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SEPTEMBER 13, 2014 | NORTH MANKATO, MN | *written by* LORI SHOBERG

The Facebook message Liz sent to Dan read, "When are you going to take me out on a date?" and Dan's reply to Liz read, "Hopefully sooner rather than later!" Sooner occurred and two years later, Elizabeth Anne Lee and Daniel George Krueger married on September 13, 2014 in the perfect setting of Liz's parent's home in North Mankato, Minnesota.

Before that fateful Facebook message, Liz moved back to Minnesota from California to manage a hair salon along with another managing job at Hollister - Ridgedale Mall in Minnetonka. Dan worked as a financial analyst at Thomson Reuters, but modeled for Abercrombie and Fitch on the side at the same mall as Liz. Through their retail connections at the mall, Liz and Dan met.

ELIZABETH *and* DANIEL





Three months later in April, Liz joined Dan in his Uptown apartment. Dan recalls, “When Liz made the move from her apartment to my place in uptown, I knew I was with my future wife. I already knew I loved her, but when I saw how we functioned in a domestic environment and faced some of our first challenges as a couple, I knew that I wanted to propose.”

Even though they discussed marriage and shopped for a ring, Dan tried his best to plan a surprise proposal to Liz with a surprise date night at home. Fire, music, wine and chocolates set the tone of the evening. Because it was the Christmas season, the couple opened their presents from each other. Of course, the engagement ring wasn’t included in the initial Christmas gift opening, but stashed in a nearby side table. When Liz left the room, Dan seized his opportunity to move the ring from the table to his pocket. When Liz returned for more cuddles by the fire, Dan shared how much Liz meant to him and how all his dreams came true in her. “Then I asked if she would make my dreams come true and spend the rest of life with me,” as Dan slipped the best Christmas gift ever out of his pocket. Relieved when Liz uttered a “yes” through her tears, Dan and Liz celebrated their official status of engagement.

Both Liz and Dan valued a relaxed approach to their planning of the wedding and the same approach in the implementation of those plans. Liz loves the fall season in Minnesota so September seemed an obvious choice for the date. What better way to enjoy the color and splendor of fall than to hold the ceremony and reception outdoors? Liz reasoned, “We chose the location of my parent’s house because we love going down there for little ‘staycations’ away from the Twin Cities. When we go down there, it’s so relaxing and we have a lot of good memories spent there.”







With the date set and the location chosen, the all-important wedding dress shopping commenced. In the process of selecting a dress, Liz randomly grabbed a long-shot from the rack “because it was very different than what I thought I would want.” When she tried it on and showed her friends, she remembers thinking, “I felt like Carrie Bradshaw from Sex in the City.” Based on her friends’ reactions, the long-shot paid off. Liz chose a beautiful couture La Sposa Mirra dress and accessorized it with a stunningly dramatic bridal headpiece.

On a perfect fall, 63-degree and sunny day, Liz and Dan awoke at 4 AM because the excitement was just too great. “It was like Christmas morning for me,” Liz stated. Being unconventional served as an important value in their wedding process. “We did things how we wanted to do them, and not what we were supposed to do.” In keeping with that value, the entire wedding party treated themselves to manicures and pedicures (yes, the men, too), spent the night at Liz’s parent’s house and ate breakfast as one big happy family before the wedding.

With a splash of eggplant in the bridesmaids’ dresses adding to the fall colors along with sprays of white and purple hydrangeas, Liz and Dan declared their love in front of 160 of their family and friends. With four deaths in the year prior to the wedding, Liz and Dan intentionally included a bouquet of remembrance and a moment of reflection on the lives lost that year. To the Vitamin String Quartet’s arrangement of “You Look Wonderful Tonight,” Liz walked down the aisle and toward her forever future with Dan. With six attendants by their sides

Liz and Dan intimately sealed their vows with a kiss in a personal and meaningful celebration designed and customized specifically with their personal touches. Jenny Konicek served as Liz’s Matron of Honor, while Sasha Druva served as Dan’s Best Man. John Samlaska was the Man of Honor while Elaina Tyagi and Erin Druva were bridesmaids along with Dan Lee as a groomsman.

After the ceremony, the guests walked the short distance to the reception tent provided by G & K Rental on the Lee’s property where a Mexican food buffet of chicken and beef tacos, Spanish rice and Mexican egg rolls awaited them. A cake table including twelve different kinds of cakes from Decadent Desserts awaited the eager sweet teeth of their guests. From snickerdoodle to red velvet and everything in between, with a custom specialty cake for the bride and grooms sweetheart table by name of Peanut Butter Surprise.

Looking back on their memorable day Liz and Dan have the pure feelings of wanting to do the whole day all over again. “It was Perfect!” Although choosing a private residence at first seemed like a big to ‘do’, Liz and Dan and their family couldn’t have been more pleased with the outcome of their special day. “It’s not about a big diamond ring, and expensive dress or a fancy wedding. It’s about who you will spend the rest of your life with!”

Elizabeth Anne Lee is the daughter of Dave and Patty Neubert of Mankato, MN. Liz currently works as a Pilate’s studio manager. Daniel George Krueger is the son of George and Robin Krueger of St. Louis Park, MN. Dan is currently employed as a financial analyst. The couple reside in Minnetonka, Minnesota.



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hues they used:   