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## ***ALONE TIME:***

### ***WEDDING DAY PORTRAITS WITH JUST THE BRIDE AND GROOM AND THE PHOTOGRAPHER.***

Amid all the flowers, food, music and festivities, there are two people at the focal point of a wedding: the wedding couple.

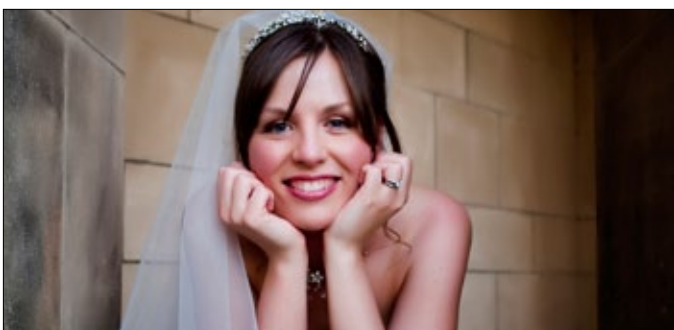
With all the attention heaped upon you, the bride and groom, a portrait session away from the crowds can help capture private moments between you. It gets you away from the pressure that comes with your wedding, and a chance to be alone to reflect on the occasion.

So why not consider at least a brief window of time to go off to make some creative portraits in a picturesque environment, whether it is a park, old barn or nearby beach?

To be sure, a creative portrait session is not something that will happen at all weddings. Not all couples need or want one, and many prefer to let the moments captured during the ceremony and reception serve as photos of just the two of them.

And while it may seem like a deviation from truly just sitting back and letting me document the day as it unfolds, such portraits are no different to what I may find myself doing most days. And it's hardly the heavily posed photos of traditional wedding photography, but rather a way of putting the you into an environment and sometimes just letting you be yourselves.

Ideally, I will want to spend a relaxed period of time with the bride and groom during a portrait session. But with the demands of the wedding planner, caterers and others worked into the schedule, that luxury cannot always be realised. Sometimes a schedule may leave up to an hour for portraits. On other occasions, it may be only five minutes or perhaps no time at all.





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If it is something you choose to do, make sure there is some window in which you can get away. It'll pay off, as this quiet time will often produce some of the best portrait opportunities.

If you choose to have a portrait session I plan on spending about 15 to 20 minutes after the ceremony with you, away from everyone else.

#### **WHEN TO STEAL AWAY**

Sometimes a bride and groom want to do the portrait session before the entire ceremony. In these cases it is likely to start with photographing the bride getting ready, and then as she meets the groom for the first time on their day. This is unusual for a typical British wedding though!

I find that taking the bride and groom away between the ceremony and reception leads to a great photo session, since you have just exchanged your vows and are experiencing the emotions of being a newly married couple.

Something palpable happens after the ceremony, whether it's just the sheer elation that everything has passed, or the psychic emotional bond that's happened now that you've entered married life. Either way these moments are wonderful and deserve to be captured without any distractions.

A session after the ceremony works well logistically, as wedding guests are often shuffling from the ceremony location to the reception hall. The travel time gives you an opportunity to head off somewhere with me for a shoot in an attractive environment.

Though it may be impossible to achieve the ideal alone time due to tradition, family responsibilities or scheduling conflicts, we will work together to find the best period in the day to have minimal disruption and optimal time.





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### **KINDLY DITCHING THE RELATIVES**

With all the great emotions that pour out when you are alone together, the last thing the you need is a portrait session ruined as you are distracted by numerous flashes and guests vying for your attention. It can also be overwhelming for you to have so many “look here” or “do this” demands tossed at you from a crowd of well-wishers.

That’s why I, like most photographers, suggest keeping the guests away for the private photo session. In fact, some stipulate it in the contract that everyone stay away for the private shoot. I don’t - much better to talk it through beforehand.

If the families don’t understand, just be sure that someone explains that the whole point is to get the best creative portraits of the newly wed husband and wife—images that will season the collection of other, more unplanned moments to be shared forever among family and friends.

