

Bradley Grier & Mara Durrett
November 11, 2006

Written by Kiko Martinez
Photos by Alamo Photographic

Bradley Grier and Mara Durrett met for the first time in 2001 when both worked for the County Line Steak House in San Antonio, Texas. Mara had taken a summer position as a waitress at the restaurant and Bradley had been the manager there for the last seven years.

"I was an awful waitress and I know he hated having to work with me," Mara joked about her job at the steak house.

Although both got along as friends and co-workers, a sizzling romance was nowhere in the cards for Bradley and Mara. Mara was on her way to college after the summer.

Going their separate ways after the season, it was not until 2004 when Mara returned to San Antonio and ran into Bradley at a mutual friend's party. Their friendship was immediately rekindled, although Mara says both immediately knew it would evolve into something more.

"We knew right away that we couldn't be just friends," she said.

A year later, Bradley proposed and Mara said yes. Exactly a year after that - on November 11, 2006 - the two exchanged vows in front of a cantera-stone fountain during an outside ceremony at the Dominion Country Club.

"The Dominion Country Club was just a beautiful location," said Mara's mother, Melissa Hines, who did most of the wedding's legwork. "We wanted something on the western part of town because we wanted to take advantage of the sunset." >>



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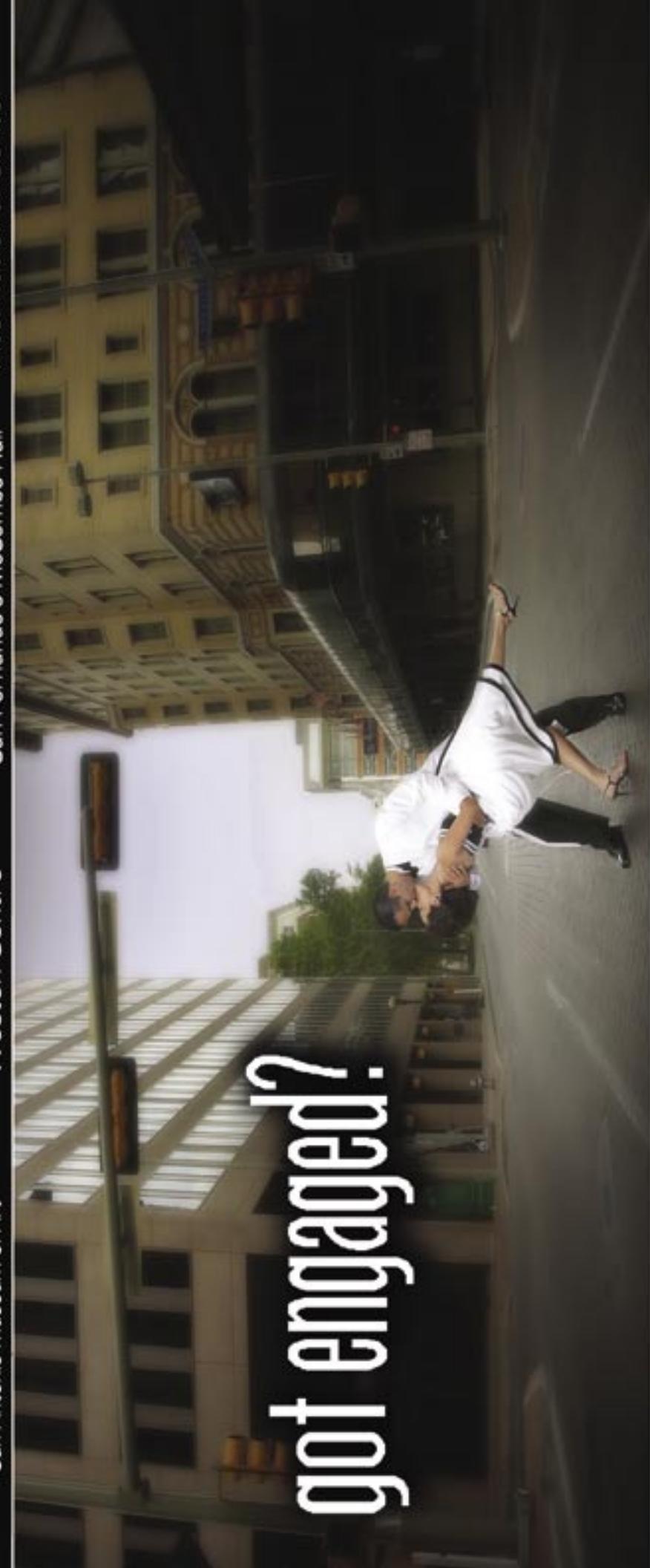
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The setting sun was only part of the beauty of the wedding. Following the wedding's color palette of coffee tones, Mara was dressed in a unique ivory wedding gown from the Bridal Gallery, which was ornamented with feathers, rhinestones and ivory flowers.

