

COSMOPOLITAN BRIDE



The ceremony

Church Kate and Marcus had a traditional ceremony but added their own personal touches. The service began with the flowergirls performing a ballet routine to a musical accompaniment. "As well as being a primary school teacher, I also have my own dance school and simply couldn't let the day pass without some dancing," says Kate.



The couple

Bride Kate Pettifor, 25, primary school teacher.

Groom Marcus Purser, 32, PE teacher.

In the beginning "We first met in July 1998," remembers Kate. "Marcus was working as a gym instructor to fund his degree and I was on my gap year working as a lifeguard at the same leisure complex. There was an instant attraction but we didn't admit it until we found ourselves in each other's arms kissing at the Christmas party."

The proposal Six years later, during a holiday in Canada, Marcus popped the question. "We were hiking in the Rockies and stopped for a break by a lake," says Kate. "Marcus bent down at the water's edge to wash his face. When he got up and turned around I thought he

had fish in his hands. I backed away, terrified he was going to throw them at me. But then to my total surprise, he got down on one knee and revealed a fish flipping around a ring in his cupped palms. He didn't have to say a word. I threw my arms around him and cried – we were finally getting married!"

Outfits

Bride Kate wore a strapless fishtail silk organza dress with a beaded crystal bodice, plus a short veil, tiara and beaded slingback shoes, all from Johanna Hehir (020 7486 2760). To complete the look, Kate worked closely with a designer at Harriet Kelsall Jewellery Design (01462 790565) to create her beautiful necklace and drop earrings.

Groom Marcus wore a black jacket which he teamed with black and grey striped trousers, an ivory shirt and waistcoat, plus a coffee scrunch tie, all from Westbrook Formal Hire (01480 498996). His black shoes were by Patrick Cox (020 7730 8886).

Bridesmaids

Attendants Kate's cousin, Ami, and best friend from school, Claire, were the bridesmaids. Flowergirls Anna, Cheyenne, Chloe, Shannon, Emily and Erin all attend Kate's dance school. The bridesmaids and flowergirls wore dresses from Monsoon (08704 129000).

Reception

Picnic The catering was done by Charlotte Roskill Catering (01874 638030). "We wanted the meal to have a picnic theme," explains Kate. "The food was served in large picnic hampers, with each table having a hamper containing a selection of exotic salads and meats."

Entertainment A friend of Kate's plays in a local band. They performed a selection of the couple's favourite songs, followed by funky dance, jazz and soul music (www.jamjar.org.uk).

First dance This was to *Do You Love Me?* by The Contours. "We choreographed it ourselves and even included a lift," says Kate. "We had our friends in hysterics."