



a love in full
BLOOM

MEMRIE FRASER LEWIS TO MATTHEW EDWARDS

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

SITTING IN RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC might not sound like an ideal first date, but Memrie Fraser Lewis (who goes by Fraser) and Matthew Edwards wouldn't have had it any other way. After meeting in a pub in Darien, Connecticut, in March 2002, they wanted to get together but couldn't coordinate their schedules. So when they realized one afternoon a few weeks later that they were both headed into Manhattan from Connecticut, they decided to carpool. "We spent the ride singing silly songs and talking nonstop," says Fraser, a Body Method fitness instructor and athletic-wear designer. "I felt as though we'd known each other for a long time."

They went their separate ways that evening but drove back together the next day. By the time the ride ended, they knew they'd found something special. "I was already smitten," says Matt, owner of a mold-remediation company. "Fraser was so pretty, easygoing, and passionate. I had a feeling she was the woman I was going to marry."

From then on, they were inseparable, spending time canoeing, watching movies, and playing board games. Since both are big believers in luck and destiny, it was no surprise that a Magic 8 Ball ultimately sealed their fate. Every day Matt would ask the ball, "Will I marry Fraser?" The answer was always "Definitely yes!" Then on December 29, 2002, amid rose petals and candles at his home, he proposed.

Fraser had always wanted to plan her wedding with her mother, Memrie Lewis, a landscape designer, and the two of them created a magical celebration. "With my mom's classic style and my whimsy, I knew we'd plan a party people would rave about," says Fraser. The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden was chosen for the location, and elements of luck and fate, such as playing cards, were woven into the festivities.

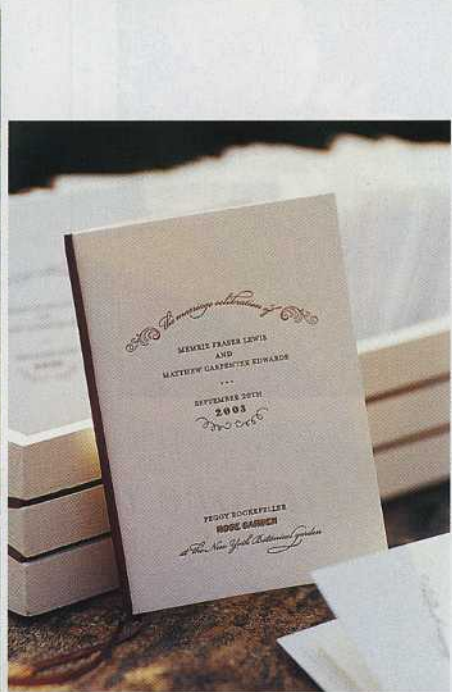
On September 20, 2003, 250 friends and relatives gathered to watch as the couple was wed by Reverend Thomas Midyette. Right before Fraser walked down the aisle, a flock of geese flew overhead in a V formation. "It took my breath away," says Matt. "To me, it was yet another sign that we were meant to be together."



Opposite: Fraser Lewis, in an Ulla-Maija Couture dress and Tia Mazza veil, stands above the *garden* where she will wed Matthew Edwards. This page, from top: A glimpse of the garden's *roses*. Fraser and her mom, Memrie, share a moment together; "Planning Fraser's wedding with her was the exciting time I had *dreamed* it would be," says Memrie.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY *Maura McEvoy* TEXT BY *Dina Roth Port*





Clockwise from top left: Matt (in a white tie) and his *groomsmen*, all wearing tuxedos by Joseph & Feiss. The programs are letter-pressed in chocolate brown and bound with brown *silk* ribbon; on the inside is written, "This moment is dedicated to Mary Taylor Mosier," Fraser's beloved grandmother. The couple exchange *vows* in the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden; the stunning triangular layout, gazebo, and *ornamental* latticework were designed in 1916 by Beatrix Jones Farrand, a noted landscape designer. The bride's father, Perry Lewis, gets ready for the ceremony, while her stepmother, Basha Lewis, pins on his majolica rose *boutonniere*.





Clockwise from top left: The bride's bouquet (at right) is a *fragrant* mix of white majolica roses, Scabiosa, sage, basil, rosemary, and lily-of-the-valley; the bridesmaid bouquets are miniature versions. Charles Duell, Memrie's beau, lends a hand to *flower girl* Blair Mosier, age 9, the bride's cousin. A few of Fraser's relatives wait for the ceremony to begin. The bridesmaids walk down the aisle; they wear Vera Wang dresses, and carved rose necklaces given to them by the bride. Ring bearer Kent Mosier, age 7, looks handsome in his *tuxedo*; he carried the same ring pillow that Fraser's parents used in their wedding.



