



# Hillary & Dave

SEPTEMBER 3, 2005  
Block Island, Rhode Island  
by **Phoebe Brueckner**

When Hillary headed to Hawaii for spring break, she thought it would be a relaxing girls' week away with a friend from grad school. Little did she know that Dave had gotten in touch with her travel partner and formulated a plan that would make the trip memorable. He arranged to meet them at a favorite snorkeling spot of Hillary's, where they'd been on vacation the year before. Hiding behind a palm tree on the beach where Hillary was reading a book, oblivious, he caught the attention of Hillary's friend and signaled for them to go snorkeling. When she was out in the water, Dave swam to her and then popped up to ask her if she would marry him.

When they returned from Maui they went together to pick out the ideal ring. Reflecting back on their original meeting on *Match.com*, the past two years of dating, and their discussions about spending the rest of their lives together, Hillary was still taken off guard. "I knew we were going to get married," Hillary said, "but the proposal was a complete surprise!"

A week after their return from Hawaii, Hillary's mom came out to San Francisco, and they commenced the dress shopping expedition. At the first store they went to Hillary found a strapless ivory dress by Judd Waddell. "I kept trying dresses on throughout the day, but I just kept

thinking about that first one. It was elegant, but I also knew I could wear it outside," Hillary explained. The bridesmaids chose strapless tops and matching bustle skirts in turquoise-blue they had found at an East Hampton boutique.

Due to the fact that Hillary was still in school, she and Dave decided that a summer wedding would fit their schedule best. Although the wedding was a mere four months after their engagement, Hillary believes that, "the short schedule actually simplified things and forced us to focus on the essence of the experience we wanted." They knew that they wanted to have the wedding near their families,

**PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Cappy Hotchkiss  
www.cappyhotchkiss.com

**RECEPTION LOCATION:**

The Sullivan House  
www.thesullivanhouse.com

**CATERER:**

Block Island Gourmet  
www.blockislandgourmet.com

**FLORIST:**

Claire McQueeney  
www.blockislandweddingflowers.com

**CAKE DESIGNER:**

Block Island Gourmet  
www.blockislandgourmet.com

**RENTALS:**

Rhode Island Rentals  
www.rirental.com



rather than in San Francisco, so they decided on Block Island. Fortunately, the Sullivan House was still available for Labor Day weekend and they set the date.

Having the wedding on an island presented Hillary and Dave with the trickiest part of the wedding planning, given the limited ferry service from Long Island. They solved this problem, however, by hiring a fishing boat in Montauk that could make the trip to Block Island that night.

Many of the guests made a vacation out of the trip, arriving up to a week before the wedding. The organized festivities began Friday with a rehearsal barbecue and whiffle ball game that went on into the evening. That night was especially wonderful, according to Dave, because “everybody could meet each other in a casual setting before the wedding.”

Saturday proved to be a beautiful day. On a grassy hill overlooking Great Salt Pond and Crescent Beach, Hillary and Dave solidified their unity through a sand ceremony; their mothers each poured sand from

their hometown beaches into a vase to represent the foundation provided by their families. Hillary and Dave each poured sand to represent themselves, and then they poured it together to symbolize their shared relationship. Their friend Ethan, who officiated the wedding, completed the ceremony by adding some sand from Block Island.

At the reception, everybody danced to the music of the funk/soul band Mama Lee and Friends. There was a tent decorated with votive candles and blue and white hydrangeas, and the tables were covered with white cloths and aquamarine organza. Each table was named after one of Dave and Hillary’s favorite beaches, with the name painted onto driftwood that Hillary collected.

Although Hillary and Dave didn’t have much time to plan their wedding, they were “a team the whole time,” working to make their day “a real reflection of us,” and the result, Hillary says, was a wedding day “way more spectacular than I’d ever imagined it would be.” **LB**

After treading water for about a half hour as the initial shock wore off, Dave proposed to her with a ring he’d carved out of wood.

