

**The Wedding Celebration of
Chelsea Rodgers and Austin Murrey**

Saturday, September 22, 2012

Wedding: Chelsea Rodgers & Austin Murrey
Saturday 9/22/12 – 6:30 pm
Tres Sueños, Luther, OK

11:00am to 2:30 **Bridal Party to Salon**

- At the discretion of the photographer; Corey Penry to arrive at Salon for documentation.

noon- **Julie Smith (and husband, Jason) to arrive at Tres Suenos**

3pm | **Bridal Party to arrive at vineyard**

3pm -3:30 **Bridal party to dress, touch up makeup, and hair**

3:15 - **Groom and Groomsmen to arrive at vineyard**

Pictures start at 3:30

3:30 - 4:10 **Chelsea**

Bridesmaids

Grandmother

Mom

4:10 to 4:15 Remove bride from the scene so Groom does not see her.....yet!!

4:15 to 4:45 **Austin**

Groomsmen

Grooms parents

4:45 to 5:15 **First look**

5:15 to 5:40 **Wedding Party pictures**

5:45 – 6:30 | **Prelude**

- **Jacob** and **Dalton** will help people find seats (immediate family and close friends have reserved seats; everyone else is first come, first served).
- There will be no “bride's side” or “groom's side”, people are welcome to sit toward the aisle rather than outer edge instead of filling rows.
- **Kylie** will pass out programs and ask that guest sign guest book.
- **Ruth** will play chosen songs while guests are being seated.

6:30 – 6:33 | **Seating of Chosen Family**

- Last general guests to be seated should be:
- **Brad & Heather Rodriguez**
- **Bryan & Sandra Harris**
- **Any of Chelsea's Uncles**
- Guests to be seated by usher before procession (When these people begin being seated, **Ruth** should play *“Hallelujah” by Rufus Wainwright*)
- **Joann & Clarence Yearley**
- Austin's Father, **David Murrey**
- Mothers, individually, will be walked to the altar, pour ½ bottle of wine from an already corked bottle into a carafe on a wine cask that is located under the arch. They will then be seated
- **Dee Webber**, Austin's Mother – escorted by **Austin**
- **Kay Rodgers**, Chelsea's Mother – escorted by **Will**
- **Jacob** and **Dalton** will roll the aisle runner down the aisle and be seated at this time

6:33 – 6:35 | **Procession**

- Marcus, Austin, Will, Oscar, and Clay enter from stage right.
- [When it's time to start, **Marcus** will signal **Ruth** to begin playing *“Marry Me” by Train*]
- The ladies of the bridal party will begin to walk toward the front, one at a time, and take their places by Marcus (stage left).
 3. Sara D
 2. Jenna
 1. Sara

Flower girls will walk down the aisle, first **Marleigh** holding a sign

(either “Austin, here comes your girl” or “Here comes the bride” or the like), then

Codi, with flower petals.

- As soon as the girls have gotten up the aisle, “**Canon in D**” by the Piano

Guys will start, signaling **Chelsea** and **David's** walk down the aisle.

[Marcus signals the crowd to stand]

6:35 – 6:38 | **Welcome / Giving of Bride / Greeting**

• Welcome [**Marcus Ad Lib**]

Good evening. We are gathered here to witness and celebrate the wedding of Austin Murrey and Chelsea Rodgers. On behalf of them, I welcome each of you and thank you for being here. You may be seated.

[at this point, the men of Chelsea's family will continue to stand]

Austin and Chelsea met for the first time when they were teenagers at a dance event. Austin danced west coast swing, Chelsea danced lindy hop, and the combination was less than magical. (Austin says it was “terrible,” and there’s video footage to prove it.)

Chelsea says Austin was wearing rhinestones on the heels of his shoes, so she just assumed he wouldn’t be interested in a girl like her. (Or any girl for that matter.) To say the least, it wasn’t love at first sight. But sometimes love takes time, and obviously a lot has changed since you two were teenagers.