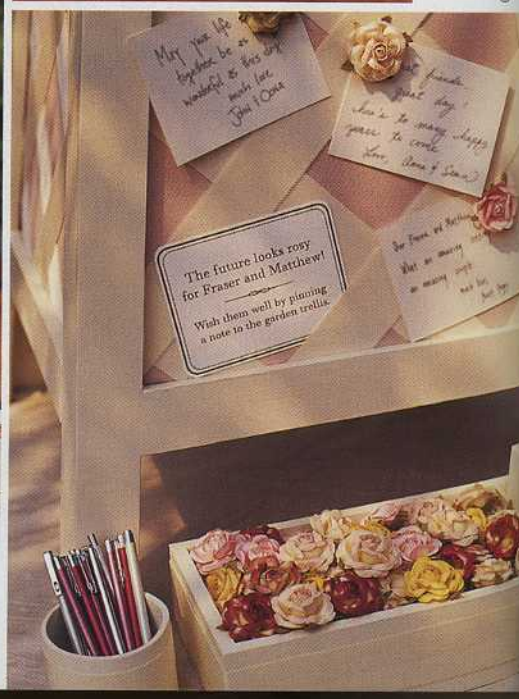
Opposite: Each table displays a sculptural centerpiece; a grapevine wreath nestles candles in cylindrical vases, sheathed by organza sleeves; the *wreath* also holds flower balls made of hydrangea, Scabiosa, pink majolica roses, green roses, and raspberry spray roses. Green napkins and a cream-and-brown custom-made silk dupioni tablecloth complement the centerpiece hues. For the table number, a tented *playing card* is used; on the other side is the menu. This page, clockwise from top: Matt's niece, Lucy Edwards, age 6, and the other flower girls await the bride's arrival; the *girls* wear dresses by Vera Wang Maids and carry *bouquets* with raspberry sprays, pink majolica roses, and hydrangea. The menu's script design befits the whimsical yet *classic* style of the wedding celebration. Fraser and her mother pose for a photograph with the *bridesmaids* and the young attendants.

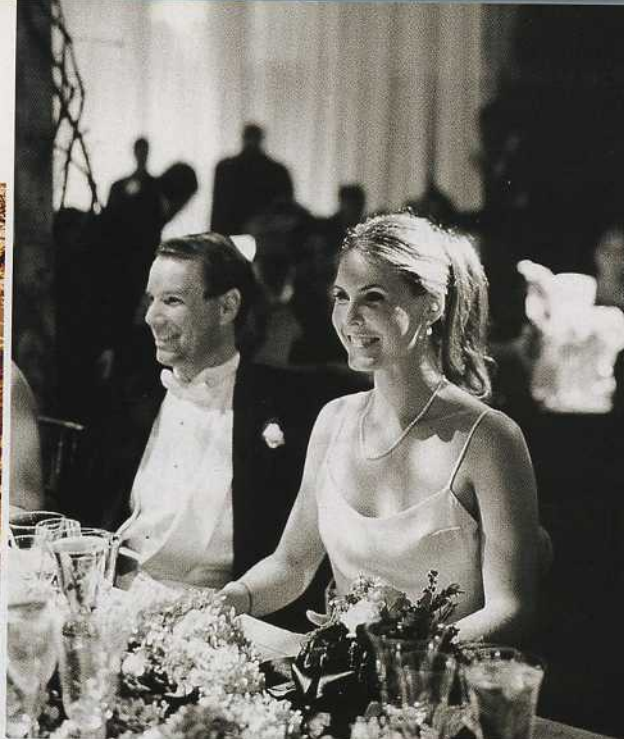






Left: The bride with her mother and Martha. Below: The number of *hearts* on tented playing cards designates table assignments; the guests' names are on the other side. "The cards, as well as many elements throughout the party, were an homage to Matt's and my belief in luck and *fate*," says Fraser. Bottom left and right: Instead of having a traditional guest book, the couple set up a special area for loved ones to write sentiments on note cards during the cocktail hour and reception. Inspired by a garden *trellis*, it displays the well-wishers' messages, which were either tucked under grosgrain ribbon or pinned on with tacks adorned with paper roses.





Clockwise from top left: A garland runs the length of the head table; votive *candles* illuminate a canopy of grapevine arbor. The newlyweds enjoy the celebration. In hopes of sending a bit of luck guests' way, the couple offered *favors* of muslin bags filled with fortune-telling fish, tarot cards, and candy, as well as a Cupid's rose containing a love poem. Martha created the pistachio-and-vanilla sponge *cake* topped with buttercream, a pearl border, and roses. A deck of cards serves as a place card. SEE THE GUIDE FOR SHOPPING INFORMATION

