

FROM *Kentucky*, WITH LOVE



Andrew and Jourdan Fairchild stole a kiss after getting hitched. He wore a J. Crew suit; she chose a gown by Amy Kuschel.

Former *Country Living* editor Jourdan Fairchild got engaged—then broke out the glue gun, crafting a wedding that honored her Bluegrass State roots.

written by CATHERINE STRAWN | *photographs by* JOHN DOLAN

Dashing Table-Card Holders

To fashion this corral, the couple spray-painted plastic horses gold, drilled a small hole in each, and inserted wires to secure the cards. They set the steeds atop sod; Jourdan's mother made the white fence.





Beyond the Guest Book

The newlyweds asked friends and family to write messages on balsa-wood horseshoes and toss 'em for good luck. Jourdan also embellished blank prize ribbons with stick-on letters.



For Andrew and Jourdan Fairchild's first date, in 2009, he arrived with two red-velvet cupcakes—and absolutely no itinerary. “He hadn’t even made dinner reservations,” Jourdan recalls. In other words, she’d found a sweet guy, but not a planner. So when the two got engaged two years later, she took charge immediately, hitting a bookstore for bridal magazines moments after he proposed.

With Andrew about to start medical school and a Brooklyn-to-Chicago move on the horizon, Jourdan, a former *Country Living* crafts editor, knew the wedding would be a budget-friendly DIY affair. What she didn’t expect: a fiancé who sweated the small stuff. “I refused to be the stereotypical groom who just shows up,” Andrew says. Which is how he found himself drilling tiny holes into 230 toy horses before spray-painting them gold. “For the table-card holders, I’d envisioned a field of golden thoroughbreds,” Jourdan explains with a laugh. “We wanted the day to feel personal—and the best way is to create things yourself.”

Another? Referencing your roots. The wedding took place in Jourdan’s hometown of Georgetown, Kentucky, and the couple exchanged vows at Georgetown College, where her father, Bill Crouch, is president. Instead of a multitiered (continued on page 96)



Easy Envelope Upgrades

Unused vintage stamps remain viable, as long as they add up to the current postage rate. Etsy and eBay yielded stamps that coordinated with Jourdan’s invitations, by Allie Ruth Design.

PHOTOGRAPH BY (INVITE) PHILIP FRIEDMAN/STUDIO D

A young boy is shown from the chest up, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a light blue and white striped vest. He is holding a small, cream-colored ring pillow with both hands. The pillow has a dark brown outline of the state of Kentucky and the word "Kentucky" written in a cursive script. A pink ribbon is tied around the pillow. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage.

“We wanted the day to be personal,” explains Jourdan Fairchild. “The best way to do that is to create things yourself.”

A Pillow with Personality

Country Living contributor Jodi Kahn stitched the ring pillow as a wedding gift. On one side, she embroidered an outline of Kentucky for Jourdan; on the other, she rendered Andrew's home state of Washington.

“When you come from a small town,” Jourdan says, “there are so many people you can count on for help.”

So Long, Stuffy Centerpieces!

A smattering of bud vases—instead of one huge arrangement—decorated each guest table. Jourdan worked closely with florist Jeremy Rice to select locally grown roses, hydrangeas, veronica, and Queen Anne’s lace. Table-number flags were tucked in among the blooms.



1 Kentucky Ale is brewed in Lexington.
2 Jourdan's nephew Dresden (*far right*) served as the ring bearer. Her niece Maddox, a flower girl, high-fived with Andrew's cousin Matthew. **3** Old Frankfort Pike led guests from the ceremony at Georgetown College to the reception at the Headley-Whitney Museum. **4** Jourdan accessorized her dress with a bhldn .com bracelet. **5** Custom cocktail napkins and a bourbon drink called the Man o' War referenced Jourdan's old Kentucky home. **6** Bucky Sallee, the longtime bugler at the nearby horse track, announced the newlyweds' entrance. **7** Donamire Farm sits next door to the reception site. **8** Former CL staffers (*from left*) Lauren Callon, Marly Fink, and Page Mullins caught up over drinks.



The celebration continued long past sundown.



ABOVE At the party, spray-painted branches adorned the bride's and groom's chairs. RIGHT The buffet included grit cakes with pimento cheese and bacon jam.



