

# CHAPTERS OF THE WEDDING DAY STORY

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CHAPTER	DESCRIPTION	LIGHTING	OUTCOME
Details	invitation, rings	available	Take good detail shots to use as transitions in the albums or slideshows.
Preparation	The bride,, groom and attendants get ready	on-camera flash as fill or key light bounced off wall or ceiling	This is a great time to get those candid and emotional moments and the lovely bride alone shots,. The groom is a quick hit. Try taking photos of he and his dad, he and his best man and cufflinks. He will probably have the rings.
First sight	Couple see each other for first time	available or soft bounce	Watch for emotion. Set the bride up in a beautiful location then have the groom come in. If using two shooters have one on him, one on her,
First couple shots	take first group of couple shots	available,, flash fill if backlit, +2/3 flash or bounce if key light	These portraits are often more formal in feel but will get the couple used to being photographed
Group shots	add wedding party	flash set at + 2/3	The flashes' higher output lightens the eyes, fills in the wrinkles, cleans up the light, brightens the group,to separate them from background
Group shots	add family	flash set at 2/3	same as above
Group shots	add grandparents at the end	flash set at +2/3	same as above
Downtime	groups end 30 minutes from ceremony, ask if they want to have you photograph in the ready rooms	bounce as needed	Some couples want you to be with them. If not, this is a good time to meet the officiant, go to the bathroom and get ready for ceremony.
Ceremony	cover procession and then be invisible for the rest of the ceremony	no flash unless approved in advance by officiant and couple	Work with long lenses to keep the guests' attention on the couple, not you. A great location is in the aisle behind the guests. Take a wide overall shot in addition to the tighter vow and kiss shots.
Recessional	flash on and capture the joy, immediately take them away for more couple shots	flash	Photograph the couple immediately after the ceremony. These photos will show their relief and joy. Maybe just walk away with them and photograph their first quiet moments as a married couple. Faux Photojournalism.

License signing	signing the document, officiants love this shot, photogs don't. look for details of hands signing, kiss afterward	flash any way you have to get the shot.	My least favorite setup but one that everyone expects. Try to take both wide and tight shots as they are writing. Look for a kiss afterward. Grab a shot of the officiant with the couple.
Leaving for reception	cover them as they drive away	flash +2/3	This might make a transition photo for the album.
Reception	guests mingling, look for candid. Photograph the cake, details of the food, buffet presentation or plate presentation.	flash +2/3, bounce as needed	Grab a Coke for a quick hit of sugar and caffeine and photograph. Nail the cake after putting the flowers around the base and arranging the champagne glasses. Shoot overalls and details. When the guests sit down look for the tinkling of the glasses indicating a kiss is demanded. Find your meal and take a break.
Meal	Guests eat	NA	Unless requested, no need to photograph during the meal unless toasts begin during the meal. Talk to the DJ about the schedule for the rest of the night.
Toasts	The official part of the reception usually coordinated by the DJ and or wedding coordinator	Two light setup or flash bounced off wall or ceiling unless ambient light is good.	Key flash remote at 45 degrees to camera. Flash on camera as fill. One good shot of each toaster and shots of couple reacting. Think of layout of album while shooting so toasters are looking at couple.
Cake cutting	Groom behind bride	Same as above	The couple will often ask you to position them. Man behind, with both hands on the knife. Get photos as each feeds the other.
Father/daughter, mother/son and first dance	Tradition has the father daughter dance followed by the first dance. Nowadays moms often dance with sons too.	Same as above	Move around the couples watching for emotion. Be sure to get both the mom/son and father/daughter dance. Bonus points if you get both sets in one photo!
Guests dancing	Guests dancing, musicians or DJ	Same as above	Stay through 3-5 dances to capture the fun. Try getting in the middle of the dancers and doing hail mary shots with camera held above your head. Try swirls, slow shutter speed
Thank the couple	Let them know you are leaving, ask if they need anything else	NA	Thank the couple and wish them well. Thank the person writing the checks and rave about the wedding.