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JENNA KUTCHER *blog*

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FOR ENTREPRENEURS

# Dear Jenna: I don't "get" why blogging matters

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POSTED BY:  
Jenna Kutcher



## I'm Jenna Kutcher

I'm a girl who took a \$300 Craigslist camera and turned it into a million dollar empire. I love yoga pants, mac and cheese, and working from home with my dogs in my lap. My mission? To help others own their awesome and do what they love every darn day!

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Dear Jenna,

I have a confession: I suck at blogging. I don't get it. I don't really see why it's important, and it always seems to hover at the bottom of my to-do list, never to get done. It's just never really been something I've gotten into and I struggle to really understand how it will impact my business. Isn't sending my clients their gallery enough? I mean, happy clients keep coming back, right? Help me "get" it, because frankly, I don't really understand...

Sincerely, Bummed Out Blogger

Hey friend, I have to giggle a little as I share my journey as a blogger. Why? Because it's a little hilarious but I can officially say I've been blogging before it was "cool." It all started in 2009 when Drew and I were dating "long distance" - which was our way of saying two hours apart as I finished my senior year of college. I created a blog for us to write letters back and forth (and that blog was discovered by my best friend who sent it to his - this blog is now private, so don't even try to find it!)

A few years after that, armed with my Craigslist camera, I started my photography blog. I didn't have enough funds to get a website, so I kicked off my career on a blog. It became a place where I would share my photos and I posted my logo. This blog has significantly evolved in the last few years (I mean, this space you're on looks wayyyyy cooler than when I first started) but the blog has served as a place for me to serve my clients and share my life.

Here are three ways blogging can change your business:

### 1.) IT'S A STORY-TELLING PLACE TO SHARE YOUR PORTFOLIO:

We've all heard a photo is worth a thousand words but what happens when you take a

CNP MSJ 00276



Dear Jenna: I don't why blogging matters - Jenna Kutcher

collection of images and partner it with meaningful words. I mean, that's got to be worth a million words. Not only can you curate a story with words and photos, you can give your audience a chance to connect with you beyond pretty pictures. You get to choose what shows up on your blog so every selected image can be on brand and trust me, your clients will take notice in the fact that you were connected to them beyond just their session or wedding day! Your clients expect good photos but what they don't expect is for you to be able to tell their story just as good as they could.

### 2.) SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMIZATION:

Yes, yes, those words strung together can sound scary, intimidating even. Search Engine Optimization (SEO) is something that hangs out at the bottom of our important "to do" lists and never seems to get accomplished or understood, but when you blog regularly, Google and other search engines see you as an "expert" or an "authority" in what you are sharing and your rankings will go up! Also, you can use keywords and phrases that will help people find YOU when they search for the services you provide. Blogging is a great tool to boost your SEO (and while it might sound overwhelming, there are small, easy steps to take to get your rankings up!)

### 3.) IT'S THE PERFECT "SNEAK PEEK" FOR YOUR CLIENTS:

I use my blog as a tool to share my images with my clients BEFORE their entire gallery is complete. It's my chance to share the "wedding day story" while the excitement is still high. When I shoot a wedding on Saturday, it will be blogged on the following Wednesday (yes, four days later.) My clients look forward to the blog post, they are so excited to see their images, story, and slideshow on the blog. It also allows them to share their wedding day story while people are coming off of the wedding high and allows guests who weren't able to attend see their wedding day. I have always used my blog as a tool of delivery and it's such a fun way to share my weddings with my clients, their families, friends (and of course, potential clients!) When you invite people off of Facebook and onto a blog, you are more in control of the user experience and that experience can be the thing that make people choose YOU to document their lives!

Blogging is an amazing way to share your life, images, and words. It isn't for everyone, definitely not, but it's a tool that can be utilized rather easily in your business! If you're located in Wisconsin, I'll be teaching more about blogging at tomorrow's [Tuesdays Together meeting in Madison!](#) (If you aren't sure what this is, check out [The Rising Tide Society](#), an incredible group started by sweet friends of mine.) The pursuit is community over competition and these meet ups are entirely free and packed with good content! I'm sure I'll be seeing some of you, sweet blog readers, tomorrow.

[Crescendo Espresso Bar + Music Cafe](#) on Tuesday, October 11th from 7-9PM

#### ABOUT THE BLOGGER



hey there!

#### I'm Jenna Kutcher

I'm an expert at online marketing, a nerd when it comes to the numbers, and my obsession is teaching others how to make a living doing what they love (without it taking over their life).

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FIRST NAME\*

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I'M INTO IT. SIGN ME UP.



## I'm Jenna Kutcher.

A small-town Minnesota mama obsessed with all things marketing who turned a \$300 Craigslist camera into a seven-figure empire. Now, I'm teaching you all my secrets!



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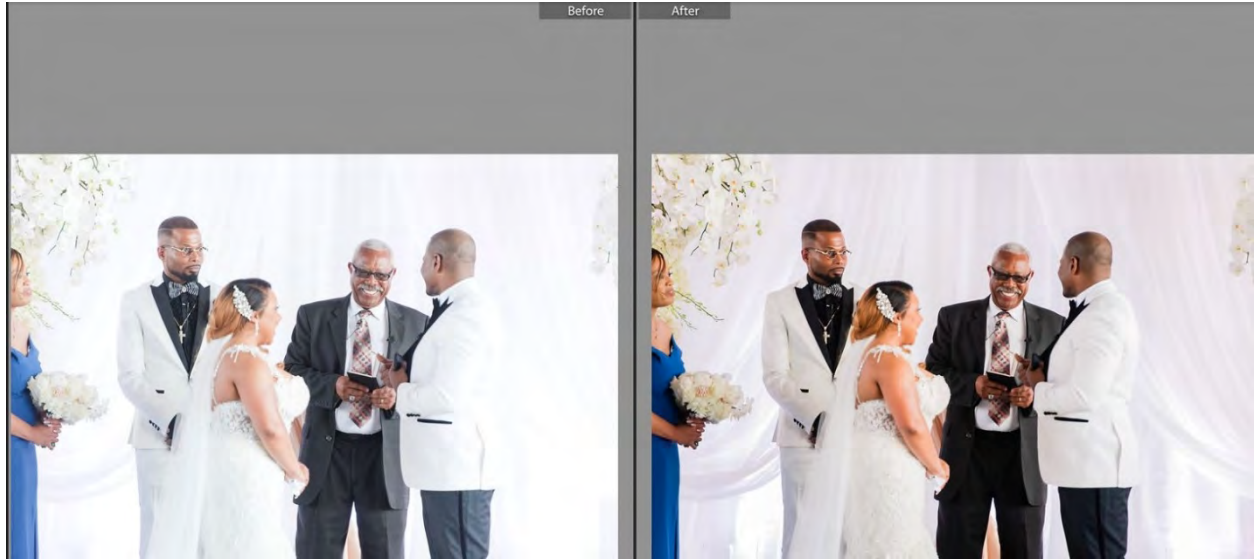
Let's hang  
Instagram is  
kind of my thing.

