

OUR...

WEDDING

STORY

BURCU AND ROB'S

WEDDING STORY

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CHAPTER ONE
HOW WE MET



SONJA, FABIANNE, KAYZA, ALEXANDRA, BEN, BARBARA, STINA AND BURCU

IN THE BEGINNING

On the 15th of February, 2002, I had decided to go to Longs Wine Bar in Lymington. Little did I know I was going to meet my future Wife! I spotted Burcu talking across the other side of the room and managed to build-up enough courage to go and talk to her. I introduced myself to the most beautiful woman I had ever laid eyes on. That night was wonderful, we talked, danced and ended the evening with an unexpected kiss. The next day I called Burcu. Her name was very difficult for me to grasp, so I kept asking how to pronounce it over and over again. I invited Burcu to go to the cinema with me and luckily she agreed. Little did I know that I would be sharing the date with seven other girls – Burcu’s friends! We went to see Oceans Eleven. Much to my amazement Burcu made the first move and held my hand during the movie. I smiled at her, and now know that from that moment she fell in love with me. After that first date, we spent every spare moment together. There were always parties going on and we suddenly had twice as many friends. Every month we would celebrate the first day we met. Although Burcu had to spend time in Turkey, we would spend, sometimes eight hours a night, talking on the telephone. A bit extravagant! One day we went to see a clairvoyant, she explained to us that in our past lives we were also in love, but could never get married. We both knew that we were not going to let that happen again and within seventeen months we were married.

AUTHOR: ROB TAYLOR - HUSBAND



CHAPTER TWO
TURKISH SURPRISE



HERE ARE OUR TWO FAMILIES TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST OF MANY SUCH OCCASIONS

THE ENGAGEMENT

It was the 19th of January and Burcu and I were watching a film called 'The Castaway'. I found the film very emotional, probably because it had some relevance to Burcu's and my situation. After the film had ended, I turned to Burcu with tears in my eyes and asked her to marry me. She looked so beautiful. We embraced each other, with hesitation, she replied 'yes'. I never wanted to let her go. On my birthday, the following day, we announced to my family that we had got engaged. Everyone was very excited. In Turkey, it is customary to have an official engagement, so my parents and I booked somewhere to stay in a town called Bodrum. Another custom is for the groom's father to ask the brides parents to permit his son to marry their daughter. Little did I know that Burcu and her parents were going to be staying at the same hotel as us? What a lovely surprise it was when she phoned to say "come up to the function room". It was only then that I realised. That night we gathered for the official engagement, my Father made his speech, although a little nervously, and Burcu's parents accepted his request; we were officially engaged.

AUTHOR: ROB TAYLOR - HUSBAND



CHAPTER THREE
HOLLYWOOD COULDN'T WRITE A BETTER
SCRIPT



OUR MAP STILL SHOWS THE TIMESCALES AND TO DO LIST – WE’LL REMEMBER IT FOREVER

TO BURSA OR BUST!

We had to go to a town called Bursa to obtain important documents for our wedding registration. This involved a ten hour overnight coach trip, a single day to complete all of the red tape associated with a wedding and another trip back that very evening! All I had to remember was my passport. And guess what I forgot? I had left it in my hotel room; such was the rush to get on the road. Burcu just couldn't believe it and was extremely annoyed with me for what seemed like an age. Anyway we got to Bursa to be faced with the red tape we had been warned about. It seemed that we had to pay everyone we met to do something or other, no matter how small it was. It also took all of Burcu's powers of persuasion to obtain the x-ray we needed to complete the exercise. But we managed to do it, just in the nick of time. It was two minutes before five. That day we had managed to get our health certificate, book our date and venue for the wedding and get back on the coach for return trip to Bodrum by 20.00 hours the same day. What a race against time and what an achievement.

