

A FINE ROMANCE

KATHRYN REED RETZER WEDS WILLIAM THOMAS FREEMAN 4.28.2007



Kathryn Reed Retzer and William Thomas Freeman had known of each other for years, and they regularly attended the same parties and events, where they'd always exchange polite greetings. "I knew his face and I knew of Bill Freeman," Kathryn says, "but I hadn't put two and two together." So when a mutual friend set them up, Kathryn, the contributing fashion editor of *San Francisco* magazine (and a former fashion editor for *Town & Country*), thought little of canceling at the last minute. "I'd had a long day at work, I didn't feel very cute and I just couldn't put on my game face," she recalls.

As fate would have it, Kathryn ran into Bill, an entrepreneur, the weekend after their missed date. "You're Bill Freeman?" Kathryn said. "I've made a huge mistake!" Taking advantage of their chance encounter, Bill invited her to dinner the following Monday. This time, though, he brought along three friends. "In case you canceled again," he told her later. "I didn't want to eat alone." He need not have worried. "We had the best time," Kathryn says. "From that moment on, we were together."

A whirlwind courtship ensued. The couple started dating in June 2006; that December they became engaged. Bill dreamed up an idyllic proposal, set for the third day of a trip he and Kathryn took to Maui, at a friend's hilltop ranch, complete with caviar and Champagne. But he was unable to hold out. As the couple walked along the beach on the evening of their arrival, Bill got down on one knee and presented Kathryn with a magnificent emerald-cut diamond engagement ring.

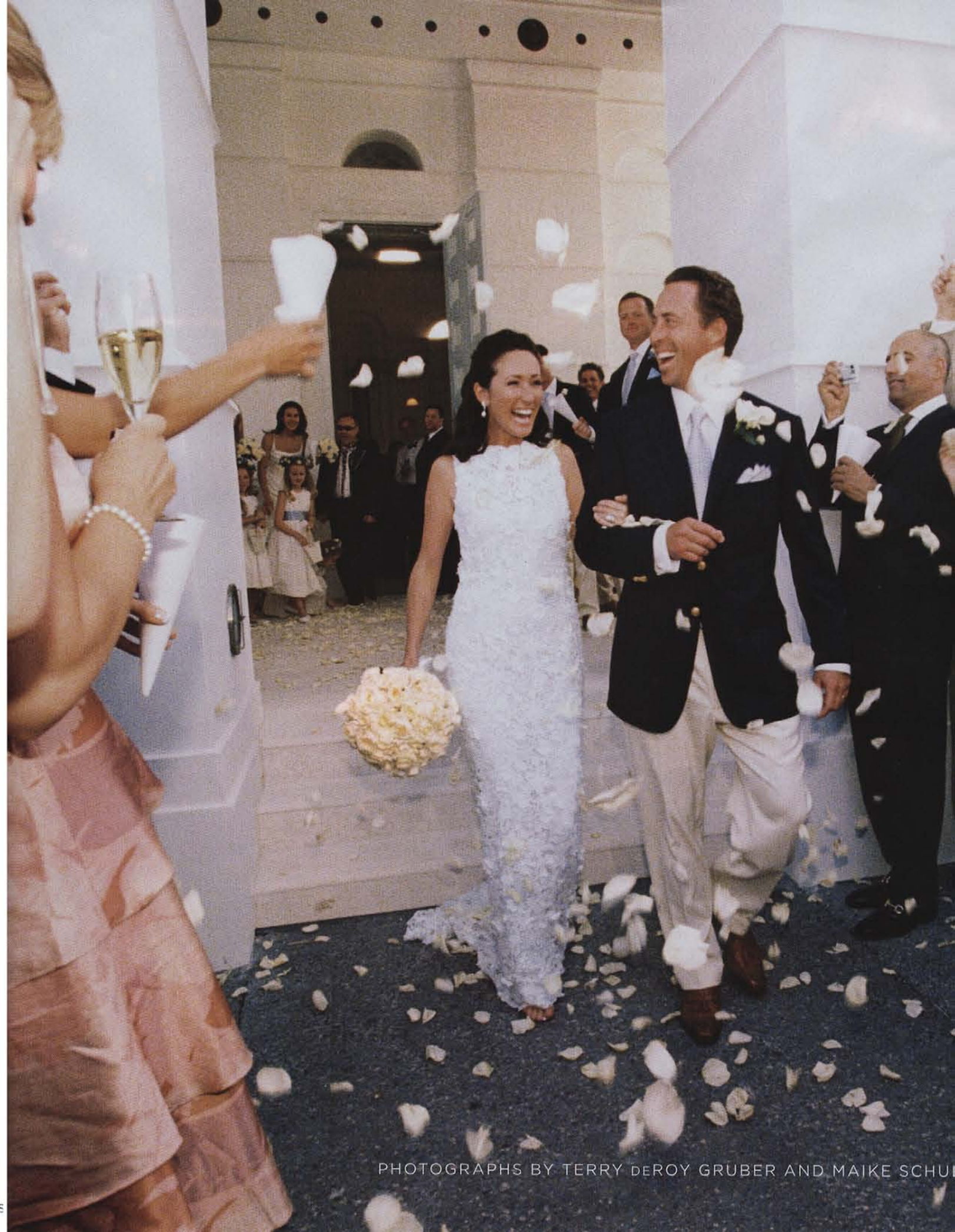
Above: The getaway car, a decked-out golf cart. Opposite page: Kathryn and Bill showered with rose petals as they leave Windsor's town hall.

