

When

LAUREN RICHEL WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, SHE WENT OUT ON HER VERY FIRST DATE. THE LUCKY GUY? CRAIG KELLY. THE DATE? ICE CREAM (SHE CHOSE STRAWBERRY; HE ORDERED CHERRY ITALIAN ICE).

And though the rest of the details are foggy, one thing was completely clear: It was the last first date she would ever go on.

What followed was a 10-year courtship where the two were rarely in the same city, much less on the same coast. "Craig went to college in Connecticut, and I was still in high school in New York, so there were a lot of weekend visits," says Lauren, who is now a director at a wedding planning firm in New York City.

In August 2010, Lauren and Craig got engaged in the backyard of Wainwright House in Rye, New York, a replica of a chateau in France, replete with a view of the Long Island Sound. She immediately realized it was the place she had been dreaming of all her life. "I had everything I'd ever wanted," she says. "I was a do-it-herselfer, and I was from the guest list. I had to take out as favors. I had to design. It was—and no one else was of her generation. I loved to carry on the tradition."

It didn't take much for Lauren to slip into planning mode. "When I was growing up, my best friend and I would have sleepovers on Friday nights," says Lauren. "My parents would drop us off at the pizza place for dinner, and we would walk over to the A&P next door and buy *Martha Stewart Weddings*. Then my mom would pick us up, and we'd go home and plan our weddings. I've been thinking about my big day ever since."

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At the reception, the newlyweds danced to "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," sung by her grandmother's best friend, famed Italian-American singer Julius LaRosa. "Everyone really got a kick out of the fact that I was wearing red shoes," Lauren says.

After dinner, dancing, and wedding cake, guests indulged in an ice-cream-sundae bar before hitting the road. And though not all of them were aware of the nostalgic implications of this sweet send-off, it meant everything to the couple. "The ice cream," says Lauren, "was our favorite part of the night."



RED-LETTER DAY
Pages 204 to 211 **MUSIC:** (ceremony) Gary Fry, garyfry.org, and Cody Fry, codyfry.com; (reception) Gerard Carelli Orchestra, 1800gcsings.com. **HAIR:** Beautiful Hair Color Salon & Spa, bhcsalon.com. **MAKEUP:** products and services provided by Eiluj A Beauty Lounge, 914-232-2227; makeup artist, Suzette Lemos, 914-960-7530. **MENSWEAR:** Men's Wearhouse, menswearhouse.com. **FABRIC** for groom's ascot and escort-card board: "Betsy" print, \$36.96/yd., by Liberty of London, from B & J Fabrics, bandjfabrics.com. **Page 211** **SCISSORS,** \$19.99, by Martha Stewart Crafts, from Michaels, michaels.com for stores.