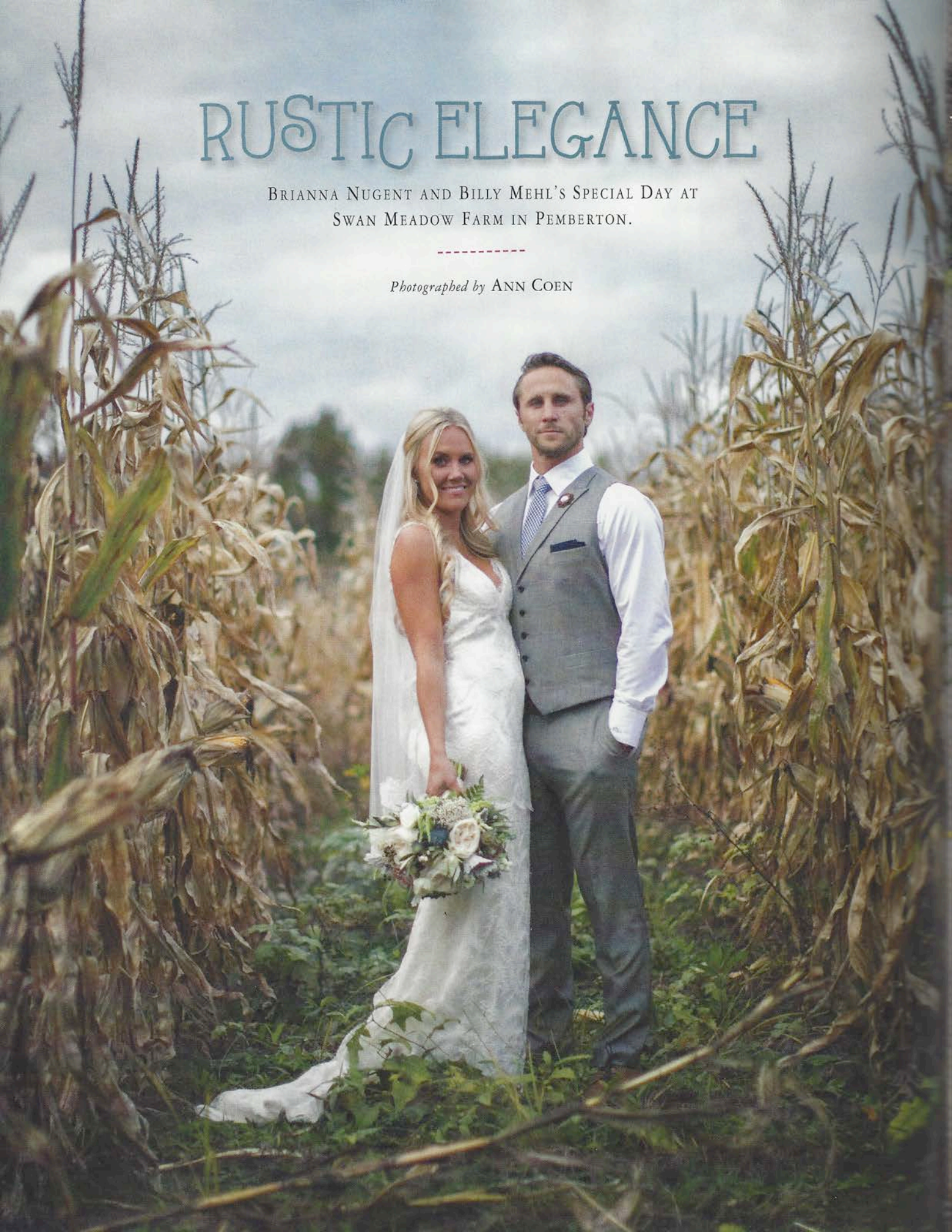


# RUSTIC ELEGANCE

BRIANNA NUGENT AND BILLY MEHL'S SPECIAL DAY AT  
SWAN MEADOW FARM IN PEMBERTON.

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*Photographed by ANN COEN*

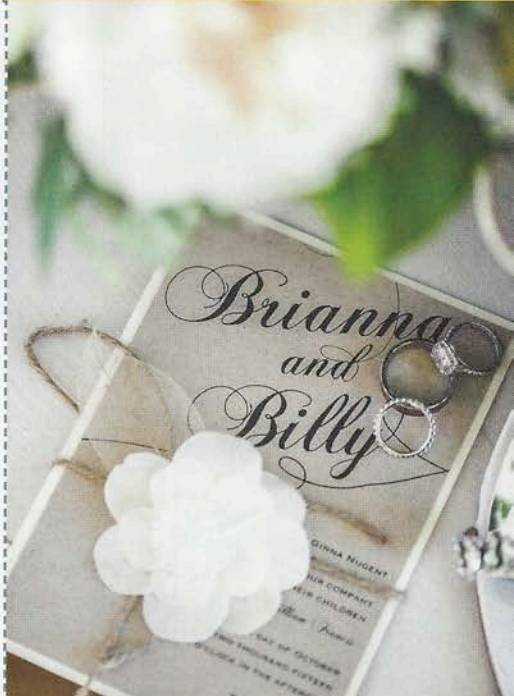






**THEIR STORY:** Brianna Nugent, 28, who works for her family's Long Beach Island-based restaurant business, and Billy Mehl, 33, an aerospace engineer from Pemberton, were introduced five years ago by a mutual friend during one of the boating excursions Brianna, her family and friends regularly take to a small island off of Barnegat Light. "Billy was fun and made me feel comfortable," says Brianna. Three years later, the couple was spending the holidays in Hawaii with Brianna's family when Billy suggested a hike to the beach. "During the hike, Billy proposed and I was so surprised I almost fell off the cliff," recalls Brianna.

