

HAPPY EVER AFTER

Joanna and Mark told their love story with a literary theme and hundreds of books

Photography | Sarah Vivienne



DESIGNS ON YOU

Joanna took a creative approach to her dress shopping. "I chose the Hepburn style by Suzanne Neville but changed the neckline and added sleeves and a lace back to make it bespoke."



WORDS BY HOLLIE BOND

Reader weddings

THE COUPLE Joanna & Mark

Joanna Lovelock, 29, and Mark Smith, 27, married at St Etheldreda Church, Guilsborough with a reception at Holdenby House, Northamptonshire

For book lovers Joanna and Mark, it wasn't the venue that inspired their theme and décor but the other way round. "We decided early on that our day would have a literary theme," explains Joanna, "so I was keen to find a venue that had a space I could fill with old books. Holdenby House was perfect with its rich library complete with open fire."

The literary theme was used in everything from the bookmark invites to the famous author table names. There was even a typewriter guest book and confetti cones made out of pages from an old copy of *Jane Eyre*. Even Joanna's pretty pastel bouquet and her flowergirl's basket arrangement were decorated with vintage book tape. "We're also keen tea drinkers," says Joanna. "What could be better than a good book and a cup of tea?" So the couple incorporated this into their day by sourcing vintage cups and saucers as well as creating their own unique blend of tea with heart-shaped infusers for their favours.

Inspired by book sculptures the couple had seen in a gallery, Joanna taught herself how to make folded books to decorate the venue. "It took hours of practice but they made such an impact and were a real talking point."

One of the other showstopping highlights was the stack-of-books-shaped cake made by Danni Smith. "It was based on the work of book artist Su Blackwell and I never imagined Danni would recreate it so perfectly," says Joanna. "It was a true work of art."

THE DREAM TEAM

Photography sarahvivienne.co.uk
Bride's dress Suzanne Neville at thebridalgalleryfinedon.co.uk
Venue holdenby.com
Groom's suit formalsuithire.com
Stationery nothingbutlovely.co.uk
Cake Danni's Cakes on facebook.com
Favours blendsforfriends.com
Folded books paperandpage.co.uk