



ISSUE 2

WE ARE THE JAMESS
PRESENTS

THE *elopement* GUIDE

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WELCOME

02

OH HEY, WE'RE DAVID & SARAH — STORYTELLERS WHO LIVE TO CAPTURE THE MOMENTS THAT MATTER.

AS A HUSBAND-AND-WIFE DUO, WE'VE SPENT YEARS DOCUMENTING LOVE STORIES ACROSS THE UK AND BEYOND, AND WE'VE LEARNED THAT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IMAGES AREN'T STAGED — THEY'RE FELT.

THIS GUIDE ISN'T ABOUT PERFECT TIMELINES OR FLAWLESS EXECUTION. IT'S ABOUT CREATING SPACE FOR YOUR STORY TO UNFOLD NATURALLY, AUTHENTICALLY, AND WITHOUT THE PRESSURE OF PERFORMING FOR THE CAMERA.

"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS AREN'T STAGED — THEY'RE FELT."

THE TEAM



**DAVID JAMES
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CHOOSING YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

04

ELOPEMENTS AREN'T ABOUT RUNNING AWAY ANYMORE — THEY'RE ABOUT RUNNING TOWARD SOMETHING. TOWARD INTIMACY OVER SPECTACLE. TOWARD MEANING OVER TRADITION. TOWARD A DAY THAT'S ENTIRELY, AUTHENTICALLY YOURS.

AFTER CAPTURING ELOPEMENTS FROM SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS TO COTSWOLD MEADOWS, WE'VE LEARNED THAT THESE INTIMATE CELEBRATIONS OFTEN HOLD MORE RAW EMOTION AND GENUINE CONNECTION THAN WEDDINGS WITH 150 GUESTS.

THERE'S SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT STRIPPING AWAY EVERYTHING EXCEPT WHAT TRULY MATTERS:
YOU, YOUR PERSON, AND YOUR PROMISES.

"Elopements aren't about running away — they're about running toward something."



WHY COUPLES CHOOSE TO ELOPE

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THE HONEST REASONS

INTIMACY OVER PERFORMANCE

NO AUDIENCE MEANS NO PERFORMANCE ANXIETY. JUST YOU TWO, YOUR OFFICIANT, AND THE WORDS THAT MATTER. WE'VE WATCHED COUPLES VISIBLY RELAX WHEN THEY REALIZE NOBODY'S WATCHING EXCEPT THE PEOPLE WHO TRULY NEED TO BE THERE.

YOUR DAY, YOUR WAY

WANT TO GET MARRIED AT SUNRISE? PERFECT. BAREFOOT IN A FIELD? BEAUTIFUL. VOWS WRITTEN ON NAPKINS? WE'RE HERE FOR IT. ELOPEMENTS LET YOU THROW OUT THE "SHOULD'S" AND FOCUS ON THE "WANT-TOS."

BUDGET FREEDOM

THE MONEY YOU'D SPEND ON 100 DINNERS CAN INSTEAD GO TOWARD AN INCREDIBLE PHOTOGRAPHER, A DREAM LOCATION, OR THAT HONEYMOON YOU'VE BEEN PLANNING. WHEN GUEST LISTS SHRINK, POSSIBILITIES EXPAND.

STRESS ELIMINATION

NO SEATING CHARTS. NO FAMILY POLITICS. NO VENDOR COORDINATION NIGHTMARES. JUST THE TWO OF YOU MAKING DECISIONS THAT FEEL RIGHT, WITHOUT NEEDING TO CONSIDER EVERYONE ELSE'S OPINIONS.

AUTHENTIC EMOTION

WITHOUT THE PRESSURE OF A CROWD, COUPLES OFTEN SHARE MORE VULNERABLE, HONEST VOWS. THE TEARS ARE REAL, THE LAUGHTER IS GENUINE, AND THE MOMENTS FEEL PROFOUNDLY PERSONAL.

ELOPEMENT STYLES

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FINDING YOUR FLAVOUR

THE ADVENTURE ELOPEMENT

MOUNTAIN PEAKS, CLIFF EDGES, FOREST CLEARINGS. FOR COUPLES WHO WANT THEIR LOVE STORY SET AGAINST NATURE'S MOST DRAMATIC BACKDROPS. THINK HIKING BOOTS UNDER WEDDING DRESSES AND VOWS WITH VIEWS.

