



## Kara & Ben Duck, October 21, 2000

Story by Amy Elliott Photography by Jim Trotman

“WHEN I THINK BACK TO WHAT HE WAS WEARING WHEN I MET HIM—ratty T-shirt and shorts, goofy bright blue mesh baseball cap, too-long curly hair—it’s a wonder this thing ever happened at all,” laughs Kara Berklich, a marketing vice president for an Internet company, of her first encounter with actor Ben Weber (you might have seen him recently on *Law & Order* or *Sex and the City*). They met serendipitously through a mutual friend in the summer of 1997. “Something magical happened,” she adds. “We shook hands, I began to grill him with questions, he cracked me up with his answers, and it was all over.” Three years later, Kara and Ben’s inadvertent matchmaker would serve as best man at their wedding.

Even though these two New Yorkers got engaged atop the Empire State Building, their nuptial festivities lured them south, to the Outer Banks, an idyllic cluster of islands along the coast of North Carolina—oceanfront country clubs, natural beaches, charming old lighthouses, and the like. It’s where Kara’s family spends their summers. For the ceremony, guests gathered on the grounds of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse, in white chairs set up right on the grass. While Kara and Ben said their vows, the mas-

sive, still-working lighthouse towered above the crowd triumphantly. “Our vows were a perfect reflection of our relationship: immensely full of both fun and love,” describes Kara. “A friend had told me that it was her ceremony that she loved most. That couldn’t have been more true for me. I was blown away by how powerful those moments were.”

A relaxed, laughter-filled reception followed. “Our first view as we pulled into the driveway was the pack of children waiting outside,” says Kara. Inside the Duck Woods Country Club, the scene revealed bridesmaids in bright red dresses, lush garden roses surrounding bowls of floating candles, and swarms of revelers eager to welcome the newlyweds. “The good wishes, hugs, and love were wonderful,” says the bride, who also raves about her cake. Adorned simply with a cascade of rose petals, the confection featured a surprise for Kara on the inside—a layer of red Devil’s Food cake, her all-time favorite. Throughout the night, gales of laughter filled the air, especially during toasts and on the dance floor. “So much love and a great party,” says the bride. “It was exactly what I dreamed of!”



## INGREDIENTS

**CEREMONY SITE** The Currituck Beach Lighthouse, booked through OUTER BANKS CONSERVATIONISTS, INC. (252) 453-8152, Corolla • **RECEPTION SITE & CATERING** DUCK WOODS COUNTRY CLUB, Duck • **PHOTOGRAPHY** Jim Trotman, J. AARON TROTMAN PHOTOGRAPHS (252) 480-1070, Kill Devil Hills • **WEDDING COORDINATOR** Avery Harrison, AVERY LITTLE DETAIL (252) 441-1880, Nags Head • **INVITATIONS** SOHO LETTERPRESS (212) 334-4356, New York City • **CEREMONY MUSIC** Roy Murray, (252) 480-1532, Kitty Hawk • **READING** “Your Laughter” by Pablo Neruda and “Sonnet 116” by William Shakespeare • **WEDDING GOWN** Catherine Rayner, MICHELLE ROTH (212) 245-3390, New York City • **VEIL** MICHELLE ROTH • **BRIDESMAID DRESSES** Custom-made, red silk shantung, ANAKHA (212) 367-8051, New York City • **FORMALWEAR** Their own tuxedos • **FIRST DANCE** “At Last” by Etta James • **WEDDING CAKE** JUST DESSERTS (252) 441-2931, Kitty Hawk • **BAND** THE LAURA MARTIER BAND (800) 252-1790 ext. 8106, Southern Shores • **FAVORS** Donations to Outer Banks Lighthouse (keeper of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse) and to a favorite charity • **TRANSPORTATION** THE CONNECTION (252) 473-2777, Manteo; KARAT LIMO SERVICE (252) 473-9827 • **GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS** Beach houses, rented through CAROLINA DESIGNS (800) 368-3825, Duck • **WEDDING NIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS** THE SANDERLING INN (800) 701-4111, Sanderling