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# Fairy-tale WEDDING

AT THE RITZ-CARLTON LODGE

"It was a fairy-tale scene," Kristen recounted, "with hanging chandeliers draped in greenery, vintage candlesticks and vases, bountiful flowers in blue, green and purple."



## Wood - Burke

Fairy-tale wedding at The Ritz-Carlton Lodge

Standing beneath a canopy of greenery, surrounded by blue skies and a sun-dappled lake with the rustle of autumn in the air, Kristen Brooke Wood and Adam Robert Burke were married September 27, 2014, in a beautiful outdoor evening ceremony at The Ritz-Carlton Lodge, Reynolds Plantation at Lake Oconee.

With 180 friends and family members in attendance, guests were welcomed with sparkling water and lemonade on the resort's manicured lawn and then ushered to the lakefront seating area. As Adam took his place on the raised podium, Kristen stepped out in a gorgeous billowing white gown by Spanish designer Jesús Peiró, making her stunning debut to a custom-arranged solo of John Legend's "All of Me," with live accompaniment by a string quartet and grand piano, under a nearby pergola.

She was escorted down a wooden walkway trimmed with fresh eucalyptus by her father, Dr. Keith Wood, and carried a lovely bouquet wrapped in a handkerchief

made from the wedding dress of her mother, 11Alive News Anchor Brenda Wood, and pinned with her grandmother's brooch. A wedding arch and canopy of greenery, crowned with a glowing chandelier, set the stage for the au naturel nuptials.

The couple wrote their own vows for the ceremony, which was officiated by Kristen's uncle, the Rev. Timothy Blackmon of the Netherlands. Joining them at the podium were the bride's sister, Kandis, serving as maid of honor, and the groom's brother, Andrew, who was best man.

After being pronounced "husband and wife," the newlyweds embraced their parents and joined a brass band in the center of the walkway, jubilantly leading a second line with festive umbrellas tailor-made in New Orleans. Guests waved vintage handkerchiefs in celebration as the wedding party made its way from the serene lakefront to the lavishly decorated "Burkewood Forest" for specialty cocktails, sipping Peach Moonshine as the sun set.

Dinner followed in an enchanting open-air tent on the resort grounds, with rustic signs (personalized with fun



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAME AND TODD REICHMAN