

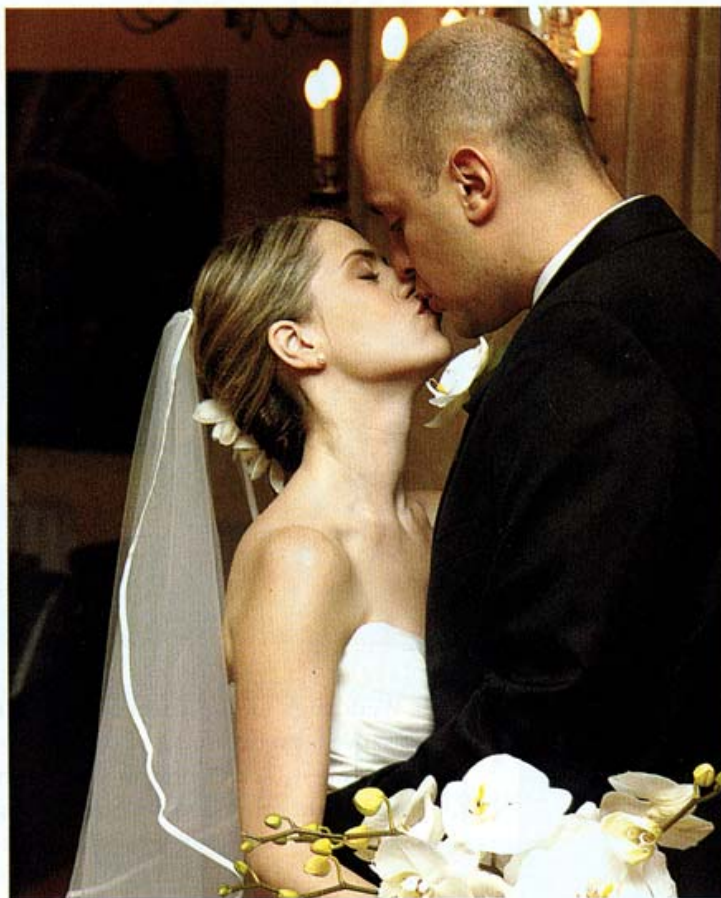
ALEXA DAMES *marries* JOHN FRANGOS

September 23, 2006 | University Club of Chicago | Chicago

A rich color scheme of magenta and purple, luxurious fabrications, and dramatic lighting created a jewel-box effect for this sophisticated reception at a Chicago landmark.

Not long after meeting on Match.com, John proposed to Alexa while unpacking moving boxes in their new home.

"Knee-deep in boxes, he surprised me with a bottle of champagne and a proposal," says Alexa, who wore a gown by Jenny Lee (jennyleebridal.com) and carried a bouquet of phalaenopsis orchids.



Alexa's bridesmaids wore aubergine silk shantung gowns by Aria (ariadress.com).

To complement their attire, they carried bouquets of purple phalaenopsis orchids. Bouquets, and all flowers, by Asrai Gardens (312-782-0680).

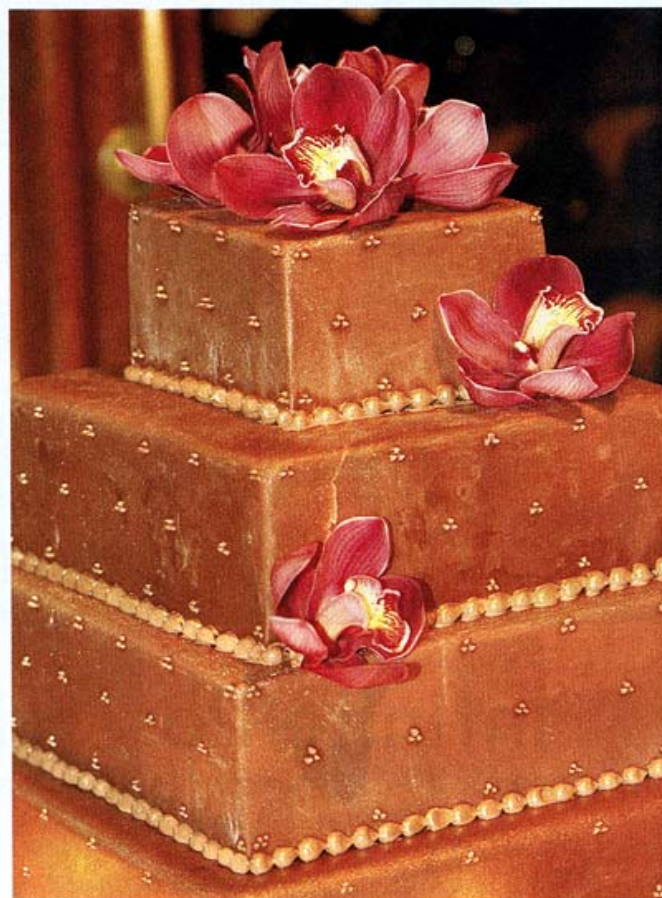
Alexa and John hosted both the ceremony (*middle*) and the reception at the University Club, where 250 guests were in attendance. For favors (*bottom*), guests received Vosges truffles packaged in a box with the couple's initials and tied with purple satin ribbon.

Alexa and John sought out the expertise of wedding planner Frank Andonoplas of Frank Event Design (773-275-6804, frankeventdesign.com), who produced the lavish reception.

Alexa, who graduated from art school, designed an orchid motif that appeared on the table cards, invitations, and menus.



The couple danced to Lyle Lovett's "Nobody Knows Me" for their first dance, performed by the Peter Hennes Orchestra (847-947-1835, peterhennes.com). "The song is so us," says Alexa. "We like to sleep late on Sunday, and nobody knows us like each other."



Ella Stauber of Studio 110 (312-337-6411) created the bride's sleek hairdo: a low french twist accented with a few fresh white orchids.

The University Club (312-726-2840, ucco.com), which also catered the event, made this square chocolate cake covered in chocolate buttercream. The florist garnished the confection with pink cymbidium orchids.

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