

WJrealwedding

A CHEMICAL *Reaction*

Lab analyst Lisa, and pharmaceutical product specialist, Gearoid, met in Christmas 2002 and the chemistry between them was instantaneous...

A lover of the book 'The Historian', Lisa has long been obsessed with one of the novel's central locations, Lake Bled in Slovenia, and so the couple planned a holiday there in 2010. "We spent the day walking around, taking in the sites and eating delicious Bled cream cakes," reveals Lisa. "The last part of our day was the climb up to Bled Castle which overlooked the lake. I always thought I'd know when Gearoid was going to propose, but I hadn't a clue and after nine years together, you really don't expect it. So on a beautiful day, in a setting that could have come from Walt Disney's' imagination, Gearoid not only asked me to marry him, he also proposed that we go to New York to pick out the ring. With two offers like that, how could a girl refuse?"

Apart from the trip to New York at the end of November to pick out Lisa's ring, the couple left planning the other wedding details until the New Year.

"To be honest we were both so chilled about the whole thing that we were in no real rush," recalls Lisa. "Our first port of call was to find the perfect venue. I had wanted an older style venue as opposed to a modern hotel. Kilshane House was always a firm favourite in the back of our minds and the day we visited confirmed this for us. It's a beautiful house in a stunning location. That it is a private house made it even more special. It meant that we could practically take-over the place for a couple of days.

"It was all ours and it offered both luxury and an extremely high standard of service, as well as a very chilled out and relaxed atmosphere for getting ready the day of the wedding. The only thing we had to worry about was where the next glass of bubbly came from!"

As for adding the 'wow factor' Lisa and Gearoid chose Enchanted Occasions to decorate the wedding venue. "There was no way that I could have replicated their work on the day, the place looked out of this world," says Lisa.

"After a couple of meetings with Ian and Jane an idea was emerging of an organic flower theme in the hues of lilac, pink and violet which to me was reflective of my grandmother's garden. I wanted colour and I didn't want the flowers to be overly structured, but there was also a bit of bling involved, just a little bit of

added sparkle! When I saw the whole thing together, it looked like an enchanted garden."

Lisa continues: "One of the biggest draws with Kilshane House was the conservatory where the ceremony was to be held. When we looked at other venues, we had only been shown regular

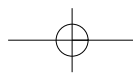
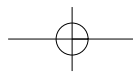
rooms, the conservatory was something unique and we loved the idea of getting married there. Once Enchanted Occasions added their magic touches with flowers, lanterns and lights it truly became a breath-taking ceremony room."

In addition to the room décor, Enchanted Occasions created all the bouquets and flower arrangements, including placing gorgeous Cherry Blossom trees on top of some of the tables in the Orangerie. "When we walked into the Orangerie first it was like walking into a beautiful garden," says Lisa. "For us, it definitely had a hint of magic about it. I had never seen anything like it before; I think my grandmother would have loved how they decorated the place."

But enough of the room décor, what about the bride herself?



The couple
Lisa & Gearoid
Lisa & Gearoid Collins
9th September 2011
Kilshane House, Tipperary



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"I wasn't interested in getting the typical strapless, corseted wedding dress," Lisa explains. "I wanted something that would suit and show off my figure perfectly but at the same time I wanted it to be timelessly elegant and I believe my dress ticked all the boxes."

"At an appointment with Say I Do in Middleton, Co. Cork, Lorraine the owner picked me out an ivory lace Paloma Blanca dress, that to be honest didn't impress me on the hanger, but when I tried it on it totally suited me. It had a keyhole back and a ribbon around the waist that formed into a bow secured by a pearl and diamante brooch. I was driving home after trying it on and totally missed my exit on the motor way thinking about it!"

Lisa paired her dress with Carvela shoes and a headpiece that was custom made by Batcakes Couture.

Her three bridesmaids wore After Six bridesmaid dresses from House of Brides in America with matching earrings and chains from Coast in Kilkenny.

Gearoid wore a charcoal grey Hugo Boss suit from Brown Thomas, Dublin and a purple waistcoat and cravat from Tony Connolly menswear, Clonmel. The groomsmen wore grey suits with pink waistcoats and cravats, also from Tony Connolly menswear.

Spending the night prior to the wedding in Kilshane House allowed Lisa and Gearoid to spend a relaxed morning with family before being joined by 160 guests for the civil ceremony. Not before the problem of the missing dog was resolved though as Lisa reveals: "My dog Cody escaped from the house he had been staying in at Kilshane the morning of the wedding. 300 acres is a lot of land for a dog to run around in but he made his own way back after not too long, more than likely because it had started to rain! He had also jumped into the lake that morning so we weren't able to take any pictures with him."

A beautiful ceremony was followed by drinks and entertainment before dinner which was a fabulous four course meal featuring local delights such as Roasted tiger prawns with apple cucumber salad and chilli and lime dressing; Butternut squash soup with parsley and nutmeg garnish and Pan-fried aged fillet of beef with champ potatoes, creamed wild mushrooms and a port wine jus.

The wedding cake was by Erma Barlow from Clonmel and featured delicious cupcakes with a top tier of chocolate biscuit cake.

Lisa describes the Best Man speech as "interesting" but goes on to say how Gearoid's mother's speech was lovely and unexpected as no one realised that she was going to make one.

With dinner and speeches over it was time for the dancing to begin. Music came courtesy of The



Midnight Specials followed by a DJ also provided by them.

For their first dance Lisa and Gearoid chose Elbow's 'One Day Like This'. "We love the song and I think the words pretty much sum up the occasion," says Lisa. "The DJ finished with that song also and everyone came out on the dance floor and surrounded us and sang along to it, it's an incredibly uplifting song."

Looking back on their big day Lisa recalls one of the highlights: "One of the best parts came from being in Kilshane for the whole wedding celebrations. Our photographer had a lot more time to take pictures of us, so instead of being dragged away after the ceremony we were able to chat and have a few drinks with everyone and it really got us into the flow and excitement of everything." **WJ**

THE LITTLE DETAILS

VENUE: Kilshane House, Tipperary, www.kilshanehouse.ie

ROOM DRESSING & FLOWERS: Enchanted Occasions, www.enchantedoccasions.ie

WEDDING DRESS: A Paloma Blanca gown from Say I Do in Middleton, Co. Cork

BRIDEMAID DRESSES: From the After Six collection by Dessy, www.dessy.com

GROOM'S OUTFIT: Hugo Boss suit from Brown Thomas, Dublin

GROOMSMEN: Suits and accessories from Tony Connolly menswear, Clonmel

HAIR STYLIST: Marie Hickey

MAKE-UP ARTIST: Yvonne Hickey

PHOTOGRAPHER: Brendan Landy, www.landyphoto.com