

She Said Yes,
**AM I LOSING
MY SON**

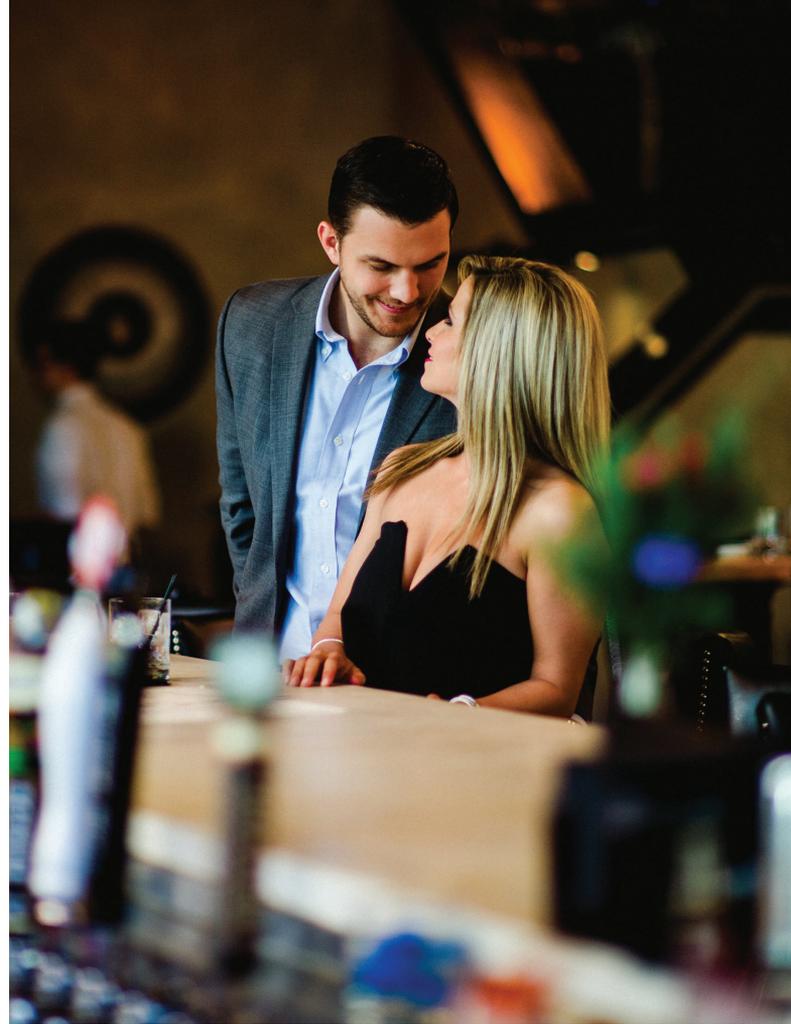
by Debra Kennedy

T

o say the Mother/Son relationship is a beautiful union is an understatement until he meets his “Forever Love” and you share (actually take a back seat) in your son’s life now. From this moment on, his special moments, decisions and life changes are all couple discussions and three is a crowd. You know the saying, “A Son is a Son until He Takes a Wife.” Fortunately, we absolutely adore his bride-to-be, Katie and her parents. Yes, there are horror stories out there on this very topic and I do know how fortunate we are. Not only does Katie complete Austin, our families vacation together, hang out and spend holidays together. The million dollar question is: Will that be true during the end moments of the planning process?

WHAT IS A MOG TO DO

I must admit that being Mother of the Groom is a difficult role. My mother always called me a leader however my family calls me bossy which means I have a dominant personality. I was fully prepared to take a back seat to all wedding decisions, plans, and lifetime moments during the planning process. However, I feel like I am a big part of this special day thanks to my new extended family. I have to be honest, I am actually relieved after being the Mother of the Bride. My role is to be gracious, loving, optimistic and a Super MOG! I am striving to be nominated Best Supporting Actress and since I am the only candidate on the ballot, I should win by a landslide. However, I also



want to be a support system, cheerleader and navigation guide for Sherri when she needs. As I know all too well how stressful wedding planning is and you can feel isolated. I want to be available at difficult times as well as assist with any ideas that can make it easier for her, but not be too involved and “bossy” as my family says. Yes, MOG can be a difficult role.

OUR ONE BIG DUTY – PLAN THE REHEARSAL DINNER

On the bright side, the role of MOB is effortless and magical. Wait, I have a Groomzilla who wants to be involved in every single detail. Austin wants his rehearsal dinner to be spectacular, and I am expected to read his mind on what exactly “spectacular” means. He is very quick to point out what he does not like and way too busy to send pictures or ideas of what his vision ac-





tually is. For those Moms out there that have sons, you will understand that they often times grunt and we are expected to understand the meaning of these grunts? I remind myself daily that I am his Super MOG and my role is to interpret the grunts with an optimistic smile.

