

MODERN WEDDING

“Love, cancer, and hope”

I have found myself experiencing the most incredibly beautiful and yet incredibly heart breaking time in my life. Two years ago this Christmas we found out that my Mother, my best friend, my rock, was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer that had spread to her brain at the young age of 55. She was told she likely wouldn't survive the 2 year mark. This news was without a doubt the most devastating thing to have ever crossed my path. My Mom is a pretty amazing woman. She has this light and love for people and her life that you don't often come across anymore. She was devastated with the rest of us at her diagnosis but never has it discouraged her. Most people usually evoke hate towards their cancer but my Mom asks her cancer lovingly to leave her body, to kindly give her more time so she doesn't miss the important things. That's the kind of heart she has, trying to mindfully kill her cancer with love. 3 weeks after that devastating Christmas holiday I collected my fragmented pieces and sadly walked along the beach with my dog, trying to find what strength I had left. In a blink my life changed, again. I turned around and met the love of my life for the very first time. He became this beacon of hope and happiness in my life when both seemed impossible to reach. Since that day you couldn't keep us apart. We fell in love quickly in the little moments. When I told him about my Mom he didn't bat an eye lash, he just hugged me and said “I will be by your side every step of the way”. He has, without falter been there right next to me this whole time. We had talked a lot about wanting to get married and the fear of my Mom not being there for it. The thought breaks my heart. Then he proposed in the beginning of December! Again life took another turn or the worst and the best. 10 weeks ago we found out the cancer in my Moms brain started growing and her treatment began to fail. Brain radiation was completed 7 weeks ago; we still wait to find out if it's been effective. Again life had a way of bringing some good with the bad and 13 weeks ago we conceived our first child. We didn't think I could have kids so this quickly became the most amazing news to us, my Mom and our family. Our hearts are weary but so full. Between looking after my Mom, expecting our first baby, trying to buy a house and plan our wedding... Our finances have quickly become tight. Sadly this means we cannot have our wedding as soon as possible which mean my Mom likely won't be here to celebrate that very special day with us. Because of this we are holding a tiny ceremony with just us and two witnesses, Mom and Dad, to legally get married. It's not much but at least she will be there. We will plan our dream wedding for a later date; we still pray she can be there for it. If we won this very generous wedding package we would plan to have the wedding sooner so she could be there for all of it. I couldn't imagine my Mom not being with me that day and it would mean the world to all of us to be granted the opportunity. Thank you for your time.