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## lee & jeffrey

APRIL 23, DALLAS

photography by Andrea and Mark Polito

Neither Lee Sample, 25, nor Frank Jeffrey Nelson Jr., 26, expected any romance to blossom during a night out with some friends. Both had recently gotten out of long-term relationships and neither was looking to embark on a new one. (And Jeffrey certainly didn't get off to a smooth start: When Lee and her friend arrived at Jeffrey's to pick him up, Jeffrey's mom picked up her five-year-old grandson, Jeffrey's nephew, and yelled, "Say good-bye to Daddy!" as a joke.) After his mortification subsided, Jeffrey, who owns an insurance agency, was falling in love. "The minute we started talking, it was like the world stopped," says Lee, a retail manager. "We ignored everyone that night and spent the whole time talking."

The next morning, Lee called her mother and announced that she'd met the man she was going to marry. That afternoon, Jeffrey picked her up for their first date, taking her to his family's ranch to see the horses. City girl Lee chose a cashmere sweater, designer jeans, and stiletto heels for her date attire but laughed her way through the farm date, and from then on, >>





#### LEE & JEFFREY CONT.

the two were a pair. On a surprise getaway to Lakeway in Austin, the couple were on Jeffrey's boat when Lee suddenly looked to see him get down on one knee: "All I could do was start screaming!" she remembers. "Jeffrey told me later that he thought he'd done something wrong. He only knew everything was okay when I put on the ring."

The bride, who admits she can be a bit of a control freak, has long dreamed of being a wedding planner and excitedly threw herself into making arrangements. "Luckily," says Lee, "my mom was there to help and persevere with me through my brideszilla moments, and Jeffrey taught me to laugh at myself." They settled on a palette of peony pink and apple green with touches of gold.

Lee's mermaid-style gown by Justina McCaffrey featured a Chantilly lace overlay with gold embroidery. Her bridesmaid dresses were designed to echo her gown's delicate details, including the ribbon-wrapped waist. The two-piece, peony pink ensembles featured an organza overlay on top and a floor-length silk dupioni skirt. Their peppy, preppy hues were set off by the brilliant bouquets—pink peonies, ranunculuses, and roses for the bride and even bolder arrangements of parrot tulips, hydrangeas, peonies, and roses for the maids.

Lee and Jeffrey exchanged traditional vows in an outdoor ceremony on the front terrace of Arlington Hall, overlooking Turtle Creek. Iron cones covered with moss, baby apples, roses, hydrangea, and gold organza ribbon sat at the end of each row of gold chiavari chairs. The bride's particularly stylish entrance began as she entered through white double doors flanked by moss-covered N's before starting down the aisle. But Jeffrey threatened to turn just as many heads before he entered: >>





#### LEE & JEFFREY: cont.

"Jeffrey and his groomsmen were in the groom's quarters right before the wedding and they were carrying on, being guys," says Lee. "Little did they know his mic was on and everyone could hear everything they were saying!"

The reception that followed took over the entire hall. As guests arrived, they signed a large version of Lee and Jeffrey's engagement photo, which now hangs in the couple's home. They then proceeded to a terrace (aptly named the Lee Terrace) for cocktails, piano music, cigars, and grilled swordfish and lamb. Once the reception started, other rooms were reserved for relaxing—and for the bride's cake, a square, five-tier amaretto cake decorated like Limoges porcelain, and the groom's cake, a two-tier monogrammed chocolate confection.

The porch of the terrace where the ceremony had taken place held two buffet stations. But the bulk of the fun unfolded in the Great Hall, a Greek revival ballroom, with an Italian-inspired dinner, music, dancing, and toasts. Alternating pink and green table linens were topped with tea lights and cylinders filled with green apples, pink and green hydrangeas, tulips, peonies, ranunculuses, and roses.

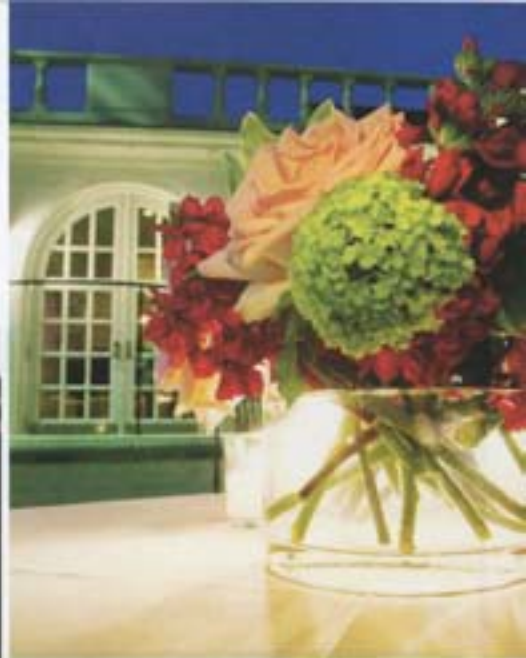
Lee and Jeffrey kicked off the festivities with a first dance to Michael Martin Murphy's "A Long Line of Love," a favorite in Jeffrey's family—appropriately, the father of the groom's toast was even about their family's "long line of love." Dancing lasted long into the evening to the strains of the standard specialists, the Mark Toussaint Combo. Afterward Lee and Jeffrey departed in a white British Daimler for the tony Hotel Adolphus, their last stop before a week of lounging on the beach and snorkeling with sharks in Maui. —K.W.





**Flower tip:** Vary your centerpiece heights for added drama. Using all pink flowers to unify the look, Lee and Jeffrey alternated high and low arrangements.





**LEE & JEFFREY'S INGREDIENTS**

**CEREMONY AND RECEPTION SITE** Arlington Hall at Lee Park (214) 528-3243 **PHOTOGRAPHY** Andrea and Mark Polito/Andrea Polito Photography, Inc., PolitoWeddings.com **WEDDING CONSULTANT** The bride hired a day-of coordinator to help pull together the last-minute details. Mandy Phalen, Event Studio (972) 355-6556 **OFFICIANT** Craig Claybrook (214) 342-3465 **GOWN** Justina McCaffrey, The Bridal Portfolio (972) 562-9779, McKinney **HAIR AND MAKEUP** Elan Makeup Studio (214) 370-3333 **BRIDESMAID DRESSES** The Bridal Portfolio **FORMALWEAR** The guys wore Ralph Lauren tuxes with pink ties to match the bridesmaid dresses and, at the groom's request, their own black cowboy boots. Jeffrey's custom-made boots were a wedding gift from Lee. Ascot Tuxedos (214) 520-8897 **INVITATIONS** William Arthur, Needle in a Haystack (214) 528-2850 **FLOWERS** The Wildflower (214) 357-5364 **RENTAL EQUIPMENT** Linens: BBJ Linen (214) 651-9020; Cigar roller: Sabino with D'Havana Cigars (214) 826-6579 **CATERING** Food Glorious Food, a division of Culinaire International (214) 528-3243 **MUSIC Ceremony:** Serenata Strings (940) 206-1119, Flower Mound; **reception:** Mark Toussaint Combo (469) 867-3837 **CAKE** Jackie Coleman (903) 482-6859, Van Alstyne **TRANSPORTATION** Romantic Remembrances (972) 494-2162 **ACCOMMODATIONS** The Melrose Hotel (214) 521-5151; The Adolphus (214) 742-8200 **HONEYMOON** A week in Maui, booked through Expedia/Fun (800) 662-7055, Lahaina, HI



