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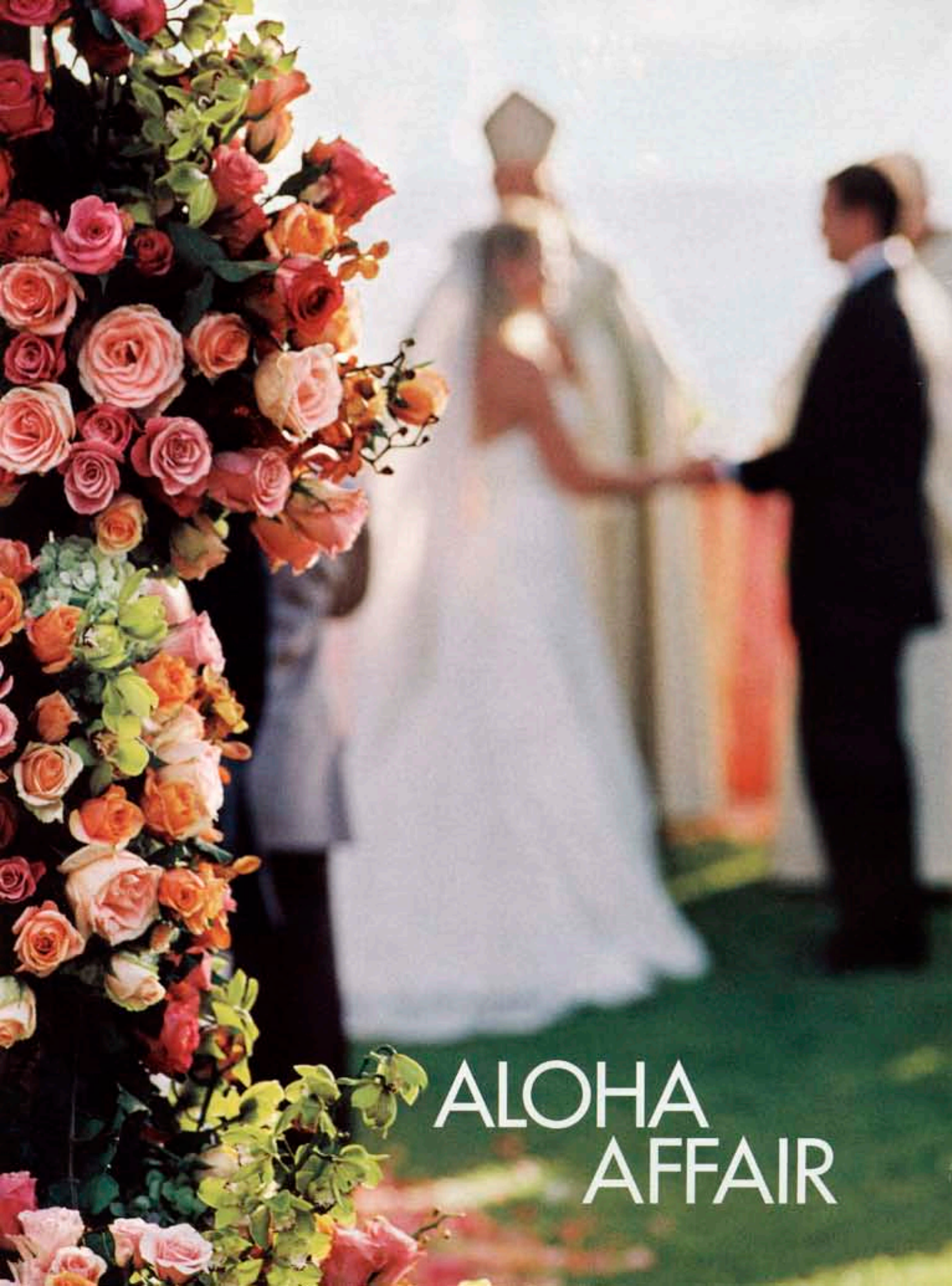
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ALOHA AFFAIR



MARNE EVANS AND JOHN CROWLEY | MARCH 20, 2005 | KOHALA COAST, HAWAII

THE NUPTIALS OF MARNE EVANS AND JOHN CROWLEY OF CALIFORNIA were more than a wedding; it was a five-day, action-packed Hawaiian affair meant to make the couple's 150 guests feel as entertained and celebrated as possible. The pre-wedding events included a round-robin tennis tournament, a luau, a golf outing, a barbecue, a whale-watching trip that doubled as a bridal luncheon, and a rehearsal dinner, which Marne describes as "amazing."

Finally, it was time for the moment everyone had been awaiting. At 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, the Catholic ceremony began at a private estate on the grounds of the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel on the Big Island. It was presided over by three officiants who are close to Marne's family and have attended all of their important events. "We wanted the ceremony to be really spiritual and serious," she says. When it ended, Marne's father surprised the newlyweds with a 100-dove release. "They flew in formation around the site twice, then went back to their home," explains the bride. "Apparently they'd been training for a month and a half before the wedding—and we had no idea."

Opposite: To get to the altar, the couple first had to pass through a breathtaking arbor of roses, orchids, hydrangeas and moss, created by Mark's Garden in Sherman Oaks, CA. *This page, from top:* Marne poses with her best gals, including four of the 10 children she and John had in their wedding party. Guests arrived at their seats to find not only a wedding program and a paper fan, but also a bottle of water to keep them cool.



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Clockwise from above: The decor was designed to be very colorful—"almost Moroccan," says the bride—so that once the sun went down, vibrant hues were still in the spotlight. The aisle is lined with rose petals and leads to an altar covered in, and surrounded by, more flowers. The cymbidium orchid, a classic Hawaiian bloom, plays a major role in the wedding decor. The flower girls chose their own white dresses for the affair.



The Celebration and Reception
of the Marriage of
Alain Crowl
and
John Crowley
Saturday, the twentieth of March
Two thousand and four
Five o'clock
Waialala
—, Hawaii

While the wedding party posed for photos, guests headed to the lanai for cocktail hour. With the help of New York City event planner David Reinhard Events ("Since we were all traveling for the wedding, it didn't matter that our planners were across the country," reasons Marne), the lanai resembled a lounge-y, outdoor party room. The surrounding trees were uplit in different colors; brightly hued silk lanterns were strung across the dance floor.

Marne's father gave a toast and announced the bride and groom, who shared their first dance to "I Belong To You" by Lenny Kravitz. And that's when the party started. "The band—oh my God," says Marne of Side Effect, part of West Coast Music in Los Angeles. "Basically, you couldn't talk to anyone at the reception because they were all on the dance floor." Guests did manage to tear themselves away for the meal, catered by the Mauna Kea's restaurant Batik, which included grilled filet mignon with a confit of shallots and red-wine sauce; haricots verts with baby carrots and mashed potatoes; and a poached pear-and-champagne mousseline with raspberry coulis.

The Crowleys retired to their honeymoon suite around midnight, but the party continued. In fact, the younger crowd hosted their own "bathrobe party" at the eight-bedroom house they'd rented. "Everyone showed up in their Mauna Kea robes and slippers," says Marne. And so the original mission—to entertain and celebrate the guests—was accomplished. "The whole week was just so much fun," says the bride. "I could do it ten times more." —Kara Corridan



From top: The flower girls' crowns are made of green cymbidium orchids and pink roses. The bride wears an ivory Vera Wang gown with lace flowers; the veil is an antique that belonged to Marne's great-grandmother and has been worn by many of the brides in her family.