

Audrey Lambert & Paul Isham

MAY 24, 2008

written by

Katie Chancellor

photography by

Joel Byrd Photography



Audrey Lambert was admittedly smitten with Paul Isham from the first moment they met. “It was love at first sight,” she said. Paul clearly felt the same way about her, and almost immediately the two of them began dating. “We both knew we had something out of the ordinary, something different,” described Audrey.

Though originally from San Antonio, Audrey was a sophomore at Abilene Christian University when she met Paul, a senior student also attending the school. Despite their busy schedules, the couple’s relationship flourished. “We’re two very different people with different attributes and strengths, but we complement each other,” the bride explained, “As faith-based people, we really believe we were brought together.”

Marriage was soon a significant topic of conversation for the couple. Outwardly, Paul voiced a suggestion that they wait until Audrey completed college before tying the knot. Inwardly, however, he was already formulating his plans for a romantic proposal.

In the summer of 2007, the two of them headed to Paul’s home state of Colorado to visit his family. They enjoyed horseback riding, white water rafting, and other outdoor activities that Paul had arranged. Little did she know that his next idea would be the most thrilling yet.

They set off on a backpacking trip up Mt. Snuffles, a hike that Paul had already trekked in preparation. With the sun already below the horizon, the group reached the peak and made camp for the night. The following morning, Audrey awakened to find herself overlooking a stunning view of snow-capped mountains and bright blue lakes. Paul suggested that they take a look around, and the two of them headed toward a distant waterfall.

He was familiar with the area, though, as he had already visited the spot to set the stage for his proposal. Audrey, however, was surprised by a heart-shaped arrangement of columbines that they discovered. She was equally astonished when they noticed a message-enclosed bottle by the waterfall. She picked it up, opened the message, and turned around in excitement. Paul was already on his knee.

Their year-long engagement flew by as Audrey continued her nursing studies at Abilene and Paul continued working post-graduation. The couple chose to have their wedding in Audrey’s hometown of San Antonio, where her family still resides. “I was there during every break I had from school,” the bride described of her busy planning schedule.

Not long after classes ended for the summer, their wedding day finally arrived. Guests gathered at Spring Hill Event Center for the evening ceremony,



which began as the sun was setting.

The bridal party was dressed in formal attire with the five groomsmen in tuxedos and the five bridesmaids in black tea-length dresses. The three flower girls each held something different during the procession, one with flowers, another carrying a lamp, and the last with a wrought iron key.

Audrey's wedding gown was a Rivini design of silk and lace, a classic style that she found at Julian Gold. "It reminded me of my mom's dress," she said sentimentally. The bride walked down an aisle of rose petals to a garden arbor where she and Paul exchanged vows. The roses were arranged in the shape of an "I" for Isham, a theme that was continued throughout other wedding details.

A small choir and a single flutist provided the music for the semi-traditional ceremony. At one point, guests were serenaded with an unexpected rendition of the Beatles' song "All You Need is Love". The couple incorporated another personal moment into the ceremony when Paul's father presented Audrey with a gilded aspen leaf symbolizing the uniting of the two families. "It's important to make things unique to you as a couple," said the bride, "Don't be afraid to ask other creative people for ideas, though."

After the ceremony concluded, guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres while the bridal party's photos were taken. Guests also took turns taking their own pictures in the outdoor photo booth as well as throwing good-luck pennies into the wishing well for the bride and groom.

Once the celebration moved inside, everyone enjoyed instrumental songs from Hot Sauce Sound, a Latin-fusion band with guitars and a xylophone. Instead of holding a traditional dance during the reception, Audrey and Paul chose to offer more than one option for entertainment. Guests could enjoy the music on the informal dance area or join others at game tables where they had cards, tic-tac-toe, and other fun pastimes set up.

The interior of Spring Hill Event Center was decorated with the colors of the evening, black and a golden chartreuse green. The tables were covered in off-white linens with hints of gold in them and adorned with tall vases containing ornamental pears and hydrangeas. A golden green pear on each table cleverly held an itinerary card for the evening. Each guest was given a party favor of candy-coated pecans placed in a gold box with a green ribbon, which was kept in place by a wax stamp of the letter "I".

Audrey and her mother created a special display of family pictures for everyone to view. They collected photographs of parents, grandparents, and other relatives and hung each one from a green ribbon on a decorative, wrought iron tree. "It was neat for our grandparents to see their own photos. We now have all of the pictures in a scrapbook at home," said Audrey.

After a delicious dinner catered by the event center, family and friends were treated to two desserts. The wedding cake consisted of three square butter cream tiers decorated with white flowers. Audrey surprised Paul, a hunting fan, with a chocolate-flavored groom's cake shaped like a deer's head and humorously accessorized with store-bought antlers.

The bride and groom celebrated with their guests well into the night before saying their goodbyes. They ran to their decorated vehicle as guests showered them with rose petals. Soon after, the newlyweds left for Oahu, Hawaii where they honeymooned for a week enjoying everything from surf lessons to scuba diving.

The happy couple is now settled back in Abilene where Paul continues working and Audrey works toward completing her degree next summer. Upon graduation, their future is open to many possibilities as the two of them wait to see where opportunities will take them. ♦

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