PERFECT FOR: OUTDOORSY COUPLES, THOSE WHO WANT UNIQUE PHOTOS, ADVENTUROUS SPIRITS
CONSIDER: WEATHER CONTINGENCIES, ACCESSIBILITY, PERMITS FOR CERTAIN LOCATIONS

THE INTIMATE CITY CEREMONY

REGISTRY OFFICE ELEGANCE, BOUTIQUE HOTEL RECEPTIONS, URBAN ROMANCE. ALL THE SOPHISTICATION OF A TRADITIONAL WEDDING, DISTILLED TO ITS ESSENCE.

PERFECT FOR: CLASSIC COUPLES, THOSE WHO LOVE CITY ENERGY, COUPLES WANTING EASY GUEST ACCESS
CONSIDER: BOOKING RESTRICTIONS, PHOTOGRAPHY PERMISSIONS, CELEBRATORY MEAL VENUES

THE DESTINATION DREAM

SCOTTISH CASTLES, ITALIAN VINEYARDS, OR SIMPLY SOMEWHERE THAT HOLDS MEANING FOR YOU BOTH. YOUR ELOPEMENT BECOMES THE START OF YOUR HONEYMOON.

PERFECT FOR: COUPLES WHO LOVE TO TRAVEL, THOSE WANTING A COMPLETE EXPERIENCE, ADVENTURE SEEKERS
CONSIDER: LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, TRAVEL LOGISTICS, LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER NEEDS

THE BACKYARD BEAUTY

YOUR GARDEN, YOUR FAMILY HOME, SOMEWHERE DEEPLY PERSONAL. INTIMATE DOESN'T MEAN LESS SPECIAL — SOMETIMES IT MEANS MORE MEANINGFUL.

PERFECT FOR: HOMEBODIES, COUPLES WANTING FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS, THOSE PRIORITIZING COMFORT OVER ADVENTURE
CONSIDER: WEATHER BACKUP PLANS, NEIGHBOR CONSIDERATIONS, CREATING CEREMONY ATMOSPHERE

THE MICRO WEDDING

20 GUESTS OR FEWER. YOUR CLOSEST PEOPLE, YOUR BIGGEST CELEBRATION. ALL THE JOY OF A WEDDING WITH NONE OF THE STRESS OF A CROWD.

PERFECT FOR: COUPLES WHO WANT SOME GUESTS BUT NOT THE WHOLE PRODUCTION, FAMILY-FOCUSED PAIRS
CONSIDER: VENUE CAPACITY, KEEPING GUEST LISTS TRULY SMALL, MANAGING EXPECTATIONS LOVE STORY, TOLD BEAUTIFULLY.



PLANNING YOUR PERFECT ELOPEMENT

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THE ESSENTIALS

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FIRST

EVERY LOCATION HAS DIFFERENT RULES. IN ENGLAND AND WALES, YOU NEED TO GIVE NOTICE AT YOUR LOCAL REGISTER OFFICE, EVEN IF YOU'RE MARRYING ELSEWHERE. SCOTLAND OFFERS MORE FLEXIBILITY WITH DIFFERENT CEREMONY TYPES.

KEY QUESTIONS:

- WHAT NOTICE PERIOD IS REQUIRED?
- DO YOU NEED WITNESSES? HOW MANY?
- ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON LOCATIONS OR TIMES?
- WHAT DOCUMENTATION DO YOU NEED?

CHOOSING YOUR LOCATION

THINK ABOUT WHAT KIND OF STORY YOU WANT YOUR PHOTOS TO TELL. DRAMATIC LANDSCAPES CREATE EPIC IMAGES. INTIMATE SPACES CREATE COZY, PERSONAL MOMENTS. URBAN SETTINGS OFFER SOPHISTICATION AND ENERGY.

CONSIDER:

- ACCESSIBILITY FOR YOU AND ANY GUESTS
- PHOTOGRAPHY PERMISSIONS AND RESTRICTIONS
- WEATHER CONTINGENCIES
- MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS TO THE LOCATION

YOUR CELEBRATION STYLE

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE ELOPING DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T CELEBRATE. SOME COUPLES WANT A QUIET DINNER FOR TWO. OTHERS WANT A SMALL PARTY WITH CHAMPAGNE AND DANCING. DECIDE WHAT FEELS RIGHT FOR YOU.

