

Jackie and Carson enjoyed their stress-free wedding thanks to the bride's mom, Kelly Ritz



A Surprise Wedding

Taylor High School sweethearts, Jackie Ritz and Carson Brickey, celebrate the surprise wedding of their dreams planned by the mother of the bride

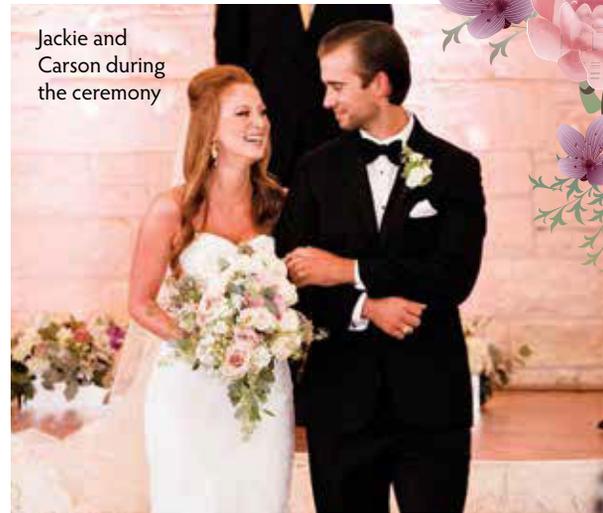
Written by Kennan Buckner | Photography by Meeker Pictures

“She looked so beautiful standing there in her dress that the wait didn’t seem so bad after all.”

- Carson Brickey



The bridal party after Jackie and Carson tied the knot



Jackie and Carson during the ceremony



The wedding cake was made by Edible Designs by Jessie



The lighting and decor was done by Daryl and Co.

Jackie Ritz and Carson Brickey met at Taylor High School’s fish camp, the school’s freshmen orientation. In 2010, they began dating, and in 2014 Carson popped the question at the Myriad Botanical Gardens after a romantic brunch. Shortly after, Jackie and her mom Kelly Ritz were chatting about wedding details, everything from what font to use on the invitations to the dinner napkins. “Her comment was it would be amazing for someone to just say, ‘Surprise! Here’s your perfect wedding,’” says Kelly. “I thought, ‘Well, why not?’ I had planned several surprise parties for Jackie over the years. Why not a wedding?”

While leaving all the planning of the special day to her mom was unconventional, the bride says she wouldn’t have it any other way. “My favorite part about not knowing any of the details was that I was able to focus my attention on the people that were involved.”

Jackie chose a mermaid style dress with a sweetheart strapless neckline from Parvani Vida designed by La Sposa. “My mom and one of my maids of honor, Hannah Bennett, came shopping with me,” says Jackie. “I tried on a ton, but when I walked out in that dress it wasn’t just a dress, it was my dress.”

The Special Day

The wedding was held at Briscoe Manor on August 1, 2015, and was Jackie’s first time to visit the venue. “I had never

been there before my wedding rehearsal, but it was so beautiful and had such a Texas feel,” says Jackie.

Carson found it easy to leave the planning details to his future mother-in-law. “She did a truly incredible job at it,” he says. “Once I got to the venue and started getting ready, the nerves hit me pretty good. It felt like they took an hour to open those doors, and then I finally got to see Jackie,” remembers Carson. “She looked so beautiful standing there in her dress that the wait didn’t seem so bad after all.”

Personal Details

The couple’s traditional Baptist ceremony featured a Nordic French country style and included special touches like handkerchiefs with their wedding logo, a groom’s cake designed with a target full of arrows, a cigar bar, and a fireworks display. “Some of the details which truly showed Jackie and Carson’s personality were the antlers in the centerpieces, the embroidered handkerchiefs in the programs, and the antique cathedral window decor,” says Kelly.

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She chose a grayed vintage palette with plums and blues throughout the wedding, using darker tones of the same colors at the reception. Roses were highlighted throughout the flower arrangements, including lamb's ear, one of Jackie's favorites. "We kept referring to the style as 'deers and chandeliers.' It seemed to sum it all up," says Kelly.

The newlyweds also posed while each holding their parents' wedding photos. "It was both sweet and funny to see our 1980s wedding photos in their hands," says Kelly.

Jackie loved her planning-free engagement. "I got to spend time with my friends in college that I would have to say goodbye to at the end of my senior year instead of having to go back and forth from College Station and Houston getting wedding to-dos done." She advises future brides to enjoy every moment. "Don't sweat it," says Jackie. "Even though I didn't have a lot on my plate when it came to wedding planning, it's the people that matter, not the aesthetics." **KM**



KENNAN BUCKNER fondly remembers that long-distance planning her wedding five years ago would have been impossible without her mom's endless Hobby Lobby trips.



THE SPECIAL TOUCHES

Handkerchiefs with their wedding logo on them, folded into the programs given to each guest

A groom's cake designed with a target full of arrows

Deer antlers embedded into the flower arrangements



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