@JENNAKUTCHER

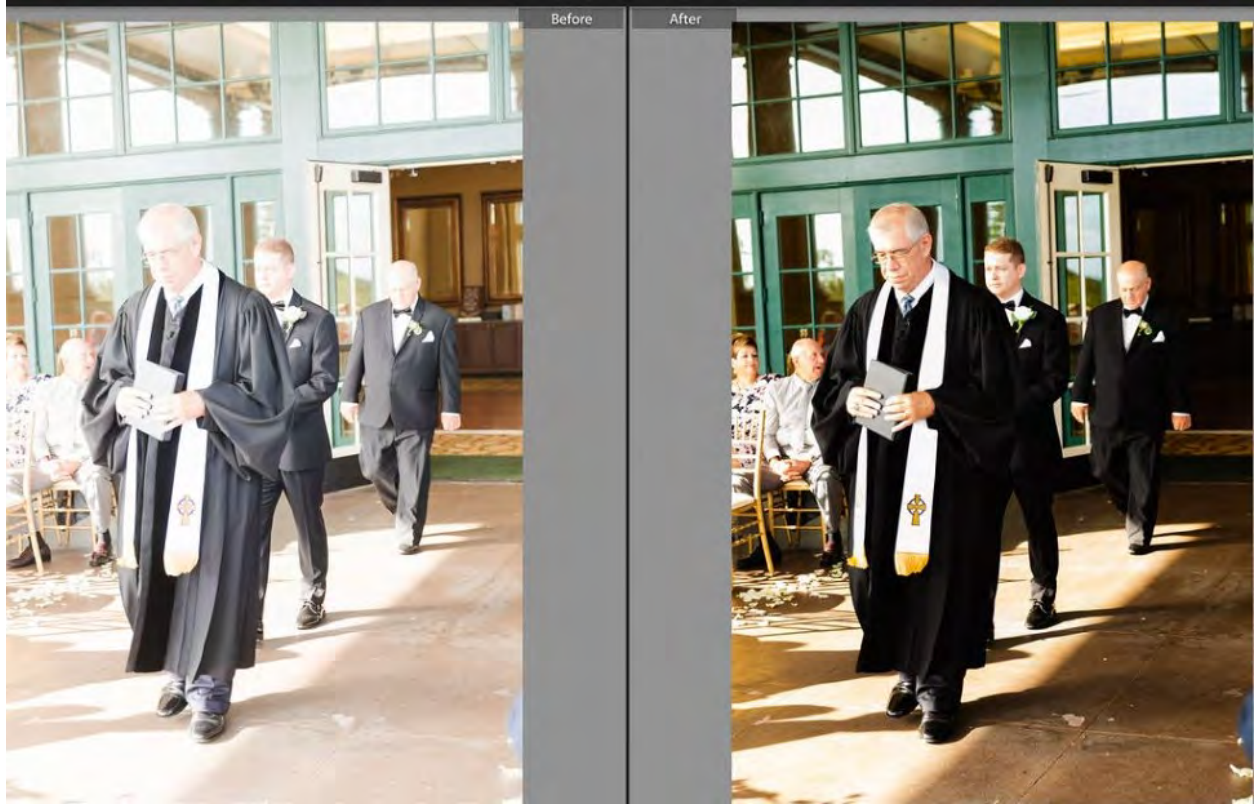


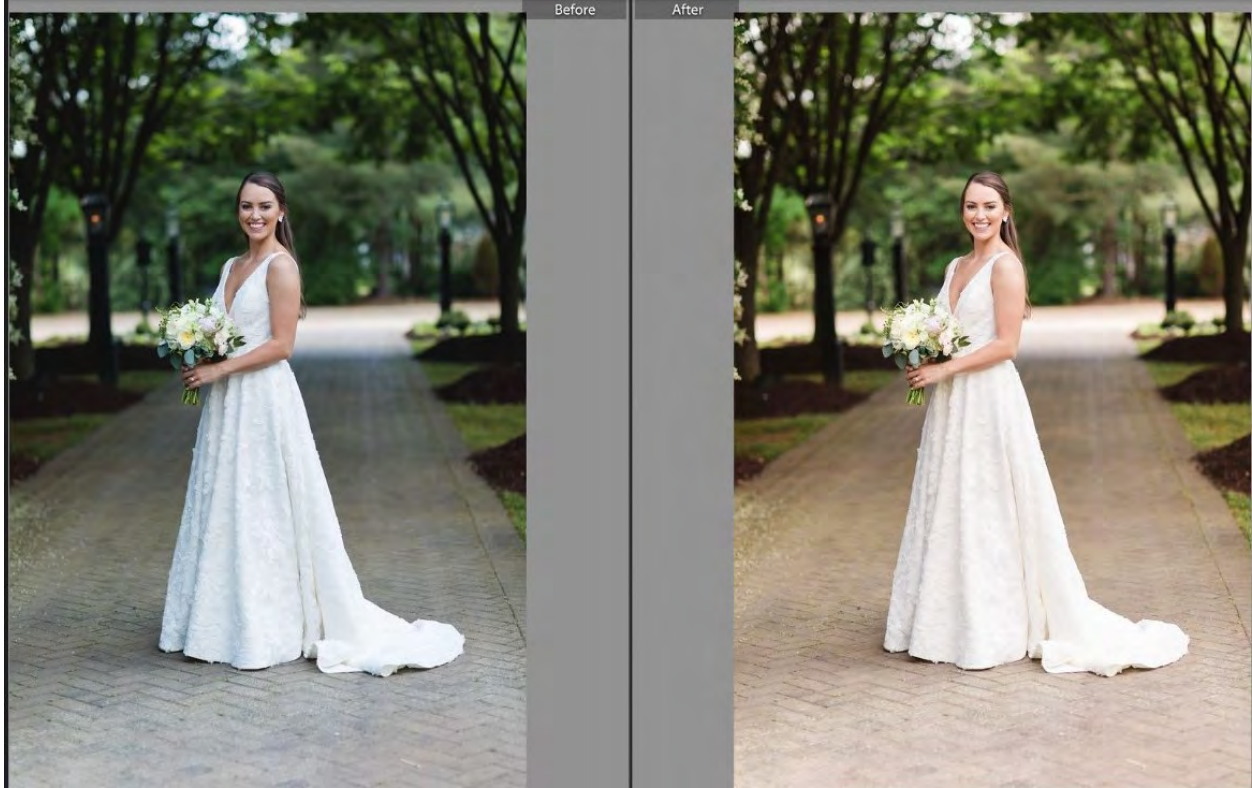




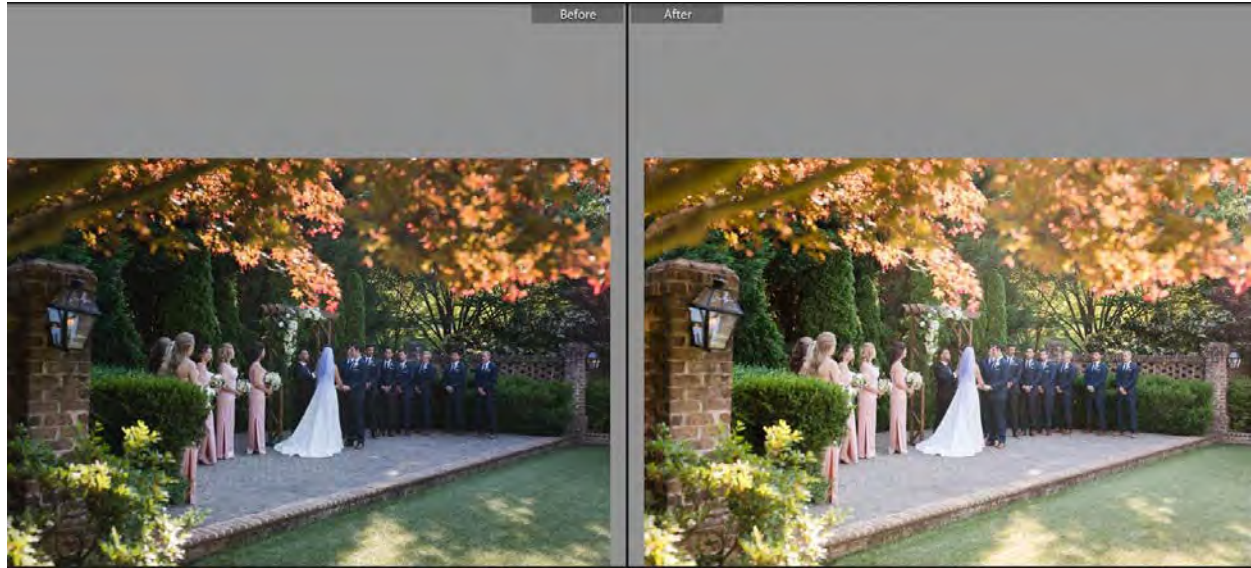






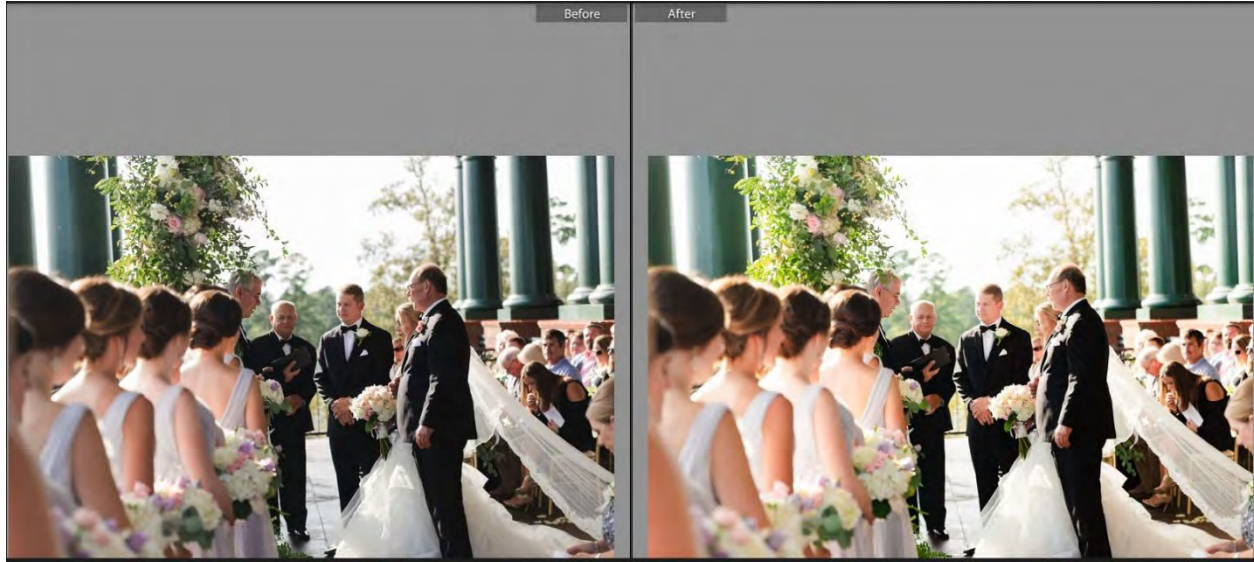






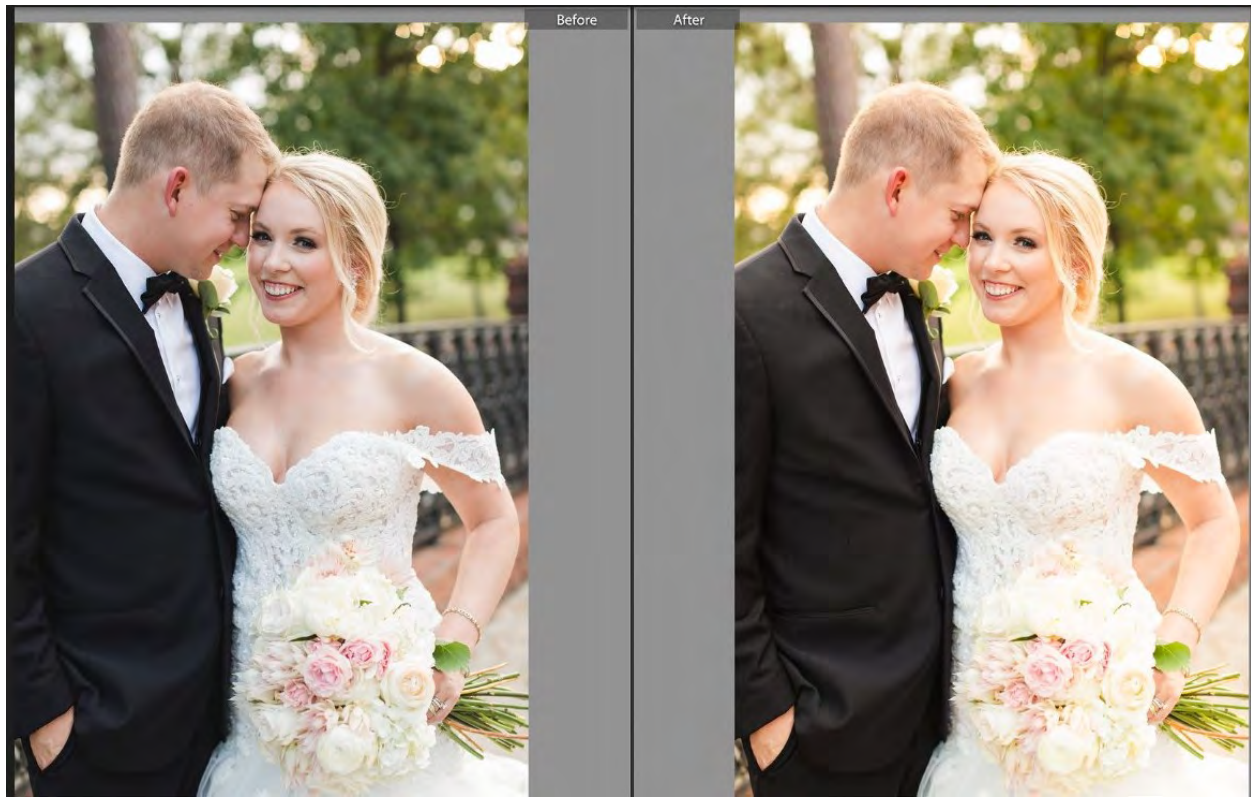


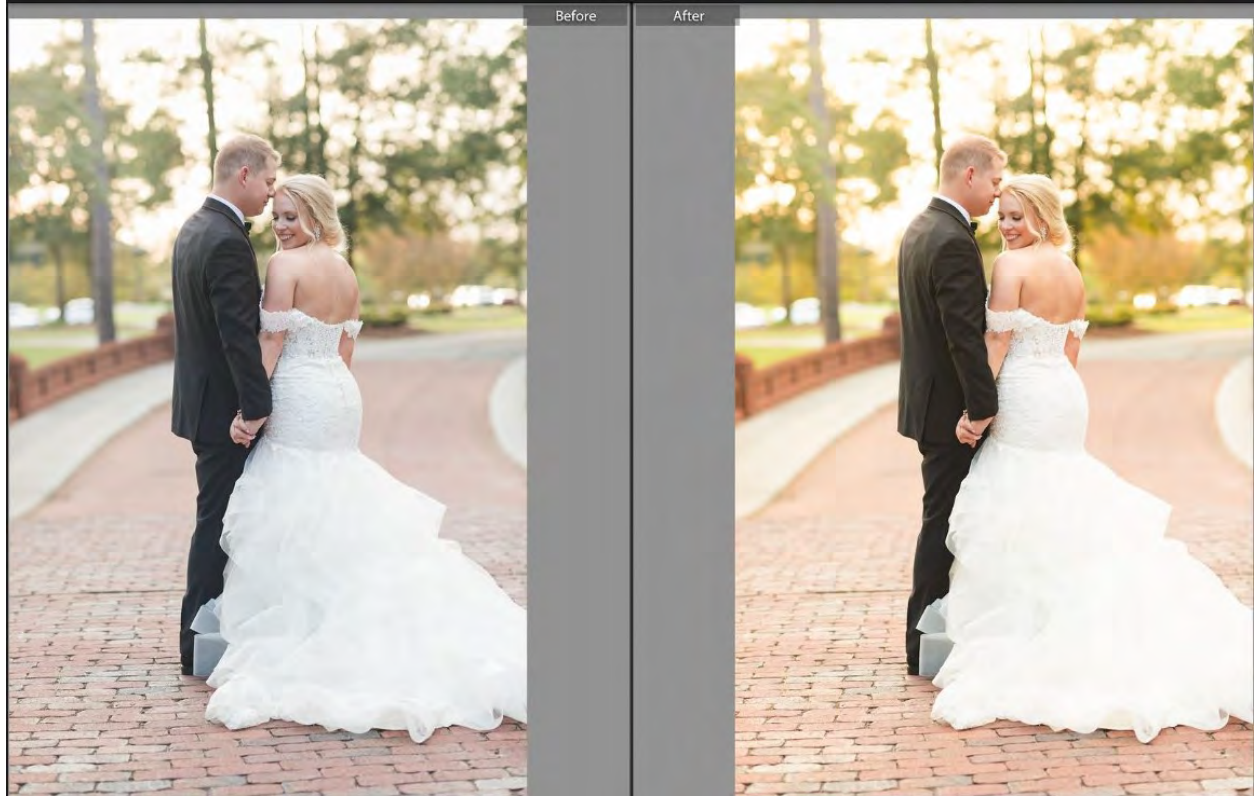






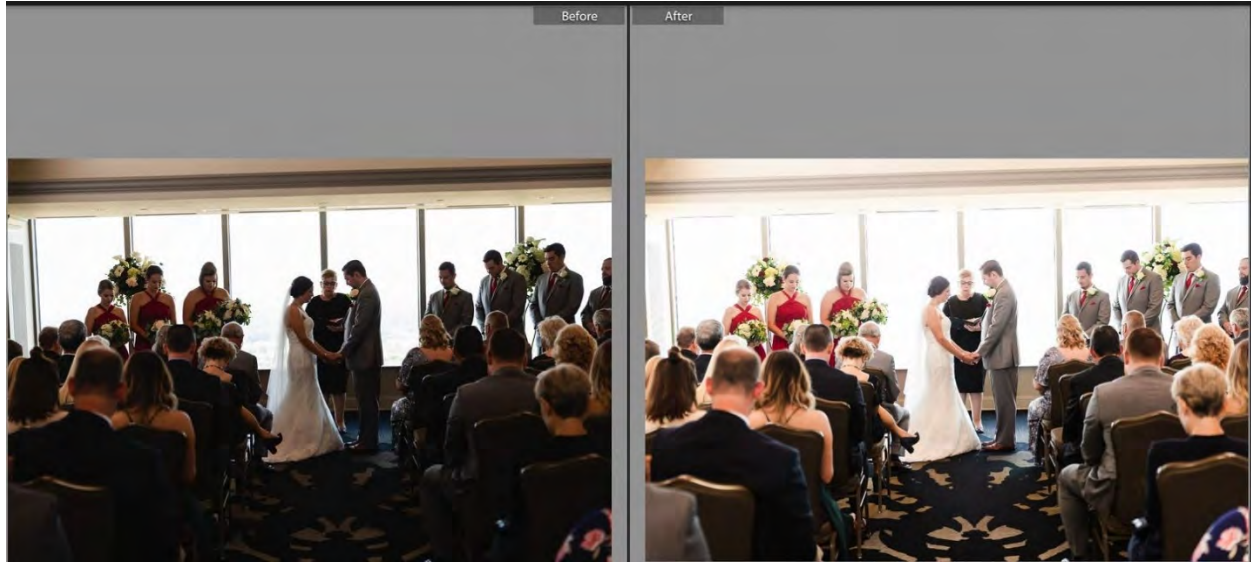






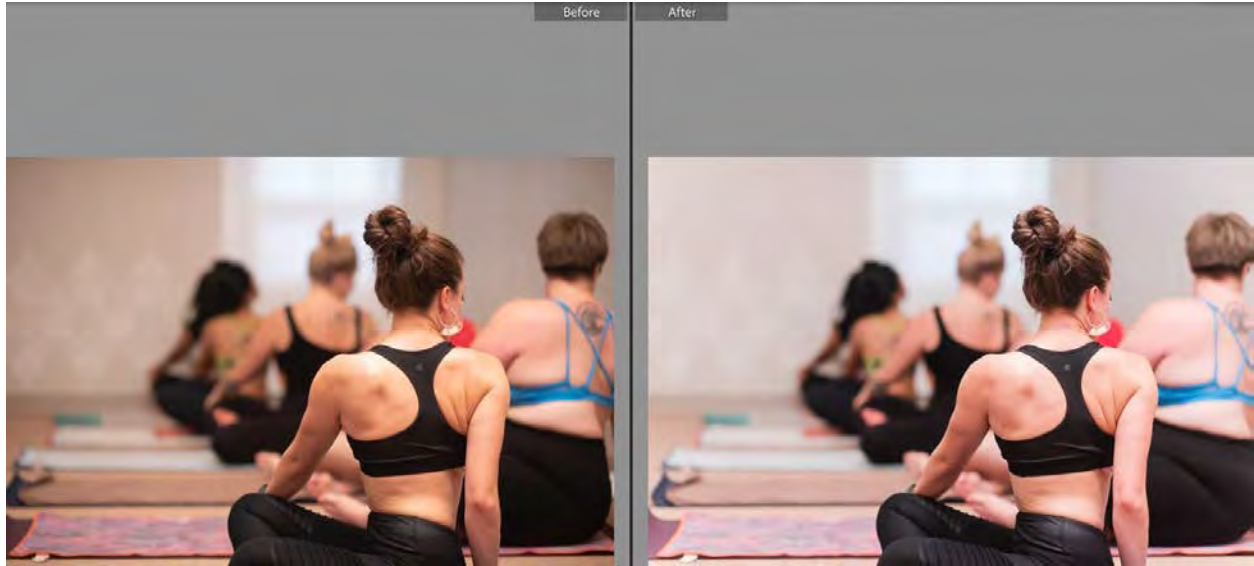


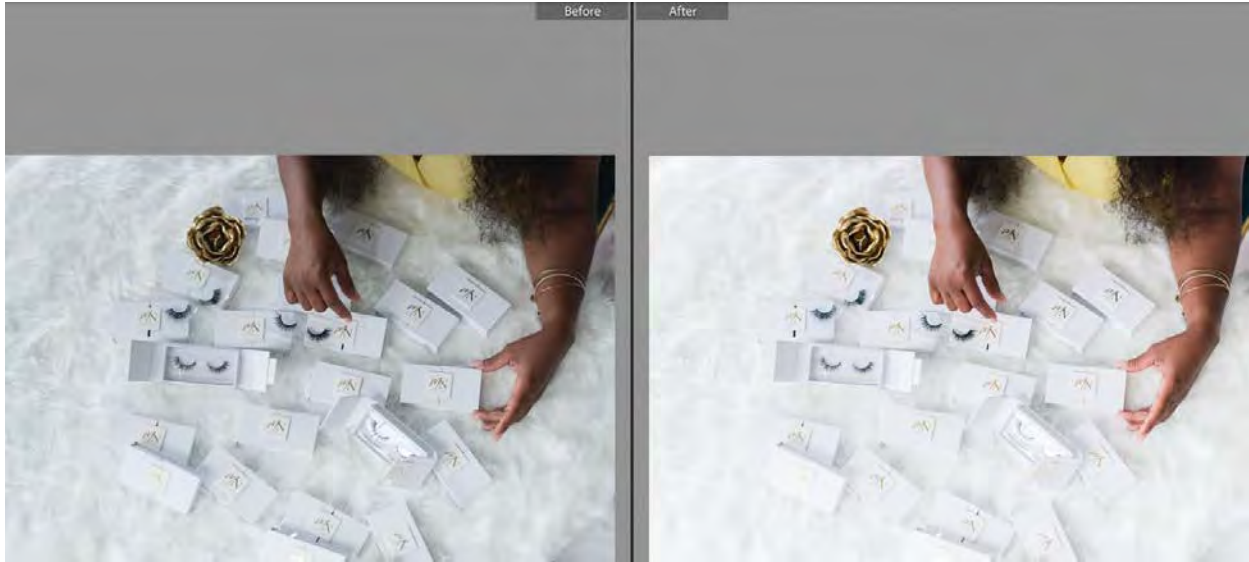




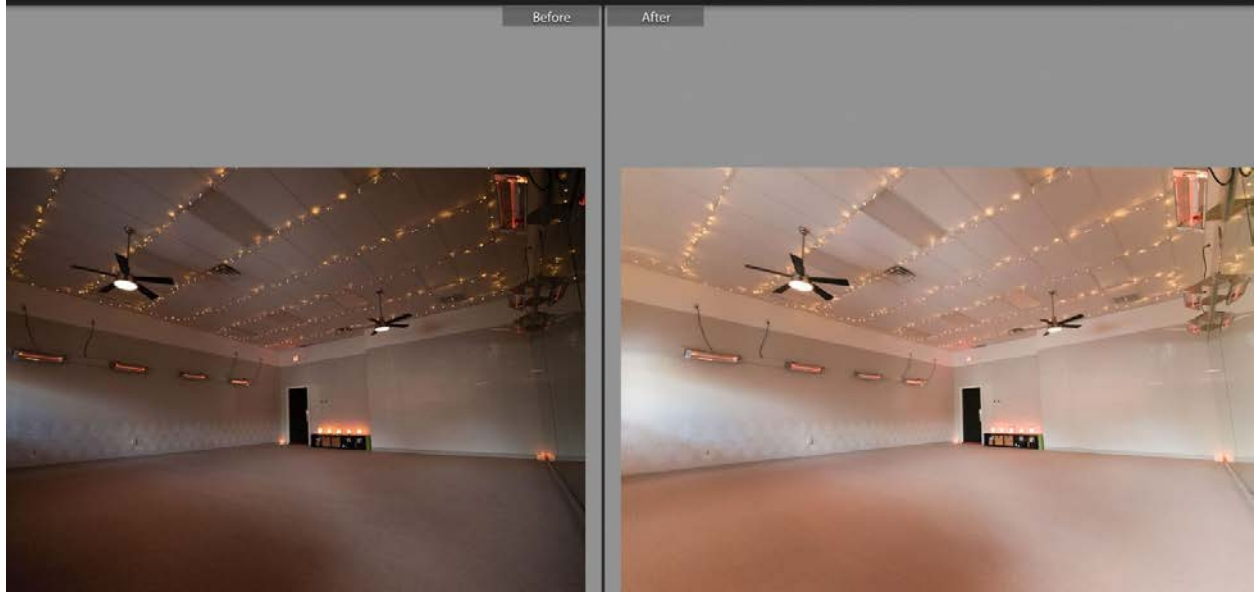












## New Inquiry!

Your name and your fiancé's name: Emmy [REDACTED] and Max [REDACTED]

Your email address: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Which type of photography services are you interested in?: Wedding

Message: Hello! My name is Emmy [REDACTED] and my fiancé is Max [REDACTED]. We are looking for a photographer for our Louisville wedding! So, a little background: I was born and raised in Louisville and have always known I would most likely come back home to celebrate a wedding! Max and I actually sat at the Brown Hotel Bar about 5 years or so ago and talked about getting married there over drinks- and now it is happening!! Both our parents want to invite the whole world- so we will be having a large wedding of 250! Our ceremony will be non religious and we just want a day full of love, laughs, and fun. There will be a lot o music, dancing, photos, and drinks! We can't wait to throw the biggest party with all our loved friends and family. Max and I met in 2008 at Florida State