

# Katie Lilly

# Brian Jones

May 19, 2007  
Dara's Garden

Brian & I had always wanted to visit Washington, D.C. together. He reserved a beautiful, historic hotel, right in the heart of the city. As we were leaving, Brian suggested we stop to warm up with some coffee. I was so happy to be out of the cold, I thought nothing of it. He turned around to the couple behind us and seemed to be asking them to take our picture. Then he reached for my hand and began to tell me how he loved me, the measure in which our relationship had grown through the years, his faith and confidence that God had written our love story, and how I am the only girl for him. Brian knelt down beside my chair, opened a small box and asked "Kathryn Michelle Lilly, will you be my wife?" I managed to catch my breath and said, "YES!" The couple behind us captured the whole event on camera. The ring Brian gave me has a unique history. The diamond had belonged to Brian's great, great-grandmother. He removed it from her brooch, which had been a wedding present from her husband-to-be, and placed it in a setting just for me. I am honored that he and his family want me to have such an extraordinary family heirloom.

I began immediately to plan our wedding. We chose a garden wedding in the spring because of

our love for the outdoors. Dara's Garden is the kind of place where I dreamt of being married. Dara's luxurious, country-style house contains large bridal and groom suites and plenty of room for guests. We placed our parent's wedding pictures on the mantles. Dara provided the catering which was fantastic. Our wedding coordinator made sure that whatever we wanted was what we got—even if it meant making Smores over the fire pit at the Rehearsal dinner.

*"Barry's work expresses not just the occasion but its emotion..."*

Photographs capture memories and keep them alive, so I knew my photographer had to be the best. I spent several weeks researching photographers and their many styles. Once I saw Barry Seaton's work, I knew he was the photographer I had been looking for. His work expresses not just the occasion but its emotion, producing not just a photograph to mount on the wall but art to admire and cherish. After meeting with him, I knew his personality was one that would add more fun to the day than stress. My friends and family fell in love with Barry's work and energy, from his British flag printed socks to reciting "yeah, baby!" before shots (which my family still says when we take pictures together).

Our wedding day was absolutely perfect. I met Brian before the ceremony on a bridge overlooking the stream. This time was so precious to me, the only truly alone time we had at our wedding. Barry captured our "secret meeting" on film, literally hiding in the distant bushes. Leaving in the limo for our honeymoon in St. Lucia was bittersweet. One chapter of life had ended and yet an exciting adventure was just beginning; one where no matter what, I'd always have my best friend there to hold my hand along the journey.

Wedding Dress & Bridesmaid Dresses: White Lace & Promises, Flowers: Angeline's Custom Floral Design, Floral Preservation: Jackie White at Wallflowers, Rental: Anderson Rentals, Transportation: Sweetheart Limo, Music: Special Notes Jazz Band, Catering & Cake: Rothschild Catering, Videography: Eric Miller with InFocus Media, Make-up Artist: Heather Mayberry with Mary Kay

