

SURROUNDED BY ONLY  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS,  
**CHELSEA CLINTON**  
WEDS LONGTIME LOVE  
**MARC MEZVINSKY**

*chelsea's*  
**PERFECT DAY**





They skipped the customary “something borrowed, something blue,” but on the morning of his wedding day, the groom did put on something old: a frayed T-shirt he had worn nearly 17 years earlier when he first met his future bride. Chelsea Clinton was just 13 then, Marc Mezvinsky 16, both brought along to the annual political Renaissance Weekend their parents attended in South Carolina. The shirt was long forgotten, but turned up sometime after he and Clinton started dating in 2005. After that Mezvinsky made sure to hold on to it, he told nearly 500 wedding guests gathered at the Astor Courts estate in Rhinebeck, N.Y. It was one of many romantic moments indicating how meant-to-be this union was. The couple, who were close friends at Stanford University, “are not people who usually stand around grinning,” says one guest. “But the whole weekend they radiated joy. No one doubted the strength of their feelings for each other.”

As a testament to those feelings, both families made sure that July 31, and the days surrounding it, were all about Marc and Chelsea and not, as they could have been, about networking. “The people coming are her friends and people who have been meaningful in her life,” mother of the bride, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, 62, said days before. No Obamas were present, nor herds of Hollywood A-listers. Oprah? Nah. “This was Marc and Chelsea’s list,” says wedding planner Bryan Rafanelli.

li. Guest Ted Danson, whose wife Mary Steenburgen is an old Clinton pal from Arkansas, joked accurately: “Are we the only celebrities here?”

Before the big day, President Bill Clinton, 63, made his daughter two promises: that he would take better care of himself by losing some weight and that he would try not to cry. With a vegetarian diet and a lot of walks, he kept the first promise. The second was harder. “He was pretty calm before,” says a guest. “But walking down the aisle, he was stoic, trying to contain his emotion.” He held it together, but others teared up as the two officiants, a Rabbi and a Methodist minister, told him, “It’s time to say goodbye,” recalls Bill’s cousin Marie



Felix Rey welcome bags, designed by their pal Lily Band, held wine from Clinton Vineyards and other local treats.



**THE REHEARSAL DINNER**

Bill and Hillary (in an off-the-rack caftan) arriving at the Grasmere estate (left). “We could not have asked for a more perfect day,” they later said of the wedding.



**THE MAKING OF THE *wedding cake***

Their top-secret client wanted a gluten-free wedding cake but, thankfully, not a fat-free one. So Maarten and Frances Steenman, owners of La Tulipe Desserts, in Mount Kisco, N.Y., whipped up a nine-tier, 4-ft.-tall masterpiece of vanilla sponge, layered with dark chocolate mousse. They used 360 organic eggs, 50 lbs. of sugar, 45 lbs. of a gluten-free flour blend and 30 lbs. of butter, along with bittersweet Guayaquil chocolate. Each tier was covered in vanilla fondant and decorated with about 1,000 sugar flowers: roses, calla lilies and orchids. It took a month of prep, and then the Steenmans and their team assembled the 500-lb. cake in a single 48-hour shift. Says Frances: “We’d go home, take a little nap and then get going again.”



Maarten Steenman tested nearly a dozen recipes to get the right taste and texture.

**THE WEDDING *dream team***



Oscar de la Renta  
HILLARY’S GOWN



Vera Wang  
CHELSEA’S DRESSES



Maksim Chmerkovskiy  
FIRST DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY



Christopher Bailey  
MARC’S TUX

Clinton Bruno. “He gave her a kiss, and she walked up the stairs.”

Chelsea, 30, continued on her own, radiant in a strapless silk organza gown designed by Vera Wang. “She looked stunning,” says one witness. “It was like time stopped.” With its long train, full veil, and crystals on the belt (a detail requested by Chelsea), the dress was an apt metaphor for the whole affair, says Rafanelli.

