



peak moments

Surrounded by friends and family (not to mention one seriously majestic Rocky Mountain range), two high school sweethearts gave their romance a lift—literally!—in an elegant winter-wonderland celebration.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Aaron Denise TEXT BY NANCIE CLOVE



enchanted forest

Abby Grubick and Cliff Kennedy stole away for a snowy smaggle; the bride in a cape over her one-of-a-kind hybrid gown; Vera Wang on top and Monique Lhuillier below.

Opposite: The Colorado slopes offered a regal reception-site view.



warm welcomes

1. A pine-branch motif spruced up the ketubah, the traditional Jewish wedding contract. 2. Chocolate-covered pretzels sweetened the welcome bags. 3. The bride's sisters, both maids of honor, wore champagne Tadashi Shoji dresses. Abby carried a lily of the valley bouquet. 4. Eucalyptus and tallow berries united in the boutonnières.



WHEN ABBY GRODNICK WAS GROWING UP, family vacations to Beaver Creek, Colorado, promised her a familiar routine: skiing each day's last run past the resort's interfaith chapel. As she gazed at the peaked-roof stone building, she'd think, "I'd like to get married there someday."

But even though Abby and her future husband, Clifford Kennedy III, had known each other for a very long time, having dated in high school in Mobile, Alabama, she didn't initially peg him as the groom. They decided to go to different colleges, and afterward, Abby moved to the Big Apple to work for a catering company. Four years of on-again, off-again later—"I earned a lot of frequent-flyer miles going to New York," Cliff says, laughing—they got serious. She moved back to Mobile (where Cliff works for his family's construction business) and took an ad-sales job at a local lifestyle magazine. A year and a half after that, he proposed, and converted to Judaism, Abby's faith.

Having already mastered the art of the long-distance relationship, Abby wasn't fazed a bit by the prospect of organizing her wedding from afar. First, she enlisted event planner Lisa Vorce. Then, the couple decided on a color palette, a range of muted grays and taupe with bursts of metallic gold to play off Colorado's snowy landscape. "We definitely wanted our wedding to have a wintry—but not rustic-ski-lodge—feel," she says.

On January 7, 2012, the pair exchanged vows among 130 family members and friends. For the black-tie reception, vases of silver-dollar eucalyptus, white roses, and white Lisianthus lined the long tables at the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek, where a meal of elk medallions, braised Brussels sprouts, and smoky cheddar grits paid homage to both the woody setting and the duo's Southern roots. Accordion players and yodelers provided the apropos alpine soundtrack.

After the festivities, the newlyweds traveled by snowcat to a spectacular chalet high up on the mountain, nestled in the slopes where Abby had first imagined a storybook-chapel wedding day.



ABBY AND CLIFF
BEAVER CREEK,
HAVE THE WEEKEND

branching out

"I've always loved stationery," says Abby. "We custom-designed every piece of our suite." Engraved invites went to guests in foil-lettered pressed envelopes, and gold thread held it all together: a pine needle-adorned "Save the Weekend" booklet.