The night *is* Ours

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CREATIVE DIRECTION & STYLING BY CHARMED EVENTS GROUP
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Your wedding day represents the next chapter in your love story. We won't call it a happily ever after; no, the real life and real celebration you're building together are far better than a fairy tale ending could ever be. This celebration is your chance to bring your own narrative to life and decide exactly what history remembers of this night. Because this night is yours.

FOREVER CLASSIC
The secret to an enduring
wedding design is focusing
on the overall mood of
your love story instead of
the trends populating your
Pinterest feed. Start with
the big picture — the two
of you — and then work
your way down to the
minutiae of your day.

SHEER ROMANCE
This wedding dress is the perfect complement to a celebration wrapped in romance. The delicate lace details and long, elegant sleeves combined with a softened, almost-empire silhouette recall the pages of treasured 19th century novels like *Pride & Prejudice* or *Wuthering Heights*.
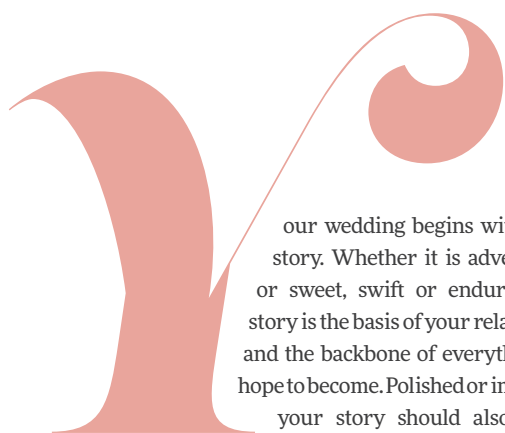
Your wedding begins with a love story. Whether it is adventurous or sweet, swift or enduring, this story is the basis of your relationship and the backbone of everything you hope to become. Polished or imperfect, your story should also be the foundation of your wedding day. If your story is the sum of all your triumphs and struggles, your wedding is the medium through which you share it — your own carefully planned work of art to commemorate all that has come before and the dazzling future that lies ahead.

Designer Frances Liu of Charmed Events Group, the creative genius behind this particular wedding tale in all its romantic glory, believes every wedding's design should begin with a conversation. That single heart-to-heart will help your designer grasp who you are and how your story translates to the setting of that all-important day — in this instance, a tale of timeless romance rendered through a distinctly modern lens.

From that initial conversation comes inspiration. Frances always starts with a mood board filled with textures, colors, fashion, details and glimpses of handwriting or typography. Now is the time to pull out all the stops; include items and ideas that resonate with the way you want this celebration to look and feel. Have a specific color palette in mind? Add it to the board. Romantic textures like lace or ribbons? Yes. Vintage rentals? Definitely.

The key, says Frances, is to take all the inspiration you love and then edit out the excess. There are no secrets here: This is the hardest part. Narrowing down the options when you love everything in front of you doesn't come easily to anyone. But having the fortitude to pare down these ideas will make wedding planning simpler and give your celebration a stronger narrative. This is when you develop contrasting elements to add depth — like Frances' decision to pair an innately romantic design with a raw, industrial setting — and determine which details are the truest representation of the story you want to tell.

Through their own editing process, Frances and her team realized the dark colors in their charcoal, black and mauve palette might prove intimidating and softened the tone by incorporating natural elements like slabs of marble and slate into the design. The resulting scene was muted instead of moody and effortlessly timeless, an ethereal backdrop upon which this ageless love story was brought to life.

The process of building your wedding parallels the formation of a work of art: You experience a lightning bolt of inspiration, followed by brainstorming, planning and editing. Finally, it's time to bring every detail to life and to enjoy the resulting creation with your guests at your celebration.

In the end, this event is one particularly lovely way to record the nuance and beauty of your relationship. It is a marker, a herald, of all the two of you have been together up to this day — and the first page in your next chapter.

We live our love stories. And then, when we get married, the raw material of our daily lives (and daily love) is transmuted into a visual narrative that every participant can catch hold of. This is why we love weddings: When we're there, as a guest or a member of the wedding party or the person speaking those vows, we get to step into the story. We get to be a part of that tangible magic, even if only for a moment. It's the sweetest kind of alchemy, one we'll never forget.

> *"This event is one particularly lovely way to record the nuance and beauty of your relationship."*

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
Paper goods are central to a uniform storyline for any wedding. Because these elements can be carried all the way through your celebration — from invitation suites to table numbers, seating cards and favors — selecting a quality design you truly love is one of the first big thematic decisions you should make.

MONOCHROMATIC CAKES
The simplest way to make an ageless statement with any aspect of your celebration is to keep the design crisp and clean. This cake, born from cream, charcoal and marble-inspired fondant, needs no additional adornment. Instead, its placement beneath a backdrop featuring stunning lettering that shares a message important to the event's theme creates an unexpected cake topper that can't be missed.

ONE HUE OR TWO
Even the most muted
color palettes benefit
from the occasional
pop of color. Bright
greenery and fuchsia
ranunculus add depth
to an otherwise blush
and cream table
arrangement filled with
classic selections like
roses and on-trend
additions like berries.

COMPARE & CONTRAST
Textures are an indispensable part of Frances' design. To create a rich, layered look, her team built up depth and volume with a combination of lace linens and soft, airy fabrics. From there, they added pearl-handled flatware and crystal stemware for dimension. Slate seating cards and vintage black vases added the juxtaposition Frances was looking for.

INSIDER TIP: By bringing contrasting concepts into your wedding design, like the delicate crystal and rough slate shown here, you can compose a fresh, never-before-seen setting.

DRESSED TO IMPRESS The groom's tuxedo, the bride's gown and the bridesmaid's dress effortlessly complement one another. From the groom's slim, black tie to the bride's loose curls and glowing, natural makeup, each look is modern, classic and inescapably romantic. The bridesmaid's dress rounds out the party's appearance with its contemporary cut — a subtle, understated accompaniment for the bride's chosen style. Custom coordinate your own wedding looks by sticking to underlying themes and elements like long, flowing lines or modern fit.

CREDITS

Photography: Megan Clouse Photography

Creative direction, design & styling: Charmed Events Group

Shoot production: Be Inspired PR

Floral design: Precious & Blooming

Location: The Barlow

Paper goods: Little Miss Press

Lettering: The Blackline by Lauren

Cake: Pretty Please SF

Bride's dress: Jenny Yoo

Groom's tuxedo: Menguin

Bridesmaid dress: Joanna August

Hair & makeup: Aimee Makeup Artistry

Event & lounge rentals: Bright Rentals

Tabletop rentals: Frances Lane

Chair rentals: Blueprint Studios

Linens: La Tavola Linens

Ceremony arch & drape: Especially Yours Chair Covers

FLORAL ASPIRATIONS
The bride's bouquet is a focal point for any photographer. This arrangement, made primarily of peonies, roses and ranunculus with the addition of grape leaves and raspberries, is exceptional as an updated iteration of a romantic and slightly whimsical bouquet. The long, blush-colored ribbon is a flawless finishing touch.

Find behind the scenes photos and even more inspiration at **MYWEDDING.COM/THENIGHTISOURS** **SEE MORE** ♥