

A PERFECT UNION

A WASHINGTON, D.C., COUPLE CELEBRATED THEIR LOVE IN AN ICONIC URBAN MARKETPLACE—TRANSFORMED INTO A GARDEN PARADISE.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
KATE HEADLEY
TEXT BY LAURA WALLIS

UP ON THE ROOF

Newlyweds Caroline and Kyle Crosby—she in a corset and ball-gown skirt by Monique Lhuillier, he in a navy tux by Burberry—took a quiet moment away from their reception to enjoy the view and pose for pictures on the roof of Union Market.

It all started with a hug. Caroline Kettler and Kyle Crosby first saw each other at a bar in Washington, D.C. “We locked eyes across the room,” remembers Caroline, who teaches second grade in McLean, Virginia, near where the couple now live. Though they didn’t even meet, “as I was leaving, Kyle asked me for a hug good-bye,” says Caroline. “He was really sweet.” For his part, Kyle describes an immediate connection. “I didn’t know her name or anything. But we both remember this hug.”

It made enough of an impression that five months later, when they met at a mutual friend’s craft-beer taste-test party, sparks flew. Soon after, he asked her out for mussels and Belgian beer (a shared

interest in beers and ciders was apparent early on), and their five-year relationship was on its way. They weren’t always together—in fact, Kyle, a former energy consultant who is now opening a cidery in D.C., left for graduate school in Colorado just a few months in. But “it felt really good,” says Caroline. “So we kept it going.”

In July 2015, the couple took a vacation to Europe. They traveled to Iceland and saw purple fields of lupine flowers—blooms featured in Caroline’s favorite childhood book—throughout the countryside before going on to visit the cideries of France. (“Normandy has the best in the world,” says Kyle.) Unbeknownst to Caroline, Kyle carried a ring in his backpack through most of their journey. “I’m terrible at keeping secrets,” he says. But he managed to hold out, and he found his moment when they stopped at Monet’s garden in Giverny. It was a dream spot for Caroline, a lover of both art history and gardens. “I used to spend summers with my grandma in her garden instead of going to camp,” she says. While she was taking pictures, he dropped to one knee and proposed.

Many elements of that eventful trip made it into their wedding a year later, on July 2, 2016. The couple chose Dock 5 at D.C.’s Union Market for the reception; they already liked the market and the food vendors there, and since they both have large extended families, they knew they needed a roomy venue to accommodate their crowd. Caroline also saw the vast, industrial space as a blank canvas—one in which they could create a lush garden feeling. “Kyle is my mountain man,” she says. “And I knew the more we made it feel like the big outside, the more comfortable he’d be.”

Their planner, Pineapple Productions, and florist, Amaryllis, Inc. Floral & Event Design, helped them realize that vision, transforming the raw space into an organic, plant-filled setting—with touches of Monet’s garden and a bountiful flower-market display.

Two hundred and sixty family members and friends gathered in Caroline’s childhood church in Northwest D.C. and looked on as the couple exchanged vows in a Methodist ceremony. Afterward, all were shuttled to the reception for cocktail hour—featuring French and American hard ciders, of course—followed by a dreamy night of dinner and dancing amid the greenery.

GOOD IMPRESSIONS

Stationer Cheree Berry incorporated meaningful elements into the stone-gray letterpressed suite, including a wildflower pressed over the invitation itself, evoking artwork in the bride’s parents’ home and blooms in Monet’s garden, the proposal site. A Monet quote was printed underneath the invitation, and watercolor illustrations tied the theme back to those on the save-the-dates (opposite), only in a more neutral palette.



ATTENDING TO DETAILS

1. Caroline’s nine bridesmaids included friends, family, and two of Kyle’s sisters. 2. The laser-cut, accordion-folded save-the-dates featured relationship highlights: their first-date restaurant; images from D.C. and Colorado when they dated long-distance; a church and lupine flowers from a trip to Iceland; and Monet’s garden. 3. Caroline presented the children at the wedding with *Miss Rumphius*, her favorite childhood book. 4. Out-of-town guests received welcome baskets filled with craft beer, peanuts, popcorn, and other favorite local goodies from D.C. and Colorado.





A GRAND DAY
 1. The couple took their vows in the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church, which Caroline grew up attending. 2. The florists set up a flower-market station with buckets of blooms inside Docks, using the roll-up garage doors to create a true market feeling. The station began as an escort-card display and later became a working floral bench, where designers made nosegays for guests to take home. 3. Cocktail hour featured rye Manhattans and arugula greyhounds as signature cocktails, in addition to a selection of ciders. 4. A garland of silver-dollar eucalyptus adorned the getaway car. **Opposite:** For the dining tables, florists created a garden look in composed arrangements, using a mix of blooms, including blush peonies, garden roses, and local lavender with foliage. Each table number featured a unique pressed flower in an antique zinc frame.





