. Sorry, just saying what everyone's thinking." TILLY BARTON











"I think this might be the best wedding I've ever been to. Love to both." MADS SVENSSON

"Amazing wedding but special props to the cake maker (me!). Congratulations to you." AMANDA WOODHOUSE

"I think the best party ever - no? Much love and congrats, all the way from Mexico!" ANTONIO GONZALES

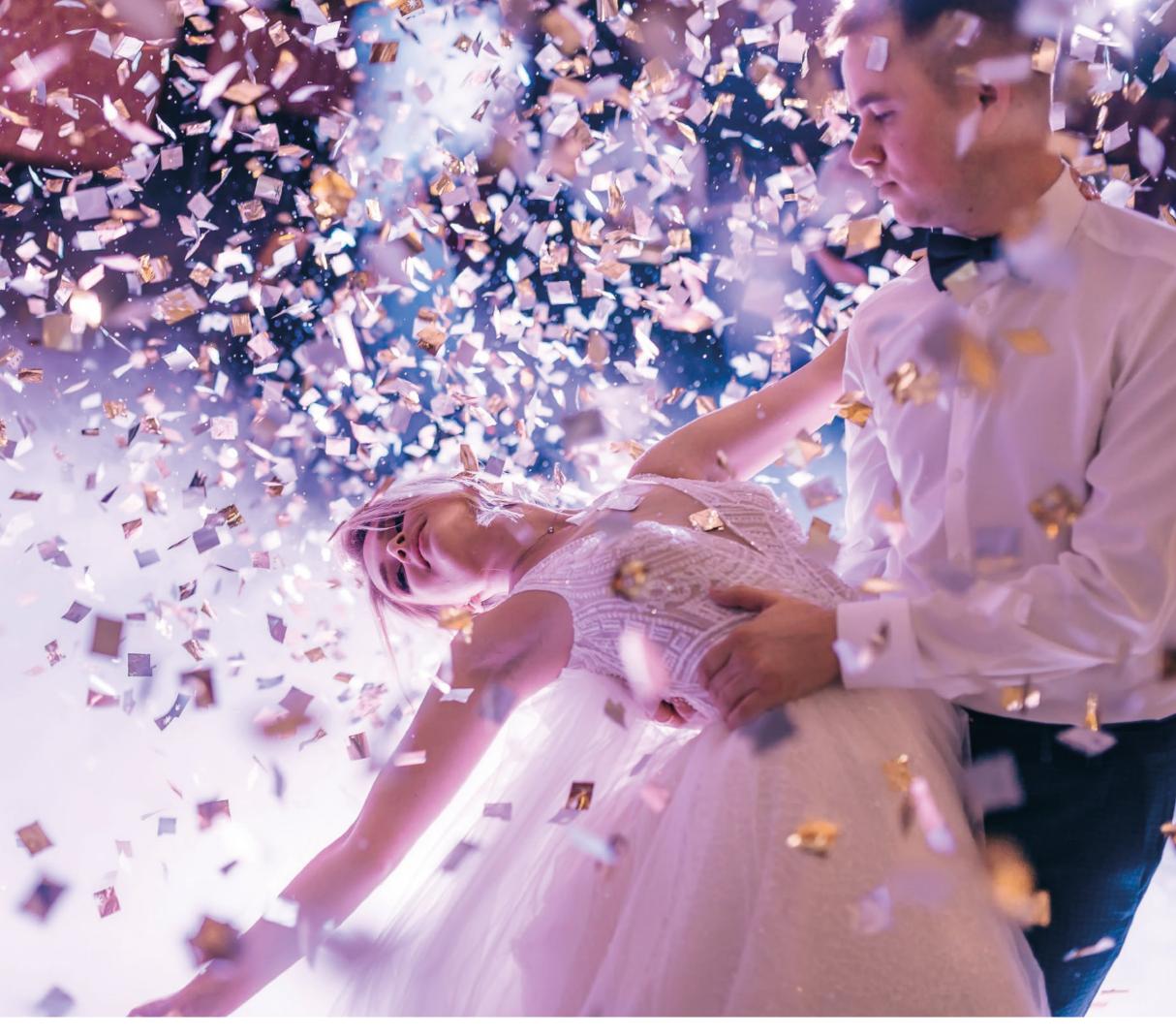
"Only one word to describe this wedding: WONDERFUL" ALICE TEMPERTON (GRAN!)

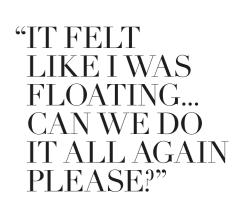
"That was stunning - can we do it all again please?" JODIE WALTON

"What a beautiful wedding. I wish Olivia and Sam a lifetime of love, good health and forever happiness!" MADDIE OLSEN









FIRST DANCE

Adele summed up the mood when she sang "Make You Feel My Love". The confetti from the balcony was Matt's idea. The delivery was courtesy of the bridesmaids

Having Matt for my best man was a no brainer. From our primary school days up to now, he's been there for me through thick and thin. What a gent.





"Our photographer suggested we took a walk in the woods for a break and snapped me spinning around in the sheer joy of the day. I'll never forget this feeling"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to the following people

To Dad for giving me away in such style, to Mum for ignoring my wishes, to Matt for those revelations in his speech (worry not, Sam, I don't believe half of them), to Aunty Planty for the something old (I promise to give it back!), to Chris for persuading Mark not to dance, to the Rev. Lyndhurst for helping me through those vows with such patience, to Bryony for helping me get into shape (promise I'll keep it up) to Sue and Malcom for travelling 3,000 miles...

... And to the Dixie Dudes jazz band for going above and beyond and actually taking requests, to my bridesmaids for being amazing and trying so hard not to upstage me, to Uncle Henry for all those words of wisdom, to Tilly for the Dutch courage when I needed it, to Sophie and Charlotte for going Dutch when I left my purse behind at the hen do, to Stan and Eve and the George and Dragon for the little surprises that night, to everyone at The Crown for absolutely everything, to photographer Gary for making me feel like a supermodel... and to the sun for finally breaking through and making the day as perfect as I'd dreamed it would be.

Special thanks also go to the following people and companies for their amazing work on the day.

Mad Hatter Minstrels, DJ Carnival, Max Entertainment, Madison Plenty for my stunning bridal gown and veil, Liberty's in Kings Langley for the incredible shoes, Sampsons Marquees, Tattershall Limousines, Aston Vintage, Gary Jones Photographers.

Olivia and Sam

Off on honeymoon...

Olivia and Sa

"WE DECIDED ON THE VW CAMPER FOR THE HONEY MOON TO IRELAND. IT'S A MAGICAL PLACE TO VISIT, AND WE WANTED TO BE AS CLOSE TO NATURE AS POSSIBLE"

40









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- Content and copy editor to help you craft your story, oversee and curate your magazine with you.
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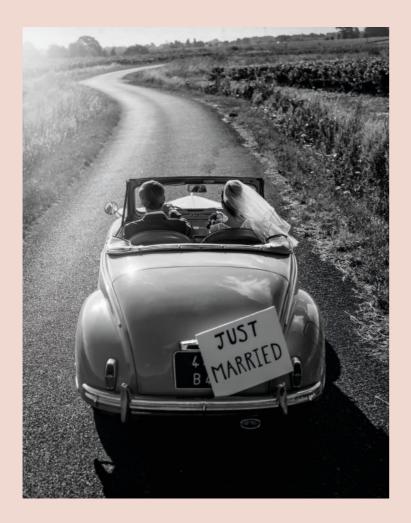
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