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picture perfect

Murphy's law, which says anything that can go wrong will go wrong, took a break for David and Amber Martin's big day. Other than forgetting to eat during the reception in the whirlwind of talking to guests and dancing the night away, their wedding was flawless. "If anything went wrong," Amber said, "they didn't tell us."

The couple met at work five years ago and got engaged November, 2019. The proposal fell into place much like the wedding, but not without some trial and error. David had the perfect spot picked out to pop the question while sightseeing on a weekend trip in Chicago. However, the Windy City showed its true colors and the spot ended up being too windy for his perfect vision. He went with his second plan, an equally memorable spot – on an observation deck at the top of a building overlooking the city. He advises all grooms-to-be to have multiple plans in place for the proposal.

They began planning the wedding right away. Working with a wedding planner, Allie Chaney of Allie Rose Events, was one of their first moves. "She helped a lot," Amber said. They only had to visit a few venues before landing on the perfect one: the Veridian Events. The space was roomy enough to allow for social distancing. The couple invited fewer people than originally planned due to covid-19, but it was important to them to keep the same date. The downtown location of their venue also made it easy for out-of-town guests to find a nearby hotel.

Amber quickly found the perfect dress at Gracie's Bridal. There was debate about whether it was the right one initially, but everyone was in agreement by the time she walked down the aisle. The white popped next to the grey and maroon color scheme, which Amber had always wanted. She also loved eucalyptus leaves, so including lots of greenery from Shannon's Custom Florals in the décor was a no-brainer. Pinterest provided the rest of the inspiration.

With the help of Amber's mom, the wedding was planned in a couple of months with plenty of time to spare before the wedding day. The last task the couple completed was setting up catering. After that, they had several months to eagerly anticipate the big day without any stress.

When the day finally came, David got to see his bride for the first time that day walking down the aisle, as there was no first look photo. Instead of a flower girl, Amber's arrival was announced by a junior bridesmaid, David's niece, carrying a balloon that said, "Here comes the bride." Three bridesmaids and three groomsmen stood by David and Amber's side. The couple opted for traditional vows so they wouldn't cry in front of everyone, but exchanged personal letters beforehand. Amber said their officiant, Pastor Phillip Wright, made the ceremony special. They didn't know the pastor before asking him to officiate their wedding, but he made the ceremony so personable that everyone thought the couple had known him for a long time.

David and Amber both agreed the speeches were one of their favorite parts of the day. Amber's sister, the maid of honor, and David's best friend, the best man, each gave heartwarming speeches. Amber's dad, however, stole the show with a speech he started planning as soon as he found out about the engagement – almost a year before the wedding.

Amber's advice to future brides is simple: "Don't sweat the small stuff," she said. Following this advice is, no doubt, one of the reasons David and Amber's wedding ran so smoothly. She said, in the end, it will all work out. If not, just make sure no one tells you what went wrong. Murphy's law will have nothing on your picture perfect day. 