University. We were both getting degrees in Musical Theatre, he a BM in Music and I a BFA in Fine Arts. Our freshman year selves would never have guessed we would be getting married nearly 10 years later! We were just friends for a while, and then something happened our sophomore year... After months of flirting Max admitted to "liking" me, and at first I was hesitant and till this day he says "I turned him down". However, in a smart move, Max kissed another girl in front of me and I got extremely jealous. And the rest is pretty much history. I realized I liked him too, and soon that "like" became a love. We graduated college in 2012 and started our long distance relationship. Max toured for a year across the U.S. and I moved to Los Angeles. Then we did another 3 years after that of NYC- LA distance. In January of 2016 Max made the decision to move to the West Coast so we could be together. Obviously, things have been going great and on New Years Eve Morning 12/31/16, Max proposed to me in Central Park of NYC. He had gathered a ton of our college friends together, all whom were holding roses as I walked a path leading to him, playing guitar and a song he had written for me. (I had thought I was grabbing brunch with my BFF Hillary). It was seriously the happiest day of my life.

How did you hear about me?: instagram





DAVID AND AMANDA ORR · APRIL 28, 2017

## COSPLAY, SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK WEDDING



Newly engaged couples often feel overwhelmed by the traditions and expectations that go into planning their wedding day. But the truth is that you can break away from tradition, while still creating a special event that your guests will love attending. JeriLyn and Randy are the perfect example of a couple that made their wedding day truly their own, in a way that both celebrated their unique hobbies and loves (comic books, cosplay, gaming, superheroes), while still honoring and actively involving their family and guests. JeriLyn and Randy were awesome enough to share the details of their wedding day, and even some DIY and cost-saving wedding planning tips.



How did you come to select the theme for your wedding day?  
Why was this important to you?

CNP MSJ 00296



clothes and supplies that we knew we were only going to use once before throwing in a mothball-ridden closet for years to come, we decided we wanted to do something we could reuse. Because we are both so heavily inspired by comics, movies and games, and attend MANY pop-culture conventions in a business and pleasurable capacity (as well as a lot of our friends and family) we felt doing a sort of 'cosplay' themed wedding was ideal. People could dress up as their favorite characters/people and the costumes could be reused. We now use our outfits as our 'cosplay' clothes at conventions we attend."

*(JeriLyn and Randy make amazing collectible art glass pieces. You can catch them at the upcoming Phoenix Comicon on May 25 - 28th, 2017 at the Phoenix Convention Center. Visit [FireChilde Glass Studio](#) for more info.)*



**How did you encourage guests to participate?**

**Randy:** "It didn't take too much encouragement as a lot of our friends and family are as quirky as us and really enjoyed the experience. An added bonus was that Halloween was a week and a half prior to our special occasion, which made the costume-building process as difficult or as easy as people really wanted to make it. Also, the promise of free booze helped a lot."



**CNP MSJ 00297**

**Describe any personal or handmade touches that you incorporated in your wedding.**



**Randy:** "We had made flower bouquets (including the bride's) out of paper flowers we painstakingly made out of comic books that were repurposed from our comic shop, as they were just titles the shop had amassed but couldn't really sell. (Fun fact: the more violent the comic book, the prettier the flower... because blood.) We also used some of our favorite comic book titles as table decorations for people to read and look at while dining, and to take as party favors."

"We also wanted to avoid having a traditional wedding cake as they're not something people typically go gaga over anyway. It was actually suggested to us to do a big stack of donuts, which were a big hit with our guests (out of 8-9 dozen, we walked away with a small box of 6 donuts at the end of the evening). It definitely was a fun addition that we feel was better than a traditional cake."

