

{ cape fear wedding style }

## SARAH & JAMES

May 18, 2012

Wilmington

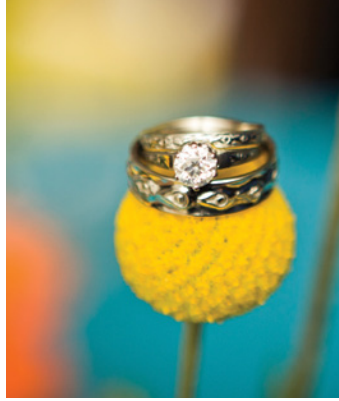
Photography by Aria Images

### IN HER WORDS

James and I have known each other for most of our lives. We met at a wedding in New Orleans when James was in the fifth grade and I was in the third grade. I distinctly remember trying to impress him with my favorite outfit, and I guess I got his attention. We sat at the kids table eating chicken tenders and talking about Nintendo 64. Since then, our childish crush has transformed into an enduring love for each other.

We went to school at Appalachian State, and one day while on a hike in the mountains, he tricked me into thinking he was going to propose. He got down on one knee and after pausing ever so slightly, he instead tied his shoe. The next week we took a drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway. We stopped at a gorgeous overlook at sunset, and he again got down on his knee. Only this time, he asked me to marry him. ▶





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We grew up an hour north of Wilmington and have many great memories of times spent there. We miss it immensely, and we could not think of a better place for our wedding than downtown on the Cape Fear River.

When we started getting into the nuts and bolts of our wedding planning, we felt overwhelmed by the trendy pastels we saw in wedding magazines. We knew instead that we wanted a theme expressive of our excitement and happiness, so we went with bright colors: turquoise, orange, and yellow.

We also took on some special DIY projects such as our photography guest book, signs, a signature drink, handfasting ribbons, and a candy bar. Etsy provided other touches like the ring pillow and the picture props. Our wedding planner also worked hard to gather the multitude of milk glass vases for the table centerpieces.

The night before our wedding, my bridesmaids stayed up until 2 am attaching a million brightly colored M&Ms to the cake I designed. Champagne made the process tolerable. The next day, my dad got a big laugh out of the fact that he and one of my bridesmaids strapped in the cake layers and cupcakes with seat belts for the trip to 128 South for our reception.

We said our vows under a gorgeous tent adorned in hues of turquoise, lemon and orange and overlooking the Cape Fear River at Riverwalk Landing. When we began the handfasting ceremony, my Nana loudly said, "Oh, they are tying the knot!" ▶







Afterwards, our 125 guests walked the few blocks to 128 South to enjoy a delightfully vintage, yet contemporary reception. The tables were dressed in turquoise linens with vintage milk glass vases clustered in the center with an array of brightly colored flowers.



Our coconut lemonade signature cocktail was a big hit, as was the candy bar. Outside, Italian globe lights created a beautiful ceiling above the back deck where the dance floor was hopping all night. The night was magical, and nothing stopped the energy, not even the rain as we departed through a sparkler send off and onto a Pedi cab.



For our honeymoon, we actually returned to New Orleans where it all began. We had an incredible time there, enjoying live music, good seafood, and beignets, but no chicken tenders.



## THE TEAM

CEREMONY SITE  
Riverwalk Landing

RECEPTION SITE & CATERING  
128 South Catering & Events

COORDINATION & DESIGN  
A Seaside Wedding & Events

RENTALS  
Island Essentials & Party Suppliers

OFFICIATE  
Rev. Penelope Morningstar

PHOTOGRAPHER  
Aria Images

FLORIST  
Through the Looking Glass

CAKE  
The bride

DISC JOCKEY  
DJ Professionals & Video

CEREMONY MUSIC  
Maura Kropke, Violinist

BRIDAL GOWN  
Allure P840 from Fountaine Bridals