AUTHOR: ROB TAYLOR - HUSBAND



CHAPTER FOUR
PLANNING THE BIG DAY



HERE I AM WITH MY HAIRDRESSER JUST HOURS BEFORE THE WEDDING

ALMOST WITHOUT A HITCH

We only had three months to plan the most important day of our lives; so much to think about; so much to do; so many things to attend to including the wedding outfits, accommodation, transport, guest list, henna night (a Turkish tradition), music, our honeymoon night and of course, the wedding dress. I had decided to go to a famous designer for my dress, Tanju Bubacan. I had ideas of my own and how I would like the dress to look, but he soon put me straight. I was not the right shape or size for what I had in mind, so it was left in his capable hands. Two months passed and I still hadn't seen anything resembling a wedding dress, so I was very excited when I got a phone call from him saying he wanted to see me. I rushed to his shop, getting stopped for speeding along the way, only to find that there was still no dress! He told me not to worry and that everything would be fine. The rest of the wedding arrangements continued. Our venue was to be the Altinceylan which was by a pool. The music, flowers and invitations were also agreed. But first, one final arrangement had to be prepared - the henna night. Traditionally, single girls carry candles and sing a song that has been sung for generations. And everyone brought a little piece of henna in their hands, which brings good luck to the marriage. I wore a traditional dress and plenty of food had been prepared for everyone. The evening was most enjoyable and everyone had a really good time. I never did get to see the dress before the wedding, I had to wait and trust the designer, which I did. I finally tried it on just one day before the wedding day and after a few adjustments, everything was wonderful.

AUTHOR: BURCU TAYLOR - WIFE



CHAPTER FIVE
MAGICAL MOMENT UNDER A STAR LIT SKY



EVERYONE WAS CLAPPING AND BOTH ROB AND I HAD TEARS IN OUR EYES

THE WEDDING DAY

The sun was shining. Rob was staying in a hotel with his friends and family and my parents had 15 people staying in their house. I was so excited. I went for breakfast and then went to see my designer with my best friend Oya. He suggested that we all go to the hairdressers where he would fit my dress. The wedding was planned for 19:30 hours. We had a photographer booked for 18:30 hours and it was now 16:00 hours. The dress was fitted and then my hairdresser, Fatih did my hair for me. My nails and make up were already done in Roma, so soon I was complete. Oya had lent us her car to use for the wedding which was prettily decorated. Rob, his brother, Oya and I all went to the photographers, but unfortunately were a little late... he didn't have time for the shoot, but managed to take seven photographs. Back at home there was an orchestra waiting for us, but we just didn't have time to go back and see it. Hopefully our guests would enjoy it? We arrived at the Altinceylan where we were greeted with a glass of champagne. Some of our guests came to wish us good luck. The music began and we started to walk. We were surrounded by four waiters carrying flamed torches. Everyone was clapping and both Rob and I had tears in our eyes.

AUTHOR: BURCU TAYLOR - WIFE



CHAPTER SIX
THE SIGNING OF THE REGISTER



ALL SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

IT'S OFFICIAL

I was amazed at how beautiful Burcu looked in her intricately embroidered, diamond laced wedding dress. Words just failed me and still do today. We made our entrance to the front table, where the official was going to marry us. Our witnesses joined us and the ceremony began. I didn't understand what was being said, so Burcu nudged me at the appropriate times, and very soon we were man and wife.

AUTHOR: BURCU TALYOR - WIFE



CHAPTER SEVEN
THE WEDDING CELEBRATIONS



A WONDERFUL MOMENT WITNESSED BY ALL

SEALED WITH A KISS

At last, we sealed our marriage vows with a kiss; a moment neither of us wanted to end. We moved onto the dance floor and had our first dance as man and wife to Chris De Burgh's 'Lady in Red.' Afterwards, we went to greet our parents at which point I just broke down. The events of the day had proved too much and I felt dizzy with happiness. Burcu was then covered with lots of different gold bracelets and coins, another touching Turkish tradition and the festivities began. First we were entertained by a wonderful singer and later in the evening, a DJ, played a mixture of modern English and traditional Turkish music. We danced all night and will remember it forever.

AUTHOR: ROB TAYLOR - HUSBAND



CHAPTER EIGHT
THE WEDDING CAKE



WHERE DO YOU START CUTTING A CAKE THIS BIG?

THOUSANDS OF MILES

Our wedding cake was just unbelievable. It was truly amazing. Inside it was raspberry sponge and the exterior was decorated with daisies, or in Turkish, Payatya; Burcu's favourite flower. When the cake arrived, it was accompanied by the music of Vanessa Carlton's 'Thousand Miles'. This song captured our relationship because we had been living so far apart. We fed each other a slice of cake and drank champagne. The whole cake was finished that evening which shows how delicious it was.