**Tell us about the design of the wedding dress. Did JeriLyn make it herself? What inspired her? What were the advantages of doing a custom-designed dress versus purchasing from a chain store?**

**Randy:** "The wedding dress was basically made from pieces and parts we'd found from different vendors at the conventions we attend. The inception was from JeriLyn's love for Superman... so she dubbed herself the '*Bride-of-Steel*,' and we worked around that. The outfit consisted of a black leather corset, a black skirt with white petticoats, a Victorian-era high collar, white button-down shirt with frills, a leather Victorian-era riding hat (that we emblazoned with a silver and black Superman logo), black and white 'spat'-esque boots (later exchanged for black Chuck Taylors for dancing later), and a silver Superman pendant on a silver chain."



"The main advantage of doing a custom designed outfit was really the fact that we were able to help out a lot of the other vendors we attend conventions with, and not throwing money at a big chain store that wouldn't consider my ideas but would rather show me the dresses worn by a hundred other brides that day alone. It was a treat to spread our joy around to independent artists who we've known for years. We also have the opportunity to mix-and-match aspects of this outfit into other designs in the future for other fun events."





**Tell us about the design of the groom's suit. Did Randy make it himself? What inspired him?**

**JeriLyn:** "Randy's "Bat-Groom" outfit was inspired by his favorite character Batman (obviously). The relationship between Batman and Superman over the years has been (what we describe as) a 'Bro-mance.' They always have one another's back and rely on each other in times of need. His costume was a little less elaborate as it consisted of a regular black button-down shirt, a black vest with silver striping, black jeans with a Batman belt buckle, black Chuck Taylor shoes and a giant top hat with the Batman logo on the front. It was simple, but matched the overall fun-aesthetic we were going for."

**Were there any special traditions that were a part of your wedding day?**

**Randy:** "The only semi-"traditional" aspect was we had decided that we wouldn't see each other as soon as we hit the venue until the moment of the ceremony. Other than that, we were making it as easy-going and stressfree as possible. Throwing tradition out the window allowed us to really cut loose and not adhere to a bunch of rigid guidelines that'd sap the fun out of the whole process. The only real stress was being the center of attention and making damned fools of ourselves in front of our most cherished people ... and even that was great."

**What were some of your favorite moments from your wedding day?**

**JeriLyn:** "As generic of a statement as this is... the vows. We had them written for us by one of our best friends who knows us to a "T". Being able to speak words that were funny and eloquent to my husband-to-be was a great feeling because normally I just stare at him slack-jawed and drooling on myself wondering how I got so lucky. But honestly, the whole thing feels like a quick blur and I loved every moment."



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**Randy:** "As JeriLyn said, the vows were my favorite part. Talking about superheroes and cats and bad comic movies right before getting hitched was a good laugh for us as well as our guests. My other favorite is that David Orr piled us in his vehicle right after the ceremony, and we went down to our comic book shop (about a block away), and we had a good time goofing off and having pictures taken."



**How did you come to select the location for your wedding?  
What was special about this place to you?**

**Randy:** "We wanted to be in an area we frequent fairly often. [Regency Garden](#) is about two blocks away from the [Mesa Arts Center](#) where JeriLyn works and also really close to our [comic book shop](#) we frequent as well. We found Regency kind of by chance. The well-deserved awesome reviews, located in an area we know and frequent, with extremely nice employees and they already had David Orr working as their photographer (which we didn't know until our initial visit when we all bumped into each other at the venue the first day), and the fact it was fantastic looking with reasonable pricing and all inclusive... it felt like it was meant to be."

**What advice do you have for couples who are planning their wedding? (Best ways to incorporate a theme, tips to keep costs down, pitfalls to avoid, etc.)**

**Randy:** "Simply put, walk in with a bit of skepticism. Wedding magazines, bridal expos, traditions being jammed down your throat, et cetera ... these resources are meant to sell you something that was already used a hundred times over. There's no need to spend tons of money on customized party favors that guests are going to toss in the trash the next month or that big elaborate stark white dress that will never be seen after that special day. So what if it's 'tradition' to do this, that or the other thing ... whose tradition? This is your day. You or someone you are close to are the one footing the bill. Why would you want it to be the next generic one sold out of an overpriced catalog? You be you--don't let tradition get in the way."

**JeriLyn:** "You know those folks who are hired with the venue typically? The 'wedding coordinators' ... listen to them. There's no need to micromanage since these folks do hundreds of events a

year. They'll certainly know what is unique, what is overdone and what is possible ... and they'll be the first ones to tell you. Also, keep things simple. The more elaborate it is, the more expensive, labor intensive and stressful things become. As much as I want a

hundred pure white doves to be released over my head from a hot air balloon with me and my husband's name on it ... it just seems like a lot of unnecessary work for something that people will say 'huh... that was cool. Okay, where's the bar?' "

*Come see David Orr speak on the Phoenix Comicon wedding panel "Geek Weddings on a Budget": Friday, May 26, 2017 at 12noon at the Phoenix Convention Center.*

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## A WALKING DEAD THEMED ZOMBIE ENGAGEMENT SESSION IN ATLANTA



 **Matthew Druin**  
Photographer To AWESOME People!

**CNP MSJ 00302** A Walking Dead Zombie Engagement Session In Atlanta.





We are photographing Alyssa and Jared's wedding this year and wanted to photograph / film a rad engagement session in Atlanta, Georgia. With The Walking Dead about to start back up, what better inspiration to get ready for the show than a zombie engagement session!

We planned for weeks getting the cast, sketches, makeup, shot list, lighting and equipment, zombie bait, and much more to make everything happen. The day before the shoot the weather called for 50% chance of rain all day, so we were all a little stressed about it. The morning of the shoot, it rained but cleared up creating the perfect



zombie conditions.

Alyssa and Jared's friends and family drove in from all over to make the shoot happen. The day started pretty typically if you are a zombie. Blood, guts, and weapons were prepared and makeup was applied to everyone with careful attention to detail. Although no one was a professional actor or zombie for that matter, we wanted everything to be realistic with a hint of the cheese factor.

Our original location fell through, so with just a week to find a new location, we opted for one closer to home. In order to get to the main shooting location, everyone had to climb down a really steep hill and obviously do it without falling. The mud and rain soaked leaves made for very slippery conditions and I was lucky enough to



slide down the side of the hill a number of times carrying equipment on-site.



We started by shooting everyone separately for the cast photos, and a couple key "movie poster" type photos, before moving on to shooting the storyline. Considering the wet and cold weather conditions there was a little suffering being out in the cold and crawling around in the mud for three plus hours.

All in all, everyone had a blast and amazingly did a freaking awesome job in their roles. Here are some of my favorite photos from Alyssa and Jared's zombie engagement



session.





CNP MSJ 00305





CNP MSJ 00306



CNP MSJ 00307





CNP MSJ 00308



**ZOMBIE ENGAGEMENT: CAST**

**CNP MSJ 00309**





My name is Matt Druin and I'm an Atlanta wedding photographer that specializes in unique, offbeat weddings for all awesome people! Not only do I shoot amazing Atlanta weddings, but I also travel frequently for destination weddings, and weddings all over, with no travel fees in the US for amazing wedding photography. I also shoot Atlanta engagement sessions for newly engaged couples. I've even been known to travel, and far, for engagement sessions too!

