

# barn-wedded bliss

A "rustic chic" celebration proves perfect for this culturally diverse couple

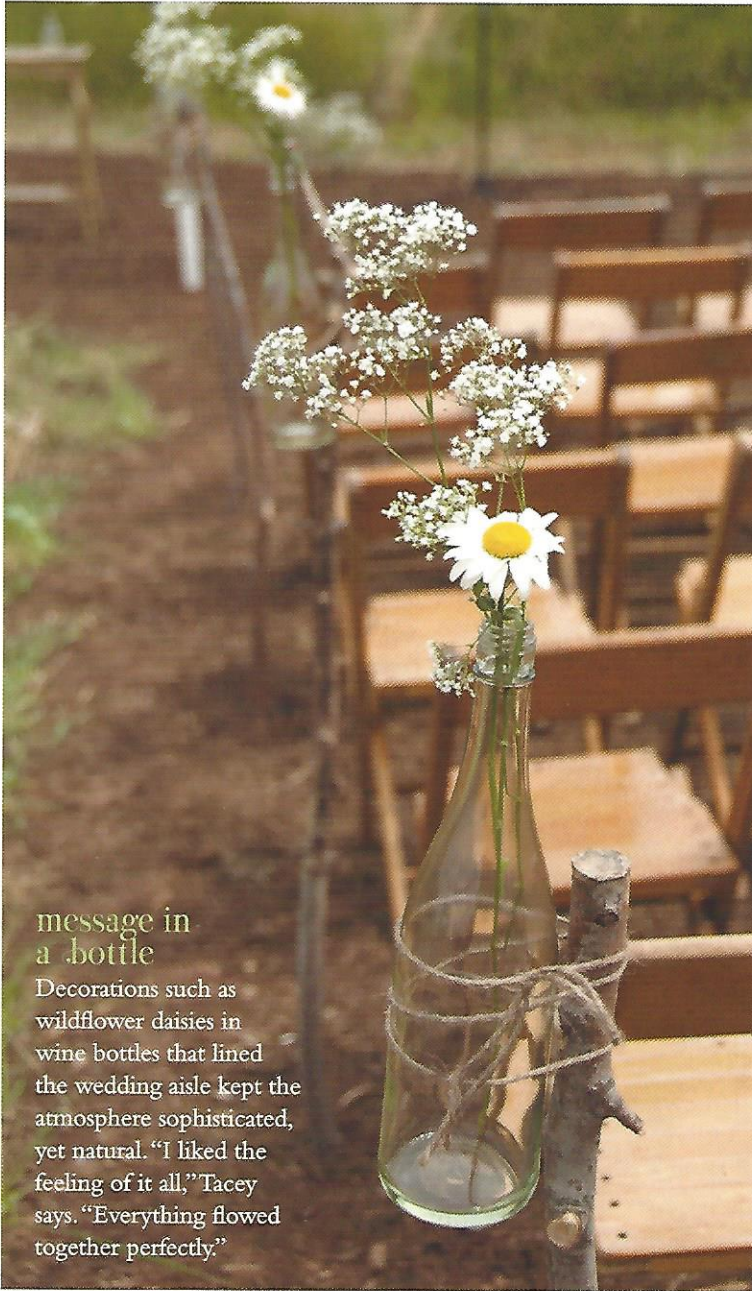
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PHOTOS BY DOUG JULIAN



## bride and groom

*"Love knows no reason, no boundaries, no distance. It has a sole intention of bringing people together to a time called forever." ~ Unknown*

Andrea Tacey and Abdelali Elmellouki were married July 7, 2013.



### message in a bottle

Decorations such as wildflower daisies in wine bottles that lined the wedding aisle kept the atmosphere sophisticated, yet natural. "I liked the feeling of it all," Tacey says. "Everything flowed together perfectly."



### rustic chic

The theme for Tacey's and Elmellouki's wedding day was "rustic chic." Each guest was seated at a place setting made of burlap and lace, with a mason jar to drink from, and a luggage tag with a personal note from the bride.

To be wed in a traditional church ceremony—or even indoors, for that matter—was never a thought for this nature-loving couple who spent their first dates hiking through the Black Hills and the Badlands.

Bay City-native Andrea Tacey, and Abdelali (Ali) Elmellouki, from Morocco, were both living in South Dakota when they met online.

"It's always felt like fate," Tacey says. "We've been blessed all along."

To honor each individual's heritage, the couple decided to marry in Bay City and honeymoon in Morocco. For their wedding, they wanted traditional elements and a natural setting, and they also wanted to celebrate their cultural and religious differences: Elmellouki is Muslim and Tacey is Christian.

It seemed like a tall order, but fate stepped in...again.

A friend offered her privately-owned barn in Bay City as a wedding location, and it "felt meant to be," Tacey says. "I'd always dreamed of a barn wedding."

Married under gorgeous blue skies July 7, 2013, amidst natural surroundings and an elegantly-decorated Amish barn, Tacey says, "It was all I could have ever wanted. It was very romantic and elegant, yet laid back and family-friendly. It was a perfect day!"



### The henna tattoo

In honor of her husband's Moroccan traditions, Tacey had a henna tattoo painted on her hand. The design included Elmellouki's name, and represented that the wife now belongs to the groom as it would in a traditional Islamic ceremony.

### Ornate barn

A privately-owned barn in Bay City became the Elmelloukis' dream wedding location with the combination of ornate and elegant details—grand flower vases, a crystal chandelier, and café lighting—and rustic touches and natural elements.





### pick a seat

Guests were greeted with this hand-painted sign, an eloquent reminder that a wedding combines two families into one. Members of Elmellouki's and Tacey's families were offered wedding programs in an antique suitcase and personal fans to stir up a summer breeze.

### presenting the newlyweds

The mood was romantic and serene as Tacey walked into the wedding ceremony. A violinist played Jason Mraz's "I Won't Give Up." After the ceremony, the couple walked out together as newlyweds, and the party began!





*in love...*

"When we met, it was instant," Tacey says. "I knew this was the man God had created for me." The happy couple looks forward to spending their lives together and starting a family of their own.



### the cake

For the wedding reception, Elmellouki changed into traditional Moroccan attire for a groom, called a jabdoor. The happy couple cut into their red velvet and banana-flavored wedding cake in front of a sign that read: "We decided on forever."



### a perfect touch

A crown of baby's breath was a simple adornment for the flower girl.

daddy-daughter dance

Tacey and her dad enjoyed the traditional father-daughter dance. "It was really nice to have that moment with him, and to be able to share such a milestone in my life with him," she says.



*Wedding resources provided by:*

*Location: Privately-owned barn in Bay City*

*Flowers/Décor: Urban Flowers (6742 Frankenlust Rd, Bay City, 989-225-2681)*

*Cake: Made by a friend*

*Food: Meats and Mooore (411 S Wenona St, Bay City, 989-893-5413, [www.meatsandmoore.us](http://www.meatsandmoore.us))*

*Photography: To Love Wedding Photography (Bay City, [www.toloveweddingphotography.com](http://www.toloveweddingphotography.com))*