“It was timeless and classic, with a little bit of sparkle.”

“The wedding didn’t feel lavish or over-the-top,” says a guest. (Nor did it, as was reported, cost \$3 to \$5 million; in fact it was within six figures, says a source familiar with the budget.) Despite a procession of 12 bridesmaids in lavender Vera Wang gowns and 12 groomsmen decked out in Burberry ties, says this guest,

“somehow it seemed intimate.”

Intimate and secret—until now. “Thank you, Thank you,” wrote the couple in their program. “We are profoundly grateful to be surrounded by our family and friends as we begin our new life together.” The interfaith ceremony (the bride is Methodist and the groom’s family are conservative Jews) took place on a grass field, under a *chuppah*, a canopy,

LEFT PAGE (FROM TOP): TIM ROSE/FAR; JESSICA RINALDI/REUTERS; COURTESY GRASMERE ESTATE; RIGHT PAGE (CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT): INF; AMANDA LEEBY/SPLOASH NEWS; KATHY HUTCHINS/HUTCHINS PHOTO; MARION CURTIS/STARTRAKS; MICHAEL WESCHLER/CONRIS (3)





# ALL ABOUT the groom

Chmerkovskiy—Chelsea at one point took off Marc's jacket, and he lifted her up. "It was an amazing, funny, unexpected, sexy dance," says a friend of the bride's. "Bill and Hillary seemed to love it." The next dance was for the father of the bride: Chelsea and Bill swayed to "The Way You Look Tonight." As the song came to a close, she wrapped her arms around her dad and he swung her in a circle. As for the groom's family, his mother, former Pennsylvania Rep. Marjorie Margolies, noted earlier that while in Congress, she supported Clinton's

budget, despite it being an unpopular choice, and joked, "I told Bill I would vote for his package, but he'd have to give me his firstborn." For dinner the guests chose between arctic char, braised short ribs and a vegetarian dish. The four courses were broken up by spins on the dance floor—yes, that was former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright "boogying," reports one guest. The Clintons delivered heartfelt words to their daughter. "Both made it clear that while they've led interesting lives, the most important thing they've done is raising Chelsea," who is pursuing a PhD at NYU, says a friend. The couple live in an apartment in

## DADDY'S GIRL

Bill's career put a spotlight on his only child—and their tight bond. The wedding confirmed little has changed. Says his brother Roger: "This couldn't have been a more beautiful ceremony."



1986



1992



1997

“WHEN HE DANCED WITH CHELSEA TO SINATRA, THAT'S WHEN HE LOST IT”  
—A WEDDING GUEST

with "a lot of organic flowers: lime-light hydrangeas, white roses, green parrot tulips," says Jeff Leatham, the florist. The hour-long nuptials included the seven traditional Jewish blessings, vows that the bride and groom wrote themselves and a reading of a love poem, "The Life that I Have," by Leo Marks. ("The life that I have/Is all that I have/And the life that I

have/Is yours.") There were memorable moments: Bill lifted Chelsea's veil to whisper a few last words before giving her away; Chelsea accidentally dropped Marc's ring. When Marc, 32, broke the glass under his shoe at the ceremony's end, the crowd, which included all of his 10 siblings, erupted in applause as the couple enjoyed their first married kiss. "It wasn't a

smack and wasn't full-blown," says a guest. "She held his face as if she would cherish him forever." After a quick gown change (into an ivory tulle Vera Wang dress with a "sexy back" says an observer), the newlyweds then made a splash with their sultry first dance. To "Feeling Good"—and with choreography by *Dancing with the Stars* pro Maksim



1994 Marc (right, with parents Ed and Marjorie Mezvinsky) watch mom's election returns.



1996 Three years after meeting, the pair attended a South Carolina football game.



2010 "He's perfect," says a friend. "He comes from a loving family. He really has her back."



At 91, Dorothy Rodham (center) helped plan the event. "It was important to Hillary to share her daughter's day with her own mother," says a friend.

