



# KATELYN *and* THOMAS

August 31, 2013 | MILACA, MN | *written by* KRISTI SCHONROCK

While attending Winona State University in the fall of 2010, Katelyn Bailey was shown a Facebook page of a potential guy to date by her friends. She was not interested at the time but her friends remained persistent. When spring of 2011 rolled around, Katelyn's friends took it upon themselves to have Katelyn finally meet the Facebook mystery man. Katelyn's life instantly changed the very first night she met the handsome Thomas Kelly.

Katelyn was never a fan of country music. In fact, she strongly disliked everything that was country. However, Tommy had Katelyn dancing blissfully in her cowboy boots, and cowboy hat to country music on their first date. Katelyn was certain from that night forward that Tommy was the man she was going to be with for the rest of her life. She eagerly called her mom and sister the next morning to tell them "he was it!"

*photography by* BRIO ART PHOTOGRAPHY  
[www.brioart.com](http://www.brioart.com)



Two weeks after Katelyn and Tommy began dating, Katelyn was sitting in Tommy's room one spring morning writing a paper for him, which seemingly happened quite often, and Katelyn turned and smiled at Tommy and confidently said, "I have fallen in love with you." Tommy replied with, "I think I feel the same way," but did not share his true feelings until two weeks later. Tommy took Katelyn on a spontaneous motorcycle ride and they rode around all afternoon enjoying the scenery and beautiful spring weather. Tommy could not help but think about how Katelyn was absolutely perfect for him. They came to up to a stoplight, and while Katelyn leaned in for a quick kiss, Tommy shouted out, "I love you!"

Tommy knew for quite awhile that he wanted to propose to Katelyn, but wanted to wait until they both graduated to purchase the ring. When the right time came to get the ring, he held onto it for two weeks contemplating the ideal way to ask for her hand. One night, Katelyn and Tommy's puppy Remington was up all night, and Katelyn selflessly slept along side him on the laundry room floor making sure he was well taken care of. Tommy was so impressed with how well she took care of Remington that he decided the timing was right and he planned his proposal for the very next day.











Tommy told Katelyn he “wanted to thank her for taking such good care of Remington and wanted to take a family walk on a local hiking trail.” So that evening, Katelyn, Tommy and little Remington went for a beautiful evening hike. While approaching the top of a hill, Tommy bent down to give Remington some water and slipped a note into Remington’s collar that sweetly said, “Mommy, Daddy has a question for you, love Remington.” While Katelyn’s eyes swelled up in tears reading the note, she stood speechless as Tommy knelt on one knee asking her, “Will you be my wife?” A few seconds passed until finally Tommy asked, “Are you going to answer?” Katelyn had not realized that she still had not responded, but of course she excitedly said, “Yes!”

August 30, 2013 was a gorgeous warm and sunny day, just how Katelyn had imagined it when she was a little girl. When Katelyn and Tommy had their “first looks” on their wedding day, Katelyn began crying while walking up to Tommy as she could hear Tommy crying too, which made the heightened moment very special. Katelyn and Tommy chose the charming Rum River Barn & Vineyard as their country setting for their wedding and reception. 130 guests were in attendance for their special day. Katelyn’s dad walked her down the aisle, and to everyone’s surprise he had made something very sentimental to Katelyn. He made Katelyn a rock cairn, which brought back many memories of her family camping trips up north. As Katelyn gratefully held her father’s arm down the beautifully grassed aisle, he said to her, “This is the last time I will build you a cairn, now it is your turn to build one with your new husband.”

Katelyn’s wedding gown was an Allure Couture gown with a sweetheart neckline, lace applique, lace straps, a gorgeous gold emblem across the bodice and an elegantly layered skirt. The back displayed a keyhole design, with a chapel length train. The bride wore a cathedral length veil, her great-grandmother’s pearl bracelet, her grandmother’s gloves, and her mother’s pearl earrings from when she had worn them for her wedding day twenty-eight years ago. Katelyn’s dress was accompanied with chic cowgirl boots, which were worn during the ceremony. The five bridesmaid’s dresses were vintage inspired knee length dresses, all by different designers. The color palate of the dresses ranged from a light grey to

a burnt rose, and the bridesmaids ensembles were polished off with individual cowgirl boots. The bride’s bouquet held wispy green hydrangeas, peach garden roses, eucalyptus, white lady spray roses, faint pink astilbe, with accents of succulents, lavender and blue thistles. The bridesmaid’s bouquets were kept quite simple with lavender, and light pink astilbe.

Guests were welcomed into the barn with idyllic country décor. Katelyn’s vision for the space was rustic, vintage and “do it yourself.” Katelyn wanted to make sure that each piece of décor detail was perfect. “We wanted it to have a homey feel and be filled with personal touches. We had pictures everywhere of family members on their wedding days, engagement pictures, hand made signs, lots of vintage candle votives, and my mom and I made a lot of the décor.” The barn held a whimsical feel with country warmth, as guests enjoyed their evening underneath strung bulb lights and elegant chandeliers. Click-clacks of cowboy boots livened up the reception, as Katelyn and Tommy shared their new life as husband and wife dancing along side their most cherished friends and family. A favorite moment from the day was another very special “first” dance that took place between Katelyn’s mother and her mother’s father. Katelyn’s parents had their wedding reception in her grandparent’s garage, so Katelyn’s mom never had a first dance with her father. After the father/daughter and mother/son dances, Katelyn gave her mom her “first” dance with her mom’s dad. Katelyn recalls, “There was not a dry eye in the crowd, everyone knew how special that moment was, especially since my grandpa has not been in the best health lately.” The entire day was flawless for Katelyn and Tommy. “Our wedding turned out better than we could have ever imagined.”

Katelyn Karee Bailey is the daughter of Dr. Eric and Jan Bailey of Saint Cloud, Minnesota. Thomas Patrick Kelly is the son of Tom and Barb Kelly of Crystal Lake, Illinois. The couple took a quick honeymoon up north Minnesota and plan to take a longer honeymoon next summer to Whistler, Canada. A rock cairn brought home from their honeymoon now sits outside their front door, reminding them each day that their marriage will forever find its way toward endless love and happiness.





DECOR + RENTALS • Geyer Wedding and Event Rentals  
 PHOTOBOOTH • Brio Art Photography | PHOTOGRAPHY • Brio Art Photography  
 RECEPTION VENUE • Rum River Barn & Vineyard | WEDDING VENUE • Rum River Barn & Vineyard

*hues they used:*