Contact Atlanta Wedding Photographer Matthew Druin

Email [matthew@matthewdruin.com](mailto:matthew@matthewdruin.com)

Phone 678-551-0115

Address 225 Parkway 575 #66 Woodstock, Georgia 30188

Portfolios [www.matthewdruin.com](http://www.matthewdruin.com)

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## Game of Thrones Bridal Photos

As a professional wedding photographer, some times get requests for wedding shoots outside of my regular packages. Do you mind? Nope love providing bespoke portraits sessions for my couples when they request them. So when an opportunity to really get creative and make beautiful photos for my clients can use as wall art. Maureen and me at The Quarry Knoxville for a gorgeous Game of Thrones bridal photos. Maureen is one of the sweetest people in the world. She and her (now) husband are kind, personal, and purposeful. The couple had a Game of Thrones themed wedding and of course, the bridal gown and details to ally it.

### Their Love Story

Maureen shared that Thom is her absolute best friend, and she thinks life would be so incredibly boring without him. They've been together for four years, and got engaged last November. He proposed with a custom-made ring all lovingly hand-crafted, and it is so her is actually a funny story because last Thanksgiving, Maureen's cousin shared that he was going to propose to his girlfriend in two weeks. He was showing them pictures of the ring at their Tennessee family get-together. Maureen gave Thom such a hard time, easing over how her cousin was going to propose soon if he did she knew, no two days before, Thom had gotten a call to tell him her ring was ready.

When they go back home from their Thanksgiving trip, on Monday he picked up the engagement ring on his lunch break. He got home that evening, and couldn't even make it into the living room. He told Maureen to close her eyes, and that he got something special for her while he was at work. Unassumingly thinking he had brought home a cookie or something, standing there in her PJs... Maureen obliged and closed her eyes. And when she opened her eyes, Thom was on one knee with the ring in his hand. Perfection.

### The Quarry Venue Knoxville

CNP MSJ 00312

loved their proposal story so much. Maureen also shared that while she and Thom have very different professional lives, when they are at home, they love all the same things. Nerdy, fun things that keep them both young at heart. So, it goes without saying that their wedding would echo some of the things they loved. This bridal portrait shoot channeled some of the fantasy of their Game of Thrones wedding. With her handmade ring and handmade crown, she truly looked like she stepped from the pages of a fairy tale. Her flowing blonde hair, stunning bridal gown from [Hayden Olivia Bridal](#) and her green velvet cloak all added to her stunning, regal look. As she walked through the wooded areas of The Quarry Venue, she truly looked like she was from another time. Of course, her iron longsword made her look like she could sit on the Iron Throne.

The Quarry Venue was the perfect backdrop for these Game of Thrones bridal photos. This stunning, historic marble quarry was such a unique backdrop for her portrait session. Nestled in the heart of West Knoxville, this amazing wedding venue is actually in a real quarry that was once known for its pink marble. What really elevates this outdoor space is their one-of-a-kind location called "The Canyon." We took full advantage of this breathtaking natural feature. With 100 soaring rock walls and trees dripping with ivy, it was truly unique.

## *Professional Bridal Portraits*

Thank you so much to Maureen for asking me to be her photographer for these Game of Thrones Bridal photos. I had such an amazing time with you, and I was so unashamedly wish more brides would get back in on their dresses to have professional bridal portraits like this one.

When you are in a bridal portrait session, please don't hesitate to contact me. I love to do them and would love to find creative ways for you to wear your beautiful dress again. Or, if you'd like to have a session before your wedding, professional photos are a great way to preserve your hair and makeup before the big day. Make sure to follow me on my [contact form](#) and we will be in touch.







CNP MSJ 00314







## FEATURED KNOXVILLE VENDORS

Venue: [The Quarry Venue](#)

Floral: [B Floral](#)

Dress: [Hayden Olivia Bridal](#)

MUA: Taylor Raby

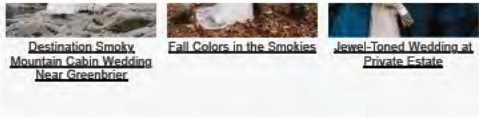
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## My Heart for Weddings

My highest aim of creative expression is to honor God. This looks like focusing on and filling minds with whatever is true or noble, whatever is right or pure, whatever is lovely or admirable, excellent or praiseworthy ([based on Philippians 4](#)). This mentality inspires my photography, blogging, and how I try to serve my clients.

I believe marriage is a special gift from God that represents Jesus Christ's love for his Church, and it all begins at a wedding between a man and a woman. A celebration where love, joy, purity and beauty are publicly proclaimed. When I get to photograph a wedding, I get to share in the ceremony and publicly celebrate the start of a new relationship between the bride and groom. No other human relationship is quite like it in terms of beauty or significance.

God's word greatly impacts my life and business. Practically, this means I don't photograph every wedding that comes my way. I cannot positively depict anything that demeans others, sexually objectifies others, or devalues marriage between one man and one woman. I also can't photograph anything that conflicts with my religious conviction that marriage is a covenant relationship before God between one man and one woman (for example, I don't photograph same-sex weddings or ceremonies celebrating an open marriage).

I believe *everyone* is beautifully made in the image of God and deserves respect. I appreciate the freedom to create and highlight beauty in such a way that is consistent with my beliefs and presents those messages in the best light possible.

## My Heart

My highest aim of creative expression is to honor God. This looks like focusing on and filling minds with whatever is true or noble, whatever is right or pure, whatever is lovely or admirable, excellent or praiseworthy ([based on Philippians 4](#)). This mentality inspires my photography, photo editing, and how I try to serve my clients.

I specialize in light, bright + airy edits, emphasizing the beauty and goodness of the world around us. For my wedding photographers, I edit to celebrate and treasure the beauty of marriage between a man and a woman. For my branding photographers, I edit with an eye towards telling a story about the business or product to make it come alive in a positive, exciting way. Because I make each edit to enhance the beauty of the photograph, I can't celebrate every event or business.


God's word greatly impacts my life. Practically, this means I don't edit every project that comes my way. I cannot edit anything that demeans others, sexually objectifies others, or devalues marriage between one man and one woman. I also can't edit photographs that conflict with my religious convictions, including the conviction that marriage is a covenant relationship before God between one man and one woman (for example, I don't edit same-sex weddings or ceremonies celebrating open marriage).

I believe *everyone* is beautifully made in the image of God and deserves respect. I appreciate the freedom to create and highlight beauty in such a way that is consistent with my beliefs and presents those messages in the best light possible.



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**MOST HELPFUL** MOST RECENT

**Johnathan Tatman** doesn't recommend Chelsey Nelson Photography.  
 March 1, 2020 · 🌐

- Customer service is below par- The owner/photographer is extremely rude and doesn't want to work with what you want to do. She's very closed minded and if it's isn't her way, she doesn't want to hear it.
- Workmanship is amateur at best. - The quality of photos being produced are nowhere near what you expect from a "professional"..... See More

11

**Erwino Ouwerkerk** doesn't recommend Chelsey Nelson Photography.  
 February 28, 2020 · 🌐

Unkind person and mediocre service.

13

**Jon Clark** recommends Chelsey Nelson Photography.  
 March 13, 2020 · 🌐

Excellent Photographer who is being attacked by those who refuse to tolerate Woman standing up for her rights.

4 2 Comments

View 1 more comment

**G. Michael Graham** She stands against sexual immorality. #IStandWithChelsey.  
 1y

2

**Martinez Joseph** doesn't recommend Chelsey Nelson Photography.  
 February 29, 2020 · 🌐

Very poor workmanship and horrible work ethic. Please choose another photographer for your special engagement.

11 1 Comment

**Katja Sipple** When did you work with her? You live in San Antonio, Texas, and travelled all the way to Kentucky for photos? Genuinely interested how and when you interacted with her.  
 1y

 **Chelsey Nelson Photography**  
 October 21, 2018 · 🌐  
<https://www.chelseynelson.com/.../annie-andrew-frankfort-wedd...>



CHELSEYNELSON.COM  
**Annie + Andrew Frankfort Kentucky Wedding**  
 Annie was one of the happiest brides I've ever been with on a wedding da...