CELEBRATION IN BLOOM

1. Archways, greenery, and twinkling lights warmed up the warehouse-like reception space. 2. Caroline shared a happy moment with her grandmother, Nancy. 3. Nosegays in paper cones from the flower station became guest favors. 4. The couple made a sparkling exit. 5. Individual cakelets by Maggie Austin Cake—each painted with an impressionist-style pastoral scene—were a dessert highlight. “They were beautiful,” says Caroline, “but also ridiculously delicious.”

CAROLINE AND KYLE'S GARDEN PARTY

“We wrote to our officiant ahead of time, answering her questions about how we met, what we loved about each other. She surprised us by reading what we’d written during the ceremony.”

—CAROLINE, ON HOW THEY “ACCIDENTALLY” WROTE THEIR OWN VOWS

By the Numbers

5

Months between first hug and first date

4

Potential proposal sites Kyle considered before finding the right moment by the lily pond in Monet’s garden

19

Bridal-party members—10 on his side, 9 on hers

11

Number of siblings between them—he has eight brothers and sisters; she has three brothers

5

Kinds of dessert served at the wedding: a cutting cake, cakelets, a crêpe station, pies, and miniature cookies

11,000

Flower stems used in the wedding, including 1,500 in the flower market/bouquet station alone

150

Mini bouquets taken home by guests

MISS RUMPHIUS

Twenty kids under 16 attended the wedding, and Caroline, ever the elementary-school teacher, decided to give each a copy of her favorite childhood picture book, *Miss Rumphius*, by Barbara Cooney, with a wedding-logo bookplate inside. “It’s about a woman wanting to make the world better,” says Caroline. The character does that by planting lupine flowers—the very kind Caroline and Kyle traveled to see in Iceland on their engagement trip.

A LITTLE SQUIRRELLY

The squirrel featured on Caroline and Kyle’s stationery is an old pal. A few years ago in Colorado, they befriended and fed a squirrel they nicknamed “Alberto.” Afterward, a stuffed version of him became a running joke between them, popping up wherever they went. So naturally, Alberto was hiding in the bushes of Monet’s garden for Caroline to find just before Kyle proposed.

SOMEONE NEW!

THE SIZABLE WEDDING PARTY INCLUDED KYLE’S THREE SISTERS, BUT ONE, KARA, HAD TO DROP OUT: SHE WENT INTO LABOR ON THE NIGHT OF THE WEDDING! KYLE’S NEWEST NEPHEW, JACKSON, WAS BORN THE NEXT MORNING. “HE WAS THE BEST PRESENT WE WERE GIVEN,” SAYS KYLE.

the itinerary

FRIDAY

A rehearsal dinner for attendants and immediate family at the **Hamilton** (thehamiltondc.com) led into a welcome party with cocktails and nibbles for all out-of-town guests.

SATURDAY

Guests were shuttled from hotels—the **Hay Adams** (hayadams.com), where the bride and groom were staying; **Hilton Garden Inn** (hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com); and **JW Marriott** (marriott.com)—to the church, the reception, and back.

SUNDAY

The bride’s parents hosted a July Fourth-themed bash at their house on the Eastern Shore. (See marthastewartweddings.com/patriotic-party for all the gorgeous details!)

HONEYMOON DISPATCH

Caroline and Kyle waited until Christmas for their honeymoon, then spent 10 days in London and the Cotswolds. They began and ended in the city, staying at the **Langham** (langhamhotels.com) and the **Goring** (thegoring.com) hotels. “We wanted to see some less-visited sites in London [highlights included the Churchill War Rooms and the Christmas markets] and spend some time relaxing and hiking in the countryside,” says Caroline. In the Cotswolds, they stayed at the **Wild Rabbit** in Kingham (thewildrabbit.co.uk) and **No.38 the Park** in Cheltenham (theluckyonion.com). The last night of the trip, “we attended Christmas Eve dinner and dancing at the Ritz London [theritzlondon.com],” says Caroline. “It had old-world charm and class, and was a very special final celebration.”

SOURCES

Location Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church (ceremony); Dock 5 at Union Market (reception) **Event planning and design** Pineapple Productions **Catering** Susan Gage Caterers **Floral design and décor** Amaryllis, Inc. Floral & Event Design **Photography** Kate Headley **Videography** Bowen Films **Stationery** Cherie Berry Paper **Calligraphy** Arney Walker Studio **Cake and cakelets** Maggie Austin Cake **Music** Rhythm Collective; Chris Stiles **Rentals** DC Rental; Nuage Designs **Bride’s gown and veil** Monique Lhuillier **Accessories** Boone & Sons Jewelers (earrings and engagement ring); Tiffany & Co. (bracelet); Edie Parker (clutch); Jimmy Choo (shoes) **Hair** Christophe Saluzzo **Makeup** Johny Saade **Groom’s tuxedo** Burberry