LEFT PAGE (FROM TOP): TIM ROSEKOP; DOUG WILLIAMS; AMY SANCETTA/AP; DANNY JOHNSTON/AP; RIGHT PAGE: (CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT) BARBARA KINNEY; JEFF HOLT/LAS/FLASH NEWS; MARY ANN CHASTAIN/AP; ALEXANDRO A. ALVAREZ/PHILADELPHIA DAVID NEWS



“  
**MARC TALKED ABOUT KNOWING  
 CHELSEA, LOVING HER—HE HIT  
 IT OUT OF THE PARK**” —A GUEST

downtown New York, along with their dog, a Yorkshire terrier named Soren. Bill, who kept referring to Marc, a hedge fund trader, as his son, said how proud he was to welcome him into his family—and how relieved he was no longer to be the “outnumbered” male

in the household. “Now,” the former President said, “the playing field is even. I have someone else on my side.” Later the guests hoisted all four parents—including Marc’s dad, former Iowa Rep. Ed Mezvinsky—in chairs, a Jewish custom.

The party didn’t end there. At midnight guests were ushered into a nightclub tent with two bars and snacks of sliders and tacos, for more dancing. After 4 a.m. Marc scooped his bride in his arms and carried her off into the night. The details of the honeymoon were such a closely guarded secret that even the bride had no idea where they were going. Says a family friend: “He just told her what to pack.”

**Ramin Setoodeh** with **Sharon Cotliar**, **Liz McNeil**, **Sandra Sobieraj Westfall**, **Nicole Weisensee Egan**, **Mary Park**, **Kate Hallett**, **Lauren Hockenson** and **Zara Kessler**



Chelsea’s diamond bracelet was a gift from Marc. Both “were overflowing with joy,” says a friend.

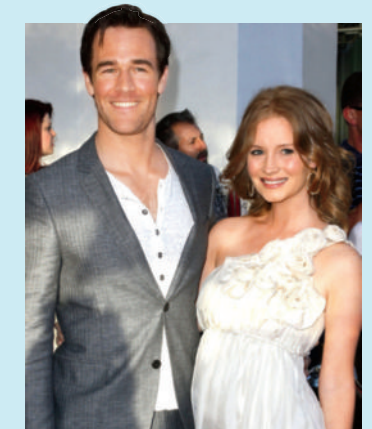
*more* **WEDDINGS**

THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM RHINEBECK, OTHER CELEBRITY COUPLES WERE ALSO TYING THE KNOT



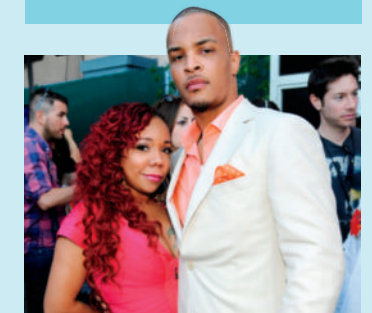
*Alicia Keys & Swizz Beatz*

Two months after announcing they were engaged and expecting, the singer, 30, and the producer (real name: Kasseem Dean), 31, were married by Deepak Chopra on the Mediterranean island of Corsica July 31 in front of family and friends, including Queen Latifah. The bride paired her Vera Wang gown with a more than 50-carat diamond halo headband (originally a necklace) by Jacob & Co. “They are totally and completely and unabashedly in love,” Chopra tells PEOPLE.



*James Van Der Beek & Kimberly Brook*

“Best day of my life so far,” the actor, 33, tweeted Aug. 1, the day he married the model in Israel, where they met last year. They’re expecting a baby this fall.



*T.I. & Tameka “Tiny” Cottle*

In Miami the rapper, 29, and his longtime love, 35, wed in a civil ceremony July 30, then in front of friends the next day.

GENIEVE DE MANIJO

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: STEPHANIE RISTELL/FAVE; VISION/WENN; FRANK MICELLOTTA/PICTURE GROUP