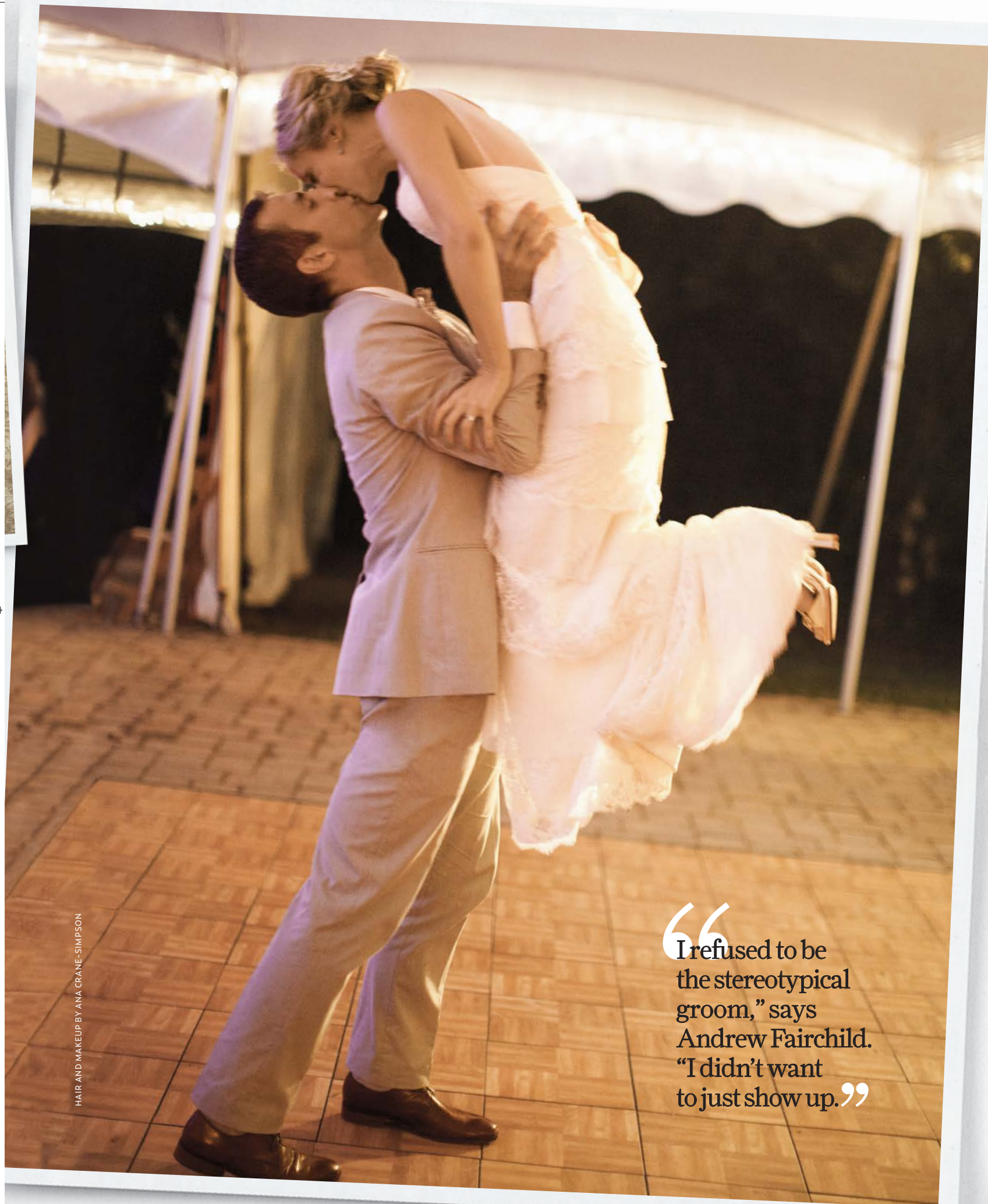
A Fresh Spin on the Family Tree

Jourdan created this display by decouping thrift-store china with photocopied wedding portraits of her and Andrew's relatives on their wedding days. Her parents, Jan and Bill Crouch, appear far right, center. Andrew's, Pat and Nick Fairchild, are pictured just above and to the left.

(continued from page 92) cake, the bride chose caramel cupcakes, just like her grandmother used to bake. Next to the desserts, a wall of decouped plates showcased wedding photos of the newlyweds' parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. "Andrew papered the wall with damask that we nabbed for \$25 on eBay," Jourdan explains.

Not that the duo did everything themselves. "When you come from a small town, there are so many people you can count on for help," says Jourdan. Local funeral director Elizabeth Johnson-Jones moonlighted as the wedding planner, while the Georgetown College caterers whipped up a feast of grilled chicken and peaches, herbed biscuits, and more. The former head of the school's chemistry department built a pergola on the campus lawn, where Jourdan and Andrew intended to say "I do."

Then, on the big day, guests scrambled to rescue decorations as a downpour forced the nuptials into the college library. "I thought I'd anticipated everything, but I couldn't control the rain," Jourdan says. She melted in tears—until Andrew came to the rescue. "He had his best man deliver a note," she remembers. "It said we could weather any storm together." A sweet gesture, and a well-planned one, too. ♦



HAIR AND MAKEUP BY ANA CRANE-SIMPSON

“I refused to be the stereotypical groom,” says Andrew Fairchild. “I didn’t want to just show up.”