Austin and Chelsea, you’ve waited your entire lives for this moment. Your friends and family have waited their entire lives to be here with you in celebration.

May your commitment here today not only symbolize your love for one another, but also cause that love to grow deeper. And may each of us in attendance be reminded of our capacity for such love.

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

- David says “On behalf of her father and her mother”
- The standing men, along with Kay, Chelsea's mother respond:
- “We do”
- Hugs and handshakes

6:39 – 6:41 | **Opening Prayer / Reading**

- **Clarence Yearley** to give prayer

6:41 – 6:43 | **Definition of Marriage**

When Austin and Chelsea asked me to officiate their wedding, I agreed without hesitation. However, at some point, I realized I would have to stand in front of their friends and family and have *something* to say. What had I agreed to? I wondered. On a number of occasions, I almost called Austin to ask, “Can’t I just stand there like Will and look pretty?” But I never did.

This section of the ceremony is entitled “the definition of marriage,” and it’s the part I put off writing the longest. Chelsea offered piles and piles of wedding books with plenty of suggestions about what to say, but nothing seemed unique or worthy of my friends and yours. Until I came across this story.

Once upon a time, there was a boy who’d given up on the idea of finding someone special. He’d looked, and looked, and looked some more, but there simply weren’t any special someones to be found.

Far away, there was a girl who was content to be alone. She wasn’t looking for anything or anyone, because life had taught her that it’s not always safe to love.

Every year, there was a great festival in the land where this boy and this girl lived, and the people of the land would gather together to dance, for dancing brought joy to their hearts.

And while the boy was at the festival one year, he met the girl, the one he’d given up looking for. Quite beautiful, articulate and smart, she was well-mannered and had excellent posture. Oh, and she had nice hair. This is someone special, thought the boy.

The girl felt the same. Although she hadn’t been looking for the boy, now that she’d met him, she had no interest in letting him go. The boy had just shown up, and there was nothing the girl—the one who wasn’t sure about love—could do about it.

For a while, the boy and girl were separated by many miles, but miles don't matter when you're in love, and sometimes they reveal to us what we want the most. And the boy and girl knew this much—they wanted to be together.

So the boy and girl moved, and over the years, their love and respect for each other grew. When the boy laughed, so did the girl, and when the girl laughed, so did the boy. Indeed, they enjoyed each other so much that it was difficult to tell whose happiness was whose.

The girl liked to sing in the shower, and the boy would often sneak close to listen. "She thinks she's bad," said the boy, "but I think she's quite good."

Once the boy and girl went to the beach, and the boy went to play with some children while the girl watched. She noticed how kind he was to the children, the same way he was with animals, and she thought, "He has a good heart."

One day, after years of dating the girl, the boy realized that there was no one else he would trust his happiness to, and that's when he knew that sometimes you have to stop looking for something before you can find it.

About the same time, the girl realized she couldn't imagine her life without the boy, and that's when she knew that it was safe to love and that it always had been.

Because they wished to love each other more than they already did, the boy and girl decided to be married. Many of their friends and family said, "It's about time," but the boy and girl knew that it was about love, and that love's timing is always perfect.

And on the day of their wedding, there was dancing in the land. And the people rejoiced when they saw the

boy and girl, for they knew that the land was a better place because the boy had found the girl.

The End.

Specifically, this story is about Austin and Chelsea. But generally, it is about the nature of love and what happens when people see the best in each other. In that sense, the story is about all of us because all of us love someone or something. It is our nature to do so.

That fact brings us to the definition of marriage. Marriage, in my estimation, is a joining together. It is an outpouring of love, and whereas there are many things that would separate people, love only joins. Marriage has been esteemed and honored in every society throughout history because it is the greatest outer act that is capable of representing the inner experience we call love.

