

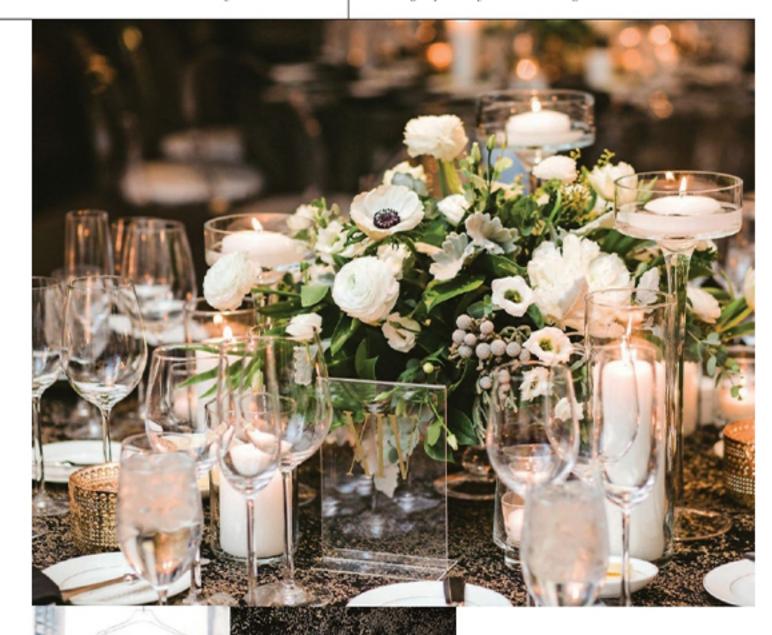
From a chance encounter to happily ever after, this couple celebrates their love story with a night of surprises.

IT WAS STORMING the night Isabel Kellman and Thomas Laser met as sophomores at Indiana University. Isabel's friends had pushed her to go out that night to set her up with someone else, but fate intervened: Instead she met Thomas, and the two hit it off immediately.

In January 2019, the couple took a walk through Lincoln Park Zoo on another blustery night—this time in the Chicago snow. To her surprise, the trip turned into a proposal. "When I was little, I told my dad I wanted to be proposed to when there were snowflakes on my eyelashes," the bride recalls. Her wish came true as Thomas got down on one knee.

Just under a year later, the couple exchanged personal vows in a Jewish ceremony at The Langham, Chicago. "We hadn't heard each other's vows until the ceremony, and reading them was fun," Isabel says. "They were very distinctly us."

The reception got underway, and the wedding party entered the hotel's Devonshire Ballroom to "Forever" by Chris Brown—an ode to the couple's love for TV show *The Office*. The bride changed into a fun shorter frock—by the same designer as her gown, Mira Zwillinger—for the party. When midnight rolled around, it was time for a special surprise: Guests' place cards doubled as confetti poppers to ring in the new year. As confetti rained down inside, fireworks set off from river barges exploded just outside the windows. "It was surreal," the bride says.



Clockwise from top: For Isabel and Thomas' New Year's Eve nuptials, tables were topped with white blooms and greenery to bring their "glitz and glam" dreams to life; Magnificent Milestones set the tone for the big day with a chic invitation suite featuring cream, black and gold; Flourish Cake Design concocted the vanilla cake with milk chocolate, dark chocolate and ganache fillings with an ombre effect inside; Isabel wore Stuart Weitzman sandals for the ceremony and then switched into Miu Miu pumps; she traded her long Mira Zwillinger ceremony gown for a short, sparkly one by the same designer for the reception. Opposite page: Isabel carried a bouquet of white ranunculus, feathered roses, white and black anemones, and greenery, and Thomas donned a Prada suit and tie with a white ranunculus boutonniere.

The List

Venue & Catering The Langham, Chicago, langhamhotels.com Wedding Planner Beth Bernstein, SQN Events, sqnevents.com Bride's Gowns Mira Zwillinger,

Ultimate Bride, ultimatebride.com Bride's Shoes Stuart Weitzman & Miu Miu, Nordstrom, nordstrom.com Bride's Jewelry Earrings: Kendra Scott, kendrascott.com; Bracelet: Tiffany & Co., tiffany.com Bride's Hair & Makeup Nika

Vaughan Bridal Artists, nikavaughanbridalartists.com

Groom's Tux Prada, prada.com Groom's Shoes Mezlan, mezlan.com Rings Hers: Windy City Diamonds, windycitydiamonds.com; Everett Fine Jewelry, everettfinejewelry.com; His: Browning & Sons,

browningandsons.com Bridesmaids' Dresses BHLDN, Jenny

Yoo, Lulus, Marchesa Notte, Nili Lotan & Reformation Horals HMR Designs, hmrdesigns.com Cake Flourish Cake Design,

flourishcakedesign.com Linens BBJ Linen, bbjlinen.com Rentals Tablescapes,

tablescapes.com

Invitations Magnificent Milestones, magnificentmilestones.com

Entertainment The Gold Coast All Stars, Gold Coast Events, goldcoasteventschicago.com

