

Fall Into Place

Leslie Wallace and Brandon Taylor

BY LISSA POIROT

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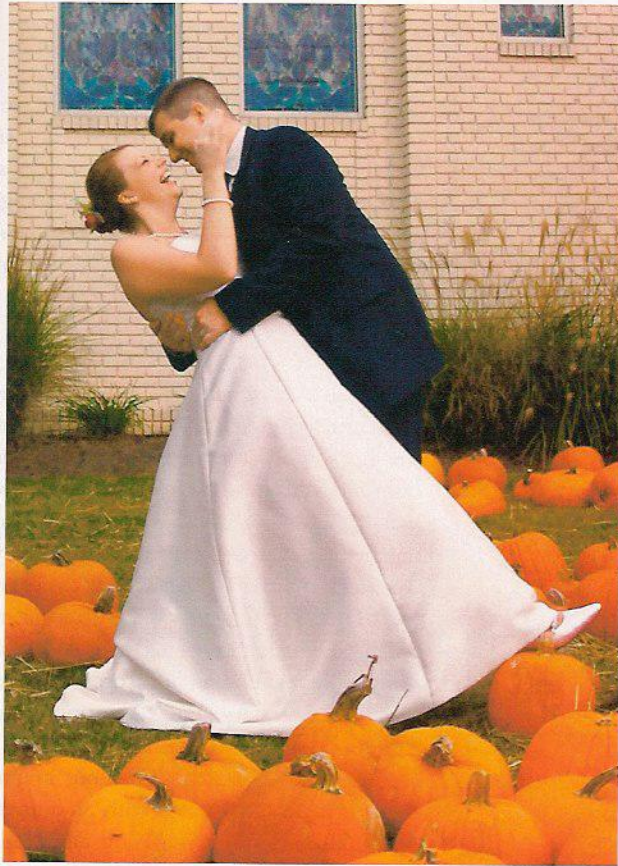
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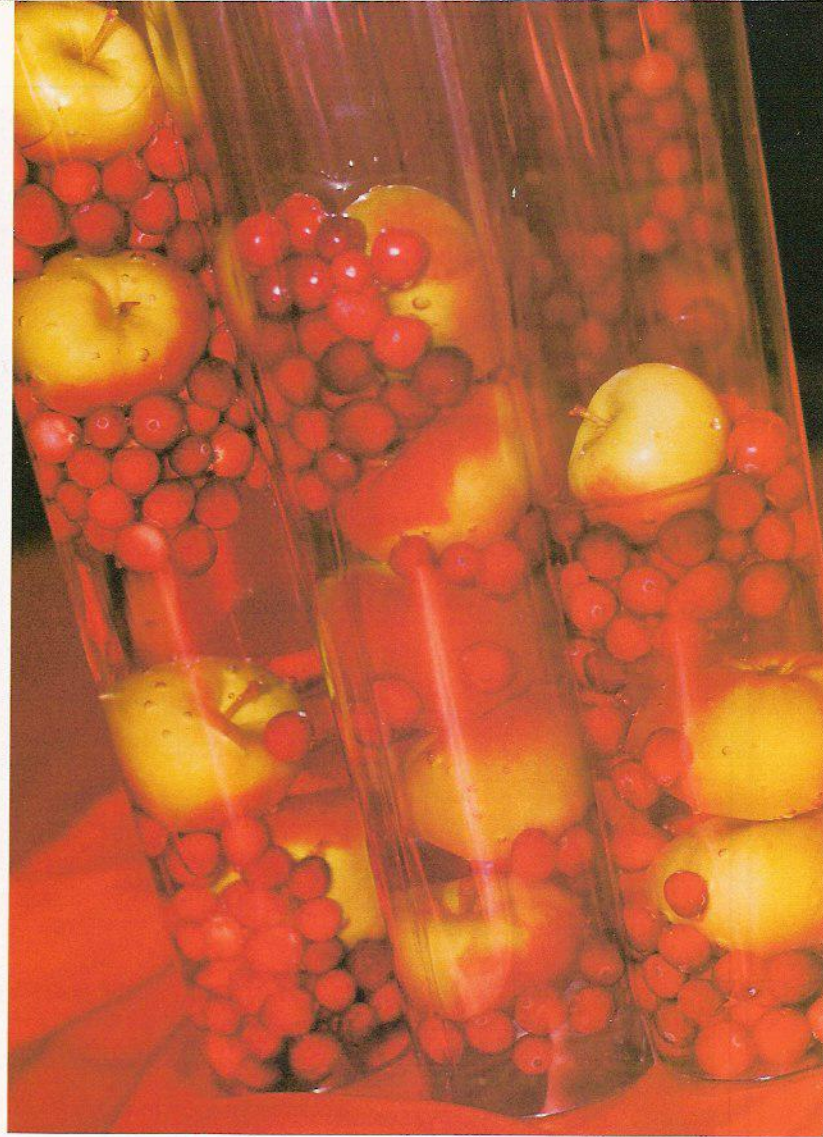
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Opposite, A tiny wreath of berries hangs from the corner of a pew during the short but sweet ceremony. Clockwise from above, Brandon dips his new wife in a pumpkin patch outside the church. Glass cylinders filled with apples and cranberries fit in with the wedding's bold red color scheme. Asiatic blooms, including lilies and orchids, mix with autumnal-hued roses and berries to emphasize the Asian and fall themes.