**A FAMILY AFFAIR:** Brianna and Billy had the perfect backdrop in mind for their rustic chic October 17, 2015 nuptials: Billy's parents' farm, Swan Meadow Farm in Pemberton. "It was exciting to have a blank canvas where we could do whatever we wanted," says Brianna.







**RUSTIC DECOR:** With the help of event designers from Three Crowns in Long Beach Island, they transformed the property (which can now be rented for weddings) with tents, rugs, strings of lights and vintage furniture and accessories. Billy built an arbor out of birch for the ceremony, turned a canoe into a custom raw bar and crafted a wooden swing that he hung in a large tree. They also placed chairs around a fire pit to create a cozy spot for guests to relax and sip cocktails.

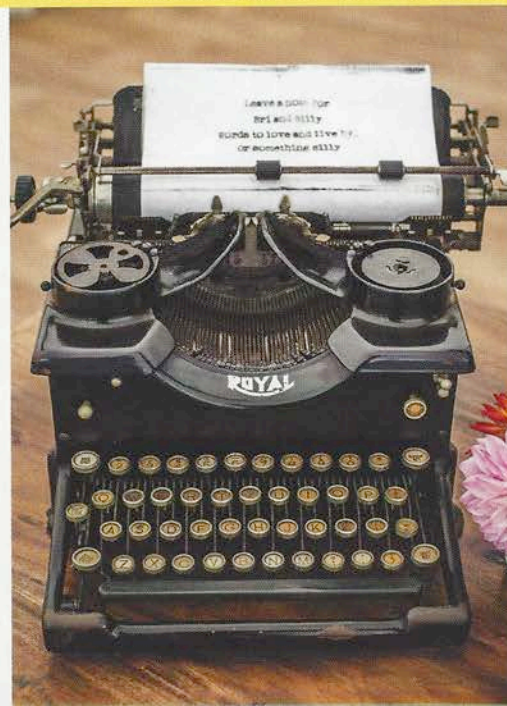
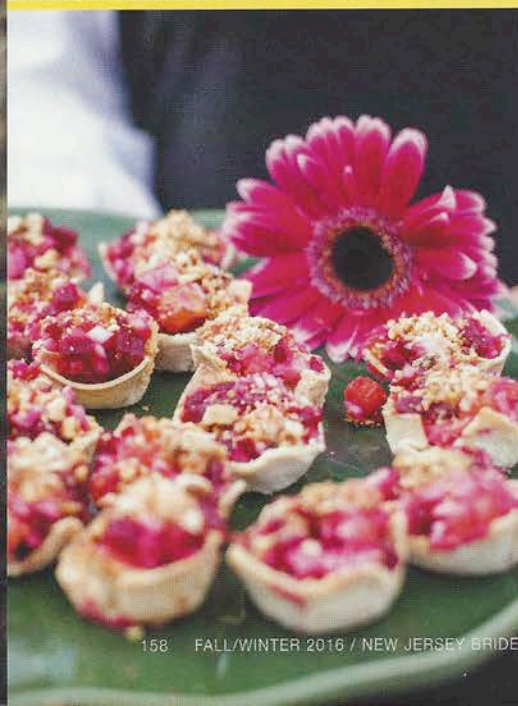
**DETAILS OF THE DAY:** With 300 guests, including nine bridesmaids and nine groomsmen, looking on, Billy's grandfather, who is the mayor of Pemberton, presided over the exchange of vows.

**THE MENU:** As guests arrived for the ceremony, they were offered Mason jars of prosecco with blueberries or could help themselves to beer, water or mini bottles of prosecco on ice in a monogrammed

claw-foot tub. For dinner, they enjoyed a family-style meal of short ribs, chicken, roasted vegetables and mashed potatoes. Dessert was a three-tier carrot cake made by the bride's friend Samantha. "It had just a very thin layer of icing and was decorated with fresh flowers," says Brianna. From a classic Airstream trailer, bartenders served beer, wine and signature drinks including "The Bride" (a cucumber vodka cocktail) and "The Groom" (a dirty martini).

**FAVORITE MOMENT:** Billy's was seeing Brianna coming into the ceremony. "Walking down the aisle toward Billy was a really cool, surreal moment," agrees Brianna. "I also loved dancing to our band, the Storytellers. I wished the dancing could have gone on for another six hours!"

**HONEYMOON:** The newlyweds spent three weeks vacationing in New Zealand and Fiji before returning home to Long Beach Island.—*Kristen Finello*



















**SOURCES:** *Photographer:* Ann Coen Photography, LBI  
*Ceremony & Reception:* Swan Meadow Farm, Pemberton  
*Event Coordination, Design and Favors:* Three Crowns, LBI  
*Band:* The Storytellers, NYC  
*Bride's Dress:* Katie May from Lovely, Philadelphia  
*Bridesmaid Dresses:* Jenny Yoo from Bella Bridesmaids, NYC  
*Caterer:* Main Street Fine Catering, Rocky Hill  
*Hair:* Nicole Mitschke, Forked River  
*Makeup:* Alanna Jane, Manahawkin  
*Invitations:* Bailey Viola at Just Be Studio, Egg Harbor Township  
*Flowers:* Reynolds Garden Shop, Manahawkin  
*Rings:* Billig Jewelers, Marlton, and Jewel of Paradise, Hanalei, Kauai  
*Bride's Shoes:* "Elope" by Badgley Mischka  
*Groom's Attire:* Indochino Custom Menswear  
*Transportation:* Albert's Transportation, Mt. Laurel  
*Custom Décor:* Project-MEHL and Three Crowns, LBI  
*Tent:* Ocean Tents and Party Rentals, Manahawkin and Mount Holly