OPTIONS:

- INTIMATE RESTAURANT DINNER
- PICNIC IN YOUR CEREMONY LOCATION
- DRINKS RECEPTION AT A BOUTIQUE HOTEL
- PRIVATE CHEF EXPERIENCE
- ADVENTURE ACTIVITY TOGETHER

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

WITHOUT GUEST SCHEDULES TO COORDINATE, YOU HAVE INCREDIBLE FLEXIBILITY. CONSIDER THE LIGHT FOR PHOTOS, THE WEATHER FOR YOUR CHOSEN SEASON, AND ANY PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF DATES.

THINK ABOUT:

- GOLDEN HOUR TIMING FOR PORTRAITS
- SEASONAL WEATHER PATTERNS
- PERSONAL ANNIVERSARY DATES
- VENDOR AVAILABILITY
- TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS



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THE PHOTOGRAPHY PERSPECTIVE

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MAKING YOUR INTIMATE DAY LOOK EPIC

WHY ELOPEMENT PHOTOGRAPHY IS DIFFERENT

WITH FEWER PEOPLE AND MORE TIME, WE CAN CREATE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT KIND OF STORY. MORE PORTRAITS, MORE DETAILS, MORE MOMENTS OF GENUINE CONNECTION. IT'S DOCUMENTARY MEETS EDITORIAL IN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WAY.

WHAT MAKES ELOPEMENT PHOTOS SPECIAL

- EXTENDED PORTRAIT SESSIONS WITHOUT TIME PRESSURE
- GETTING READY SHOTS THAT FEEL RELAXED AND PERSONAL
- CEREMONY MOMENTS CAPTURED FROM EVERY ANGLE
- CELEBRATION PHOTOS THAT FEEL INTIMATE AND GENUINE
- ADVENTURE SHOTS IF YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING UNIQUE
- PLANNING FOR INCREDIBLE IMAGES
- SHARE YOUR VISION WITH US EARLY IN THE PLANNING PROCESS
- CONSIDER MULTIPLE LOCATIONS FOR VARIETY
- BUILD IN TIME FOR PORTRAITS WITHOUT RUSHING
- THINK ABOUT DETAILS THAT TELL YOUR STORY
- EMBRACE THE INTIMACY — IT PHOTOGRAPHS BEAUTIFULLY

WHAT ABOUT FAMILY?

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NAVIGATING THE CONVERSATIONS

WHEN FAMILY FEELS LEFT OUT
BE HONEST ABOUT YOUR REASONS AND GENEROUS WITH YOUR COMMUNICATION.
SHARE YOUR VISION, EXPLAIN WHY THIS FEELS RIGHT FOR YOU, AND FIND WAYS TO
INCLUDE THEM IN YOUR CELEBRATION THAT DON'T COMPROMISE YOUR DAY.

IDEAS FOR INCLUSION:

- LIVE STREAMING YOUR CEREMONY
- CELEBRATION DINNER WHEN YOU RETURN
- SHARING PHOTOS IMMEDIATELY AFTER
- INCLUDING FAMILY TRADITIONS IN YOUR ELOPEMENT
- PLANNING A CASUAL PARTY LATER

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

SOME FAMILY MEMBERS MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND, AND THAT'S OKAY. STAY FOCUSED ON
WHAT FEELS RIGHT FOR YOU AS A COUPLE. THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE YOU WILL
ULTIMATELY SUPPORT YOUR HAPPINESS.

CREATING NEW TRADITIONS

YOUR ELOPEMENT CAN START NEW FAMILY TRADITIONS. MAYBE YOU HAVE AN ANNUAL
ANNIVERSARY TRIP BACK TO YOUR ELOPEMENT LOCATION. MAYBE YOU HOST AN ANNUAL
CELEBRATION DINNER. MAKE IT MEANINGFUL FOR YOUR FUTURE FAMILY STORY.

ELOPEMENT TIMELINE IDEAS

HOW YOUR DAY MIGHT UNFOLD

THE ADVENTURE DAY

- 6:00 AM: MEET FOR SUNRISE CEREMONY PREP
- 7:00 AM: SUNRISE CEREMONY WITH EPIC VIEWS
- 8:00 AM: CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST AND PORTRAITS
- 10:00 AM: ADVENTURE ACTIVITY TOGETHER
- 2:00 PM: INTIMATE LUNCH CELEBRATION
- 4:00 PM: MORE PORTRAITS IN DIFFERENT LOCATION
- 7:00 PM: SUNSET DRINKS AND REFLECTION

