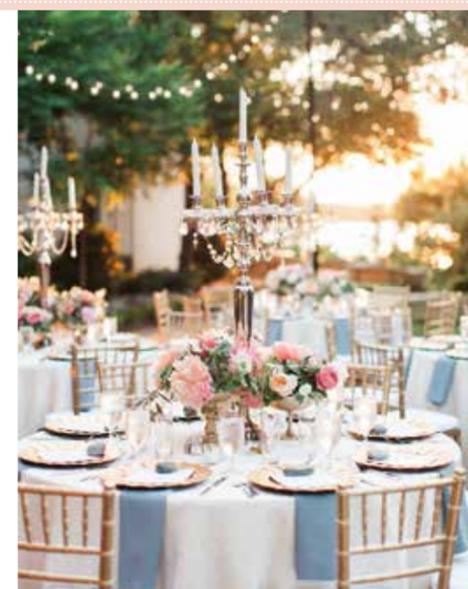




ASHLEY KAPLAN + CHRIS STURGEON
MAY 3, 2015



A VISION IN WHITE

ASHLEY KAPLAN KNEW EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTED FROM HER WEDDING TO HER HIGH-SCHOOL SWEETHEART, CHRIS STURGEON.



{ text by Jessica Jones & photography by Jennefer Wilson Photography }

THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T CONTROL. Plano natives Ashley Kaplan and Chris Sturgeon had been friends since the sixth grade. Over the years, Chris developed feelings for Ashley, but it wasn't until their senior year of high school that Ashley began to see Chris in a new light, and the pair started dating. "He's just one of the sweetest guys I've ever known," she says. "It was one of those things where he was still my best friend, but we could also have a romantic relationship."

Ten years, two college degrees, and a joint move to Los Angeles later, Chris asked Ashley to marry him on a May evening at The Ritz-Carlton in Dallas. Ashley, who plans events for a living at an entertainment-marketing firm in Beverly Hills, knew exactly what she wanted—"I've had a wedding Pinterest board since Pinterest came out," she laughs—and hoped to wed just a few months later. "But I really wanted peonies, and that wasn't possible with a fall wedding," she says. "The next best thing was spring."

So they set a date for May 3 at the Dallas Arboretum. Ashley eschewed hiring a planner, relying on her own expertise and the help of her creative mom and sister. "I'm a control freak, so I knew I needed to do it to have it done the way I wanted it done," she says.

What she wanted was a lush, floral-heavy setting that felt natural and not too fussy, and she entrusted the professionals at GRO Floral & Event Design to create it. Ashley had just as clear a vision for her gown. The only problem? It didn't exist. So Ashley had a family friend create it for her. Everything was