👍👎👏 56 66 Comments

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Most Relevant ▾

 **Ken Nevitt** No one is forcing this homophobe to do anything. She does not love her neighbors! Go elsewhere for photo needs.  
 1y 👍👎 5

 **Ken Nevitt** Your bigotry I assume will bring you more rednecks to photograph.  
 1y 👍👎 4

 **Cass Green**  
 🤔🤔  
 1y 👍 4

 **Tom Price** Talentless bigot...  
 1y





Moksha Jo Efsea



1y





Chelsey Nelson Photography

August 14, 2017 · 🌐

I got to be mentored on my absolute favorite podcast earlier this summer (Creative Empire Podcast), and now the episode is live!

Y'all, I was so nervous! I haven't been able to listen to it yet (does anyone else think their voice is muuuch higher pitch than they imagine? 😬) but you'll definitely get a look into the real, raw feelings and questions that go into starting a business out of something you love.



870 Views

Creative Empire Podcast  
August 14, 2017

Happy Monday y'all! Today, our latest Creative Empire mentoring session with Chelsey Nelson Photography is live! They are chatting all about confidence and book...  
[See More](#)

👍❤️👍 24

19 Comments

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**Andrea Flynn** Do the producers of this pod know they're promoting a hateful bigot in this episode? Someone should let them know...  
1y [👍❤️👍 3](#)

↩️ 2 Replies



**Leah Angell** I don't get how she's being hateful by not wanting to do anything but what she considers traditional weddings. Call her a bigot if that makes you feel better, it doesn't change anything. She's not saying all gays go to hell. She just doesn't want to ph...  
[See More](#)  
1y [👍 1](#)

↩️ 2 Replies



**Sarah Ashleigh Critchley** She's deep in the closet...  
1y [👍 1](#)



**Jenny McClure Smith** You, Chelsey, are a terrible excuse for a human being.  
1y [👍❤️👍 5](#)

**Steve Rooney** Jenny McClure Smith Hitler was pretty popular in his time. Chairman Mao was also very popular.  
1y

**Rob Bokkon** Orville Brettman way to cherry-pick the parts you like from the Bible and ignore the rest. I guarantee that you don't follow kashrut.  
1y

**Jenny McClure Smith** Steve Rooney My opinion of this hateful little bigot is pretty popular.  
1y



17

 **Jenny McClure Smith** Orville Brettman That's right, hide behind the Bible.  1

1y

 **Orville Brettman** Leviticus 20:13, "If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them."  2

1y

 **Steve Rooney** Jenny, how very judgmental of you!  1

1y · Edited

 **Andrea Reimer** Did they give you advice on how to be a hateful bigot, the literal opposite of what Christ taught?  8

1y

↪ 3 Replies

Most Relevant is selected, so some comments may have been filtered out.

# Chelsey Nelson

Photography

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BLOG

## GEORGETOWN KENTUCKY FALL WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY



Welcome! I'm Chelsey - a Louisville, Kentucky photographer and private photo editor with a heart for Jesus. I blog here about my journey as a creative entrepreneur, lifestyle tips and everyday adventures. I hope this space can be a cozy, safe haven for you to feel refreshed and inspired.

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Chelsey Nelson / 6 Comments

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CHEROKEE PARK SUMMER ENGAGEMENT ... >

Comments (6)

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POST COMMENT

 **Jason Hendly** 2 months ago · 0 Likes

Please remove your lawsuit. Take the money and spend it on counseling for yourself and volunteer to work at a youth shelter for LGBTQ youth. :)

 **Heather Grant** 2 months ago · 0 Likes

Where in the bible does it say "be a bigot"???

 **Harvey** 2 months ago · 0 Likes

Everyone should boycott your business.

 **Jane Doe** 3 months ago · 0 Likes

Bigot. I hope your business fails. You take lousy photos anyway. Who would want to hire you?

 **Clarty Beauchel** 3 months ago · 0 Likes

Enjoy your lawsuit, homophobic girl.

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Louisville, Kentucky

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**OPINION** This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.

## Opinion: If LGBTQ folks refused services to Christians, would that bigotry be acceptable?

**Roger L. Guffey**

Published 6:31 a.m. ET Dec. 3, 2019

A Louisville wedding photographer recently refused to take photographs for a gay couple because their same-sex marriage offends her religious beliefs. We have heard this from bakers, florists and wedding planners who hide their personal prejudices behind the veneer of religious devotion.

All of this hullabaloo is unnecessary. If the photographer did not want to take the photos, she could have simply said that she had a conflict that prevented her from accommodating their requests. I seriously doubt that the couple would have rescheduled their wedding just to have her take their pictures.

This is the same story as the court clerk in Morehead, Kentucky, refusing to issue a marriage license to a gay couple. The only difference is that she was violating her oath of office to provide a legal service as was specifically stated in her job description. Thousands of people, including some high-profile evangelicals, lined up to support her for allegedly defending her religion.

Prejudice and bigotry are never confined to just one group. When my African American godson and his Caucasian fiancée applied for a marriage license in a county in Kentucky, the clerk refused to issue them a license because her religious beliefs did not accept interracial marriage. As late as 1958, 24 states had laws that banned all interracial marriages. No one should have the right to dictate the affairs of the hearts of other people.

But this is not about accepting same-sex marriages. This is about someone who wants to make a scene by showcasing her victimhood: She is a victim because she cannot force people to share her narrow definition of being a Christian. People like her are the same ones who decry the so-called "War on Christmas" and "War on Christianity."

I am a gay man who has been a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church for 32 years. No one has ever tried to make me stop saying "Merry Christmas," send out Christmas cards or attend the church of my choice, nor have I tried to force others to accept my sexual orientation, because that is not anyone else's business.

**Chelsey Nelson, in her own words:** As a Christian, I shouldn't be forced to work same-sex weddings

These religious martyrs are the people who clutch their pearls and thump their Bibles because they cannot force other people to believe the same way they do. They insist on making a public uproar to advertise their piety.

Jesus himself addressed this issue in Matthew 5:5-6:

5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Does this mean we should be ashamed of our faith? Of course not. Our religious beliefs and relationships with God and Jesus Christ are deeply personal and should not be flaunted publicly just to get attention. Who are better Christians: those who go out of their way to quote scripture selectively to condemn others, or those who illustrate their devotion to their faith by showing kindness and love to others, even people with whom they disagree?

**Background:** Photographer who opposes gay marriage sues over Louisville's Fairness Ordinance

Now put the shoe on the other foot. I am a retired mathematics teacher. Suppose I had refused to teach students who were either Christians or were the children of Christians because their bigotry offends my religious convictions. Under the so-called religious liberty ruling, I am within my rights. Can you imagine the outcry if all LGBTQ folks refused to provide their services to any Christians? The courts would be clogged in minutes with lawsuits challenging their stances.

What if a devout Southern Baptist refuses to take photographs for a Methodist couple because she does not accept their interpretation of scripture? Would that bigotry be acceptable?

So what is the difference? Overwhelming evidence shows that people do not choose their sexual orientation because it is as innate as eye color or race. On the other hand, people choose to interpret religious doctrines to conform with their own worldviews and prejudices.

Jesus himself never said one word about homosexuality, but he did condemn hatred, bigotry and Pharisaical hypocrisy of making a spectacle to condemn the lives of others.

*Roger L. Guffey is a retired mathematics teacher in Lexington, Kentucky.*

Chelsey Nelson

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**CNP MSJ 00329** to adjust the background of an image without affecting skin tones



Welcome! I'm Chelsey - a Louisville, Kentucky photographer and private photo editor with a heart for Jesus. I blog here about my journey as a creative entrepreneur, lifestyle tips and everyday adventures. I hope this space can be a cozy, safe haven for you to feel refreshed and inspired.

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