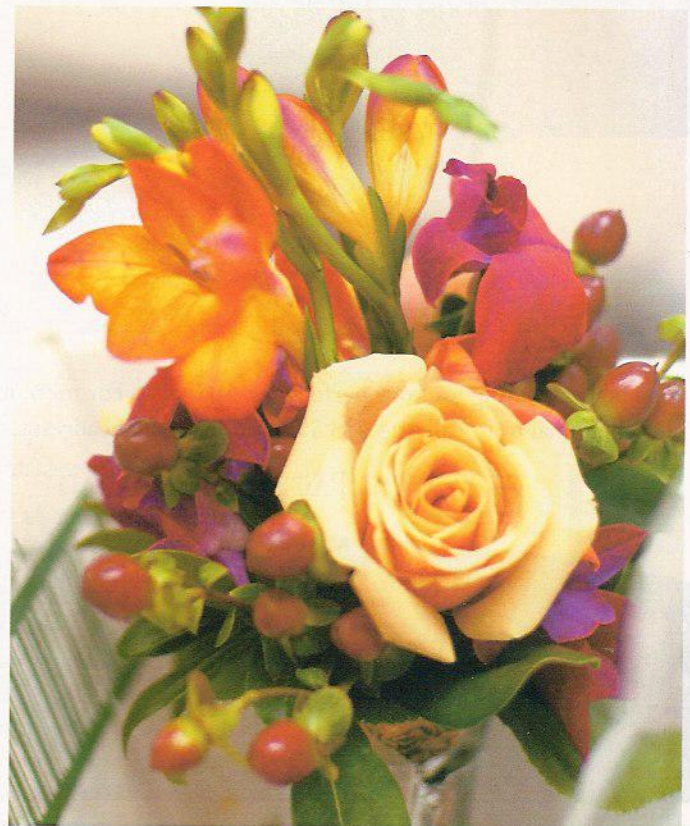


FOUR YEARS AGO, LESLIE WALLACE WAS TAKING A TECHNICAL WRITING class at Auburn University when her professor put a football player into her work group. The class was filled with engineers and Leslie didn't understand why a football player was taking the course. She didn't give him another thought—until she discovered that the football player, Brandon Taylor, was actually brilliant.

"I guess you could say he made the cut," says Leslie, who accepted a first date with Brandon. "Brandon told me that he had noticed me in class—maybe it's because I'm six feet tall with red hair! It turns out that he had asked our professor to put him in my group."

After graduation, the couple moved to Melbourne, FL, where Brandon took a position as a software engineer and Leslie became an event coordinator with the Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. Their work schedules didn't give them enough time to visit their families that first Thanksgiving, so the duo decided to spend the weekend in Orlando to cheer each other up. When they arrived at their hotel, Leslie realized Brandon had put more thought into their getaway than she expected—she entered the hotel room and found roses and champagne. As she turned to ask him what was up, Brandon was down on one knee, with an engagement ring in his hand. Of course, Leslie said yes!

"We had never talked about rings, but it was exactly what I wanted," Leslie says. "Being a software engineer, he was »



been part of her mother's wedding dress was a hint of blue fabric: a piece of the dress her grandmother had worn at Leslie's mother's wedding.

After a brief, meaningful ceremony, the newlyweds walked back up the aisle as a friend of Leslie's played Auburn's fight song on the harp.

get the party started

Leslie and Brandon welcomed guests to their reception at Roswell Mill, where the Asian motif showed itself in the centerpieces—containers filled with bamboo, cranberries and apples, designed by Leslie's mom and one of her sisters.

For dinner, Leslie and Brandon opted for a traditional American buffet, featuring roast beef, pasta and a host of side dishes. Most of Brandon's groom's cake was carrot cake (his favorite). A smaller chocolate cake (her favorite) was topped with footballs and tuxedoed strawberries to represent Brandon's company's software logo, while the four-tier wedding cake—buttercream cake layered with cream-cheese filling—featured a crisscross pattern to complement Leslie's dress and pretty, pale-green orchids.

Eleven months after proposing, Brandon could finally call Leslie his wife, and he happily led her onto the dance floor to kick off the festivities, sharing their first dance to Al Green's "Let's Stay Together." With the party in full swing, guests joined them, dancing to what Leslie calls a lot of ABBA and '80s music. "My only request to the DJ was that he play music that would make people dance!" she says.

And before they knew it, the big day had ended. The DJ played one more rendition of the Auburn fight song, and guests rattled Auburn shakers as a final send-off to the happy couple. ■

BEHIND THE SCENES

PHOTOGRAPHY: Karen Simmons,
karenandco.com

SITE/CATERER: Roswell Mill, 770/998-2525

CAKE: Simple Elegance, 770/966-7415

FLOWERS: The Edge Design Group,
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ENTERTAINMENT:

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