"Mara has always had a talent for fashion and fashion design," Melissa said. "We knew that her dress would have to be unique and special, and it was. It got a lot of attention."

The bridesmaids dresses also followed suit with a light mocha color "complementary to their skin color" and elegant skirting on the backs of their gowns.

Looking flawless in her ivory dress, Mara said her favorite part of the entire day was when she was walked down the aisle by both her father, Terry Durrett, and stepfather, Joe Hines.

"I had one on each arm," Mara said. "It was very special."

After the ceremony, which was led by Judge Tessa Herr, had concluded, the 150 guests filed inside the country club for dinner. Green and pink roses, tulips and hydrangeas, which complemented the brown and ivory colors of the ladies' dresses, filled the venue.

Instead of seating the guests by assigning them to numbered tables (who wants to sit at table No.

15 when there are 15 tables?), Dominion Country Club director of catering Franck Mannechez and the family thought naming the tables after types of coffees and wines would keep guests from thinking that they were being seated last.

"There was a table called Chardonnay," Melissa said. "There was another called Burgundy and Mocha. It was for the state-of-mind of the guests."

Another distinctive aspect of the dinner - a buffet-style set-up with a roast beef station and pasta bar - was that the country club provided Mara and Bradley with a private room to eat so they would not be overwhelmed by guests wanting to congratulate them.

"It was a very good idea to make sure (the bride and groom) had something in their stomachs," Melissa said. "You tend to not eat when people come up to you and start talking. Some people feel obligated to mingle. It kind of forces them to sit down and eat and have their first meal as husband and wife without any distractions."

Waiting for them and the guests later in the evening was a 3-tier cake with ivory icing from the Cake Shoppe. Across the cake, words and phrases like "love," "amore" and "to have and to hold," were spelled out in chocolate lettering.

After the celebration, Mara and Bradley rode off in a Bonnie and Clyde-style 1935 Ford to the St. Anthony Hotel in downtown San Antonio where they spent the night before making a trip to Playa del Carmen, Mexico for their honeymoon.

"The wedding was just everything I wanted it to be for her," Melissa said. "You could tell she was so happy with everything. It worked out real nicely." ♦

Ceremony & Reception Location:
The Dominion Country Club
 (210) 698-3364 | www.The-Dominion.com
Photographer / Video: Alamo Photographic
 (210) 828-5009 | www.AlamoPhotographic.com
Flowers: Botanica
 (210) 681-5604 | www.Botanika.com
Officiant: Judge Maria Teresa Herr
 (210) 335-2505
Gown Designer: Pronovias
 www.pronovias.com
Purchased From: Bridal Galleria
 (210) 342-5752 | www.BridalGalleriaOfTexas.com
Bridesmaid dresses: David's Bridal
 (210) 340-5385 | www.DavidsBridal.com
Men's Formal Wear: Alis Formal Wear
 (210) 558-3622 | www.AlsFormalWear.com
Invitations: Alis Formal Wear
 (210) 558-3622 | www.alsformalwear.com
Ceremony Music: Allegretto Strings
Reception Music: Airwave Dave
 (210) 545-3800 | www.AirWaveDave.com
Cake: The Cake Shop
 (210) 561-1700 | www.TheCakeShopSA.com
Honeymoon: Playa del Carmen
 www.playainfo.com



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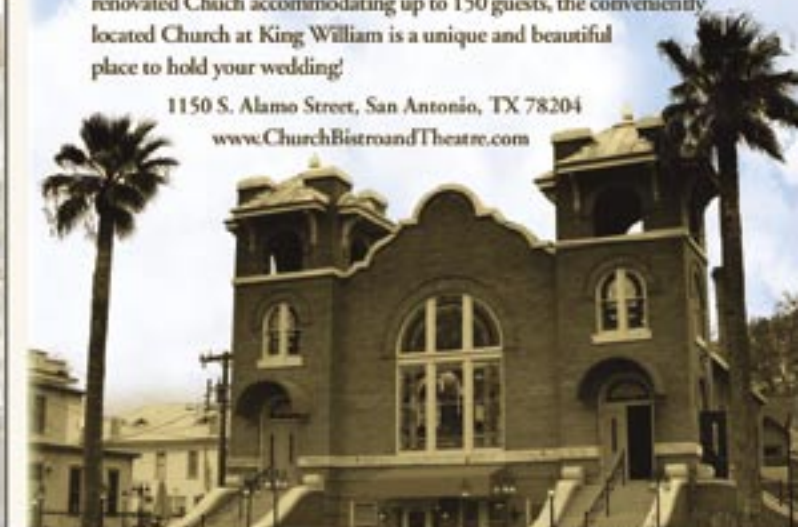
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