

Rachel Shipley & Garrett Hagendorf

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written by
Beth Stockwell

photography by
Silver Plate Photography



In the well-known children's story *The Tortoise and the Hare*, two animals raced against each other. On a gorgeous day in late March, a metaphoric tortoise and hare raced toward each other and met at the altar. Rachel Shipley and Garrett Hagendorf have affectionately made this children's story their own. Rachel, the hare, is a multi-tasker and Garrett, the tortoise, has been the yin to her yang, as he is organized, logical and steady. Their beautiful wedding at Kali Kate Farms in Buda, Texas solidified that they were in the race of life together as a team.

Rachel and Garrett met at Texas State University and dated for seven years. On Garrett's 30th birthday, April 26, 2007, their families came together for a backyard celebration. The couple values family time and both of their extended families were present at this particular celebration. After pulling Rachel's father aside to ask for his daughter's hand in marriage, Garrett knelt down before Rachel and proposed to her. Amongst their most loved and cherished family members, Rachel excitedly accepted.

Their wedding took place on March 28, 2009 in a rustic, natural setting at Kali Kate Farms. Surrounded by the pristine beauty of the Texas Hill Country, the couple exchanged vows and were pronounced husband and wife after a touching ceremony by Chaplin Larry Todd. The couple values tradition and vintage touches were an important part of their wedding. Rachel wore her great grandmothers antique platinum and rose gold filigree necklace with peridot and diamond stones and her shoes were adorned with her grandmother's antique earrings. For her "something blue," Rachel tied a blue ribbon with tortoise and rabbit charms to her petticoat. Her vintage-inspired gown was made with white Godarvi Dupioni peridot silk designed by Sottero-Midgley. Her hand-tied bouquet had heirloom fuchsia and sunset orange roses with hydrangea adorned with antique ribbon and brooches. Rachel's four maids of honor wore strapless silk taffeta dresses to match her bouquet. Garrett's "Four Good Men" wore tuxes. The couple and their bridal and grooms parties were dressed by Celebrations in New Braunfels. *(continued on page 46)*

The reception was also held on Kali Kate Farms grounds under a sprawling wooden pavilion. A fire flickered in a large stone fireplace while guests dined and danced to tunes by David Combs of Hollywood Sound. Mercury glass votives and vases, along with antique images and wedding lore, were placed around the reception to add to the vintage design. The flowers, provided by Petal Pushers, were vintage garden roses, hypericum berries, poppies, hydrangea, and parrot tulips, all in shades of fuchsia, sunset orange, and spring green. Chisholm Trail provided catering for the wedding and guests dined on roasted chicken, bacon-wrapped asparagus, yellow potatoes, and slices of ripe watermelon. The bride's cake was made by Irene Soechting, who also made the cake for Rachel's mother's baby shower when she was pregnant with Rachel. It was a 4 tier; white cake with white chocolate raspberry mousse filling, each Swiss dotted layer was tied with vintage looking ribbon and adorned with a bow and brooch, as well as flowers from Petal Pushers. The effect was stunning and there were lighted globes hanging above the cake table which made it glow. The groom's cake, made by Dwight Schneider, was a single-layer chocolate cake with chocolate covered strawberries. The reception also featured a candy bar with vintage glass jars filled with an assortment of candies for the guests to take home. The wedding and reception were photographed artistically by Silver Plate Photography.

After enjoying the wonderful Texas evening with their friends and family, Rachel and Garrett flew to St. Lucia for a 5-day honeymoon at the Sandals Grande St. Lucian Resort. The pair enjoyed snorkeling, canopy tours, couples massages, and blissful relaxation on the white Caribbean sands. The couple, a modern day version of the tortoise and the hare, has now settled back into their Houston home to enjoy each others company. ♦

For more information about this wedding, the wedding professionals involved and to leave comments for the couple, please visit www.TexasWeddingMall.com