Marriage is a way that we as individuals learn to love more. That is to say, marriage reveals everything we might find unacceptable in another person or ourselves. Yet love is so gentle. While marriage brings out the very best and the very worst in each of us, love takes a look at all of it, keeps what is good, and graciously overlooks the rest. Through this process, we grow in compassion both for ourselves and others.

Today, Austin and Chelsea are getting married—or as Austin likes to say, “murrey-ed.” They’ve chosen to make a public commitment regarding a private relationship that started years ago. By making such a public announcement, they not only recognize themselves as part of a community of friends and family, but also ask for your support and blessing. May all of us join with them in celebration not only because that’s what love would do, but also because their marriage reminds us of our own commitments to love.

6:43 – 6:45 | **Statement of Intent / Charge “Do you take's”**

Austin and Chelsea, do you, before your friends and family, present yourselves willingly to be joined in marriage?

[Austin and Chelsea: WE DO]

Do you promise to care for each other in the joys and sorrows of life,
Whatever may be,
And to share the responsibility for growth and enrichment of your life together?

[Austin and Chelsea: WE DO]

6:45 – 6:47 | **Reading**

- **Kylie Rodriguez** to perform reading

I Like You by Sandol Stoddard Warburg

"I like you and I know why
I like you because you are a good person to like
I like you because when I tell you something special,
you know it's special
And you remember it a long, long time
You say, Remember when you told me something
special
And both of us remember

When I think something is important you think it's
important too
We have good ideas
When I say something funny, you laugh
I think I'm funny and you think I'm funny too

I like you because you know where I'm ticklish
And you don't tickle me there except just a little tiny bit
sometimes
But if you do, then I know where to tickle you too
You know how to be silly - that's why I like you
If I am getting ready to pop a paper bag,
then you are getting ready to jump

I like you because when I am feeling sad
You don't always cheer me up right away
Sometimes it is better to be sad
You can't stand the others being so googly and
gaggy every single minute
You want to think about things
It takes time

I like you because if I am mad at you
Then you are mad at me too
It's awful when the other person isn't
They are so nice and oooh you could just about
punch them on the nose

I can't remember when I didn't like you
It must have been lonesome then
Even if it was the 999th of July
Even if it was August
Even if it was way down at the bottom of November
I would go on choosing you
And you would go on choosing me
Over and over again
And that's how it would happen every time"

6:48 – 6:52 | Exchange of Vows

- **Chelsea** and **Austin** will exchange vows they have written themselves
- **Chelsea gives her bouquet to Leah**

Austin and Chelsea, because you would go on choosing each other, over and over again, please turn to each other and share the vows you have written for your marriage.

Austin...

(Austin says his vows)

Chelsea...

(Chelsea says her vows)

6:52 – 6:54 | Wine Ceremony

- **Chelsea** and **Austin** will do a “wine ceremony” instead of a unity candle (No flames allowed). The carafes (KUH-Raff, like GIRAFE) that the mothers poured the wine into will be poured into a single bottle, via funnel, and corked. **Marcus** will say something about not being able to separate the two. . .

Due to the current burn ban, Austin and Chelsea will not be lighting a unity candle. However, they’ve chosen to perform a “wine ceremony,” which seems fitting not only because we’re in a vineyard, but also because they like to drink.

Currently, there are two separate wines, each in an individual carafe (which is just fancy name for a wine bottle). In a moment, those two wines will be poured into a single bottle, unable to be separated.

Likewise, Austin and Chelsea join themselves together in marriage. From now on, they are no longer two, but one.

[Marcus signals Ruthie to start the music for the wine ceremony.]

6:54 – 6:57 | **Exchange of Rings**

Austin and Chelsea, what symbols have you chosen as a sign of the promises and commitments you've made ?

(said by both) These rings.

You know, I've been to a lot of weddings, and ministers always talk about rings—precious metals, unbroken circles. But what about the hands we wear them on?

If you will (and I know it's strange), look at your hands and pretend like you've never seen them before. What have they done for you today? Did they dress you, feed you, help you earn a living?