THE CLASSIC ROMANCE

- 12:00 PM: GETTING READY SEPARATELY
- 2:00 PM: FIRST LOOK AND PORTRAITS
- 3:00 PM: INTIMATE CEREMONY
- 4:00 PM: CHAMPAGNE AND CELEBRATION PHOTOS
- 6:00 PM: PRIVATE DINNER FOR TWO
- 8:00 PM: EVENING PORTRAITS IN GOLDEN LIGHT
-

THE CITY SOPHISTICATION

- 11:00 AM: REGISTRY OFFICE CEREMONY
- 12:00 PM: URBAN PORTRAITS AROUND THE CITY
- 2:00 PM: CHAMPAGNE LUNCH AT FAVORITE RESTAURANT
- 4:00 PM: MORE PORTRAITS IN ICONIC LOCATIONS
- 7:00 PM: COCKTAILS AT ROOFTOP BAR
- 9:00 PM: INTIMATE DINNER CELEBRATION

THE HONEST TRUTH ABOUT ELOPEMENTS

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WHAT NOBODY TELLS YOU

YOU MIGHT FEEL EMOTIONAL IN UNEXPECTED WAYS

SOME COUPLES FEEL A MOMENT OF "IS THIS ENOUGH?" ON THEIR WEDDING MORNING. THIS IS NORMAL. REMIND YOURSELF WHY YOU CHOSE THIS PATH AND TRUST THAT FEELING WILL PASS WHEN YOU'RE IN THE MOMENT.

IT WILL FEEL DIFFERENT THAN YOU IMAGINED

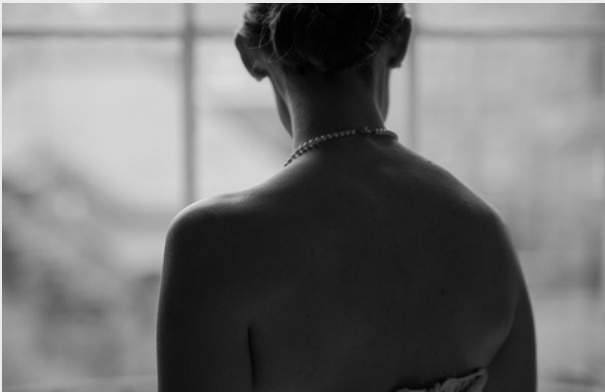
SMALLER DOESN'T MEAN LESS SIGNIFICANT. MANY COUPLES ARE SURPRISED BY HOW PROFOUND AND MEANINGFUL THEIR INTIMATE CEREMONY FEELS. THE EMOTION IS CONCENTRATED, NOT DILUTED.

PEOPLE WILL HAVE OPINIONS

SOME WILL THINK YOU'RE MISSING OUT. OTHERS WILL BE ENVIOUS OF YOUR COURAGE. FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE WHO CELEBRATE YOUR CHOICE AND LET THE REST GO.

YOU CAN ALWAYS CELEBRATE MORE LATER

YOUR ELOPEMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE YOUR ONLY CELEBRATION. MANY COUPLES HAVE INTIMATE CEREMONIES AND THEN HOST CASUAL PARTIES, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, OR VOW RENEWALS LATER.



FINAL THOUGHTS

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CHOOSING TO ELOPE IS CHOOSING TO PRIORITIZE YOUR RELATIONSHIP OVER EXPECTATIONS,
INTIMACY OVER SPECTACLE, AND AUTHENTICITY OVER TRADITION.
IT'S A BRAVE CHOICE THAT OFTEN LEADS TO THE MOST GENUINE,
JOY-FILLED CELEBRATIONS WE CAPTURE.
YOUR LOVE STORY DESERVES TO BE TOLD EXACTLY AS YOU WANT TO TELL IT.
WHETHER THAT'S ON A MOUNTAIN TOP WITH JUST THE TWO OF YOU, OR IN YOUR BACKYARD
WITH YOUR CLOSEST PEOPLE, WE'RE HERE TO DOCUMENT EVERY AUTHENTIC MOMENT.
TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS, PLAN WITH INTENTION, AND PREPARE FOR A DAY THAT
FEELS ENTIRELY, PERFECTLY YOU.

"YOUR LOVE STORY DESERVES TO BE TOLD EXACTLY AS YOU WANT TO TELL IT."

LET'S CREATE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL TOGETHER.

— DAVID & SARAH

STAY CONNECTED

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