AUTHOR: ROB & BURCU TAYLOR -



MY BEST FRIEND OYA

MY BEST FRIEND

My best friend, soul-sister, adviser and teacher, that's who Oya Beni Boya is to me. We met at college several years ago and have been the best of friends ever since. During the preparation, of our Wedding Day, she was extremely helpful and very supportive; always around whenever she was needed. I was so pleased when she accepted my invitation to be my witness. I want to thank Oya for all the support she has given me over the years and especially for that special day in my life – thanks Oya!

AUTHOR: BURCU TAYLOR - FRIEND



CHAPTER TEN
TURKISH TRADITIONS



WHERE YOU WRITE IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE – TRADITIONALLY POPULAR

TRADITIONS THAT PAVE THE WAY

There are several Turkish traditions associated with weddings. One is for girls to write their names on the sole of the Brides left shoe. At the end of the wedding day, everyone looks underneath the shoe to find whose names have disappeared and those that have been scrubbed off during the ceremony are likely to be married very soon. My cousins, Melike and Ayten along with other girls, all signed my shoe and both their names were missing by the end of the day and both got married a year after our Wedding! It just goes to show, there must be something in it! The other tradition is for guests to give gold as a wedding gift. The couple can then exchange this for money to buy the things they require. My parents gave me gold jewellery and whenever I wear it, it brings back fond memories of our special day.

AUTHOR: BURCU - WIFE



MUMS AND DADS

THANK YOU SO MUCH

We felt like stars on our Wedding Day, but actually, the real stars were Burcu's family, especially Gulsiye, Burcu's Mother. She provided so much drive, enthusiasm and support that the wedding just wouldn't have happened had it not been for her determination. Nor would it have been so special, she added a magic sparkle on our happiest day. A special thank you to Mesut for always being so positive and fun to be around; he adds laughter and is such a warm person. Although we don't speak the same language, we have an understanding and warmth that we share. Lastly, we would like to thank Murat for all his hard work. He has always managed to entertain us and make us feel so welcome. He has travelled with us, driving from place to place without a second thought. And then there are my parents, Brian and Sue and my family and friends, all of whom travelled for days to be able to share our day together. It was made all the more special by having so many people we care about sharing our special day together.

AUTHOR: ROB AND BURCU -



CHAPTER TWELVE
THE FIRST CHAPTER OF OUR NEW LIVES
TOGETHER



WE NEVER WANT TO BE APART

BEGINNING OF A NEW LIFE

We thought that after the wedding, all the hard work was over, but it didn't get any easier. We still had paperwork to do, even though we were married. I didn't receive my visa straight away, so Rob had to go back to England alone to arrange our first home. Ten days after Rob departed my visa arrived and I was so excited to be able to see my husband and our first home. We lived in a one bedroomed flat in Barton-on-Sea for a year and a half. We both enjoyed gardening and decorating, it was so nice to have our own space, but soon discovered we needed more and decided to move. As soon as we saw 31 Marine Drive East, we fell in love with it, even though the interior was in desperate need of work. Indeed, it took us eight months to renovate it. This was a most difficult time, but we managed, in fact it drew us closer. We learnt so much from this. During this period, Rob changed his job, and after seven years with JPMorgan he moved to HSBC. I also changed my job, working for the Chewton Glen Hotel and then for Stewo Ltd as a designer. Recently, I have also done a little modelling, which I really enjoy and have been trying to concentrate on my Open University course. It has been really difficult, especially for me, being so far away from my family and friends. Anytime I've been sad or down, my brother Murat gives me words of encouragement - he will always be there for me. I hope to move back to Turkey so that we can be with them. We visit our family in Turkey at every opportunity and believe that our future is there. How we get there and what we do is another matter. Rob and I are at a crossroads in our lives, for once we are not certain what the next step should be. There are many things we could do, but which one to choose is difficult. When the time is right we will know what to do. All I really know is that we love each other so much and never want to be apart.

AUTHOR: BURCU TAYLOR - WIFE



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