



ALLISON ROSE *to* PATRICK O'NEIL
6.30.12



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Photography by Nancy Gould
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BY LENORE CULLEN BARNES

How fitting that their beloved Red Sox played a role in triggering Ali and Patrick O'Neil's love story. The two were classmates at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, but it was when Ali was in England, studying at Oxford, that she spotted Patrick and his brother at Fenway Park - she was watching the game on her computer. In an email, she let Patrick know.

Several encounters at the Cape the following summer led to becoming a couple. Six years of dating ensued, five of them long-distance, due to Patrick's training and deployments as a Navy aviator. It's no wonder Patrick ran out of patience when he was ready to propose during a Christmas visit home. "He didn't even wait until we went out to dinner," says Ali. "The ring was burning a hole in his pocket."

So, it was a much-anticipated, joyful occasion when the couple exchanged vows and celebrated the formal start of their life together on June 30, 2012, at the Hyannisport Club. "They were so excited and totally enjoying their day," says photographer Nancy Gould. "The view was beautiful, with a gorgeous sunset."

"We wanted it to be a careful balance of Cape Cod casual while maintaining the formality due a wedding," says Ali. "We wanted the setting, the natural beauty, to be the centerpiece, not all the details."

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Still, seeing the details, including the blue-themed candy table and starfish favors made by Patrick's grandmother and aunt, come together, was a thrill. "Walking into the reception and seeing what the Hyannisport staff had done with the pieces we'd brought surpassed my expectations," says Ali.

The surprise groom's cake provided another favorite moment. "I was so excited to give Patrick the cake, which he cut with his grandfather's sword," says Ali. "It replicated the P3 plane he flew and was a way of honoring his role in the Navy, along with his father and grandfather."

An ice cream truck crowned the evening with a light-hearted nostalgic touch. "We wanted to bring everyone back to their childhoods at the beach," says Ali.

A sweet ending to a beautiful beginning.