BY SARI LEHRER

Kathryn wanted to wed at the Beach Club at Windsor, a private residential development north of Vero Beach, Florida, where her father and mother both have homes. She also had her heart set on getting married in the spring and was loath to wait until 2008. This meant planning a wedding—and a whole weekend of festivities—in only four months.

The celebrations kicked off with a rehearsal dinner on Thursday, April 26. "Bill and I love Mexican food, so we had an elegant fiesta with a mariachi band and margaritas," she says. The next day there was a bridesmaids' lunch, a polo match and Champagne reception, and a "Cheeseburger in Paradise" dinner for all 200 of their guests, with a steel-drum band and a singer who sounded like Jimmy Buffett (Kathryn and Bill are fans).

"Music was a huge part of the weekend," Kathryn says. Indeed, the wedding itself featured a panoply of musicians: a marching band led the newlyweds from the ceremony; Steve Tyrell, who arranged many of the songs for the 1991 remake of *Father of the Bride*, played throughout the dinner hour; and Soul Solution, a funk and R&B band, provided the evening's biggest surprise. "There were three tents on a bluff overlooking the ocean, but the third tent was hidden," Kathryn explains. "So we had dinner, danced, cut the cake and did all the traditional toasts. Then, at ten-thirty, as Steve finished a song, the wall behind him dropped, and there was the third tent, done up like a chic nightclub. Everyone gasped and ran onto the dance floor—and they stayed there until three in the morning."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TERRY DEROY GRUBER AND MAIKE SCHULZ

The Details

THE STATIONERY

The classic engraved invitations and traditional programs were by SMYTHSON OF BOND STREET (smythson.com). The PRINTERY (iprintery.com) took care of the festive paper for the rest of the celebrations, like the rehearsal dinner card, with its gold pineapple icon and orange trim, and the polo match announcement, a bright blue sheet edged in green and white.

THE EVENT DESIGNER

San Francisco-based STANLEE GATTI (stanleegatti.com), who'd arranged Kathryn's thirtieth birthday party at the Napa Valley Reserve winery a year earlier, was the visionary behind the wedding's events. "Right after Bill and I got engaged, my mom called Stanlee in the middle of the night and said,

'Mark your calendar.' They were on top of the planning from hour one."

WHAT THE BRIDE WORE

Although Kathryn had her eye fixed on a soigné cap-sleeved dress by OSCAR DE LA RENTA (oscardelarenta.com), when she tried on his lace column gown, she immediately knew it was perfect. Strappy JIMMY CHOO sandals (jimmychoo.com) completed the look.

WHAT THE BRIDESMAIDS WORE

Kathryn's gift to each of her eight bridesmaids, many of whom work in the fashion industry, was a custom-made CAROLINA HERRERA dress (carolinaherrera.com). The dresses were from Herrera's spring/summer 2007 collection. "It was red on the runway," Kathryn says, "but

Carolina did them in a beautiful cream for me."

The bridesmaids wore camel-colored leather MANOLO BLAHNIK sling-backs (manoloblahnik.com).

THE WEDDING CAKE

Shinmin Li of I DREAM OF CAKE (idreamofcake.com) created an intricate five-tiered confection, whose pattern replicated the elaborate netting and lace of Kathryn's gown. The base was decorated with edible white chocolate seashells. "The cake was especially dear to my heart," Kathryn says, "because Shinmin Li and her husband are wonderful friends of ours; they were actually with us on our first date."

THE FAVORS

To welcome everyone to Windsor, Kathryn and Bill gave each guest an L.L. BEAN

tote bag (llbean.com), which contained a beach towel, Roucou sunblock by Ligne St. Barth—a nod to the couple's honeymoon destination—and bug repellent. Families with young children also received beach pails filled with toys.

THE HONEYMOON

Having just been to Tanzania in February 2007, which Kathryn calls a monster trip, the twosome had one idea in mind for the honeymoon. "We wanted to get on a plane in the morning and be somewhere in time for lunch," says Kathryn. To fulfill this wish, Bill chartered a flight to St. Bart's; the couple arrived at 1 P.M. They then spent seven days at the EDEN ROCK (edenrockhotel.com), followed by a week touring the Caribbean on a private yacht.

Below, from left: Michael Retzer Jr., the bride's brother, with their mother, Nancy Retzer; the bride with her father, Ambassador Mike Retzer; the groom's parents, William and Cathleen Freeman, with a groomsman, Jeff Le Towt. Opposite page: Kathryn and Bill at the altar. More than 100,000 roses were on display at the ceremony and the reception.



The couple with a polo pony from the Windsor stables.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left:

Windsor's town hall; a flower girl making a last-minute adjustment; a rose-covered wall panel and centerpiece; the wedding cake; event designer Stanlee Gatti.