Your hands are the most amazing things, holding your loved ones, dancing with your friends, wiping away your tears. Never asking anything in return, your hands are always giving. Your hands are love in action.

So as you give and receive these rings, may they remind you to love each other as your hands love—unconditionally and without fail.

Austin, would you place Chelsea's ring on her left hand and repeat after me:

*I give you this ring as a symbol of my love for you.
Let it be a reminder that I am always by your side
and that I will be a faithful partner to you.*

Chelsea, would you place Austin's ring on his left hand and repeat after me:

*I give you this ring as a symbol of my love for you.
Let it be a reminder that I am always by your side
and that I will be a faithful partner to you.*

6:57 – 6:59 | **Reading**

- **Kylie Rodriguez** to perform reading

From **Great Expectations**, by Charles Dickens

"Once and for all, I knew to my sorrow, often and often, if not always, that I loved her against reason,

against promise, against peace, against hope, against happiness, against all discouragement that could be.

Once for all; I loved her none the less because I knew it, and it had no more influence in restraining me, than if I had devoutly believed her to be human perfection."

From **Jane Eyre**, by Charlotte Bronte

"I have for the first time found what I can truly love- I have found you.

You are my sympathy - My better self - my good angel - I am bound to you with a strong attachment.

I think you good, gifted, lovely: a fervent, a solemn passion, is conceived in my heart; it leans to you, draws you to my center and spring of life, wraps my existence about you - and, kindling in pure, powerful flame, fuses you and me in one."

6:59 – 7:01 | **Wish / Prayer for Couple**

Blessing on the couple

Austin and Chelsea, clearly you are bound to each other with strong attachment. May that attachment be a constant source of joy and strength in the years to come.

May your love for each other deepen through all circumstances. May the home that you build together be filled with kindness, compassion, and laughter. May your friends and family be your good pleasure, and may you always think of each other as good, gifted, and lovely.

Also, may you have lots of babies.

7:01 – 7:02 | **Pronouncement of Marriage & Kiss**

Austin and Chelsea, this evening in the presence of your friends and family you have declared your intent to be married and made a lifelong commitment to each other. You have also given rings as a public testimony of your love and devotion.

Therefore, it is my privilege, as a minister of the Universal Life Church, and by the power vested in me by the State of Oklahoma, to pronounce that you are now husband and wife.

May you look back on this moment in the years to come and say, “Our love was just beginning.”

You may now share your first married kiss.

[Austin and Chelsea face the crowd]

7:02 – 7:03 | **Introduction of Newlyweds**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to present to you for the very first time as husband and wife, Austin and Chelsea Murrey.

7:03 – 7:05 | **Recessional**

Wedding party to gather in TBD area for pictures.

7:05 – 7:06 | **Closing Words**

- **Marcus** will direct everyone to go to the pavilion that is directly to the west of the ceremony site.

Thank you again for being here today to celebrate this wonderful couple. Austin and Chelsea invite you to join them for heavy hors d'oeuvres and dancing in the pavilion, which is located directly to the west.

- ***Chelsea and Austin, Wedding Party, Parents, and those mentioned in this document should be assembled for photos immediately following the ceremony.***

- These photos should take no longer than 20 minutes.

7:25 – 7:30 | Reception Entrance

- Ruth will acknowledge
- Wedding host / Chelsea's Mom: Kay Rodgers
- Austin's Father: David Murrey
- Austin's Mother: Dee Webber
- Ruth will then announce wedding party
- Chelsea and Austin will be announced and will enter pavilion.

7:30 – 7:32 | First Dance

7:32 – 8:00 | Dinner & Dancing

8:00 – 8:20 | Cake Cutting and Toasts

8:20 – 8:45 | Dinner & Dancing (Cont'd)

8:45 – 8:50 | Chelsea & Austin Thanks / Speech

9:15 – 9:19 | Chelsea & Austin Send Off