After countless venue visits, we selected the location for the big night before the Royal Event. The most important piece of advice here is know your budget. Equally important is being comfortable with the Sales and Catering Manager or Event Planner. DO NOT be embarrassed to say, “that is out of my budget” and have a few alternative suggestions offered. I was on top of this and had everything nailed down 9 months early. All was perfect until the final details meeting. The venue Space is perfect for ambiance, food, and the overall tone for Austin’s vision and not so perfect for speeches and privacy. How did I let this slip through the cracks? I am responsible for one task and I cannot fail. Super MOG takes over (after many many yoga breaths,) we discuss options. Options “always” mean extra funding and sticking to the budget is always the challenge. How did I handle this situation? You will find out in the “Big Reveal.”

MY ONE BIG SPECIAL MOMENT WITH AUSTIN

Austin and I would dance around the house to Mustang Sally when he was a little boy as he would put his little feet on top of mine and we would glide around forever. I was elated when he reached out to me for my suggestions on what song we would dance to. Too mushy Mom, Too slow Mom, Too Sad Mom. Isn’t this about the words of the song meaning something? Isn’t this about that special bond that will never be broken between a mother and her son? No, actually it is about whatever Austin wants to dance to because the moment belongs to him. What song did we choose? Yes, you will find out in the “Big Reveal.”

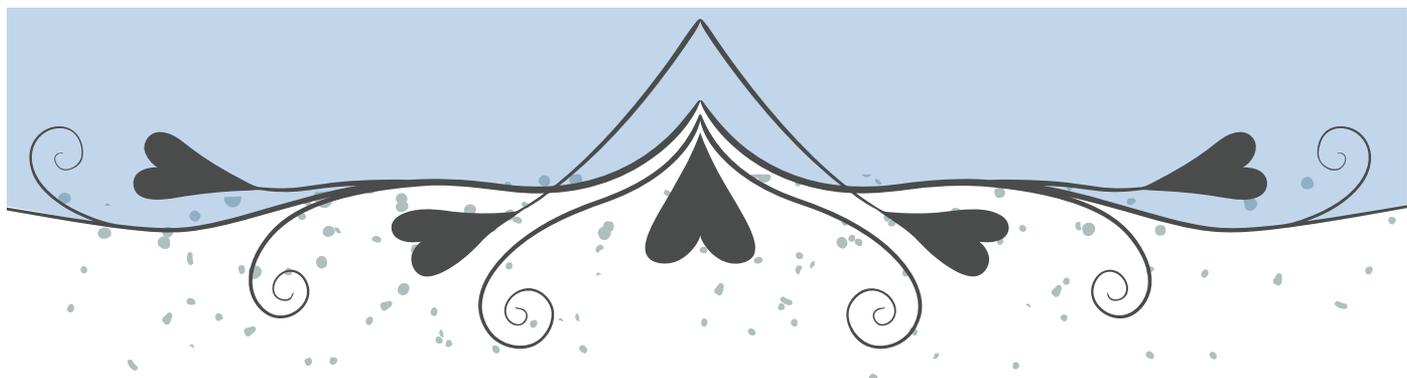
WHAT IS A GIRL TO WEAR

As protocol would have it, the Mother of Bride selects her dress first and then and only then can I start to look for my dress. Once again I must brag that my bestie Mother of the Bride was a jewel and wanted me to wear whatever

I wanted. Honestly, she is a beauty and looks amazing in everything she wears. Should I have started working out with a personal trainer 6 months ago? Should I have started my clean eating plan 9 months ago? Well, I did not and everything that I loved was sleeveless which does not work if you do not do the above 2 important steps. I did find a dress I love and at a “Steal of a Deal.” Honestly, I was more concerned with the perfect timing of getting injections and laser treatments because at a certain age the camera does not lie, and I can angle the way I stand in pictures to look smaller. Feeling and looking younger will certainly make the dress perfect! Yes, gotta wait for the “Big Reveal.”

DETAILS DETAILS DETAILS

At the end of the day, it really comes down to details. Being organized, finding out what the bride and groom really want and what is important to them for the rehearsal dinner and making it all happen with a loving smile. That is how a Super MOG rolls. Yes, there are lots of details and I will share all of them with you in the “Big Reveal” but knowing Austin and Katie love each other more than life, and I am gaining a daughter that I absolutely adore, makes everything perfect, just as it should be.



MOG CHECK-LIST:

12 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Meet with the bride’s parents and learn to love them
- Decide on a BUDGET
- Visit and book venue for Rehearsal Dinner
- Book Photographer
- Send Mother of the Bride your finalized guest list and follow the amount of guests allowed (this is the most difficult task)

6 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Hire Calligrapher
- Design Invitations
- Design Rehearsal Dinner Logo
- Find your perfect MOG dress after the Mother of the Bride has selected hers

2 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Order all items to be placed in the “Swag” bags
- Menu tasting and final requests/changes
- Meet with other vendors such as florals, rentals, etc

1 MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Give Venue the final head count
- Create Table Plans
- Complete Seating Chart
- Deliver “Must Have” picture moments to the photographer
- Have final alterations completed on your fabulous MOG dress
- Check placecards for correct spelling

DAY OF THE WEDDING:

Enjoy! This will be one of the most treasured moments of your life!