PORTLAND, OREGON
A small wedding.
A proper front page.

The Lena & Theo Times

WEDDING DAY EDITION
Ten guests.
Several versions of events.

VOL. I NO. 1 | WRITTEN BY THEIR GUESTS | JUNE 14, 2026

WRITTEN BY THEIR GUESTS

They finally tied the knot.

Ten guests, three umbrellas, seven index cards and one leaning lemon cake: the guests' own report on Lena and Theo's Portland garden wedding, June 14, 2026.



Illustration: Lena and Theo laughing after the ceremony, Theo's collar open because, per Arthur, he forgot the tie entirely.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Tissues, a forgotten tie and returned chairs

FROM NOTES BY MAE, ARTHUR, JUNE, ELI AND SOFIA

Mae, Lena's mother, came prepared, by her own count. "I had three tissues in my handbag. Used all three before the vows." Then Theo, she reports, "tucked one more into my hand without looking away from Lena." Mae, who noted that Lena's father "would have loved the garden," said what she loved was "the way they kept looking at each other."

Arthur, Theo's father, supervised tie rehearsals remotely. Theo "practised that knot in his tie on a video call with me twice," he writes. On the day, the groom forgot the tie entirely and went with an open collar. Arthur's verdict: "Happiest I have ever seen him." He also noted that Lena brought him a chair before anyone asked.

June, Lena's college roommate, reports that the bride once swore off big weddings. With ten guests in a Portland garden, June rules that "technically she has kept her word." The bride also ate breakfast in her dress, leaving toast crumbs. June's position: "Would not change a thing."

Eli, Theo's sibling, watched the couple check that the other had eaten, simultaneously, just after the vows: "I think that is the whole marriage sorted." Sofia, the next-door neighbor, lent folding chairs, which came back the next morning with two slices of lemon cake. "You can tell a lot about a couple by how they return your chairs," she writes.

LETTERS TO THE COUPLE

“Theo tucked one more into my hand without looking away from Lena. Her dad would have loved the garden.”

MAE / LENA'S MOTHER

“On the day he forgot the tie entirely. Open collar. Happiest I have ever seen him.”

ARTHUR / THEO'S DAD

“You can tell a lot about a couple by how they return your chairs. Love you both. Keep the cake plate.”

SOFIA / NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR

NOTICES & SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

LOST CARDS, BORROWED CHAIRS & OTHER BUSINESS

Missing

Missing: one tie, practiced twice on a video call, never worn. Arthur reports the groom forgot it entirely. Claimants should be ready to explain the open collar.

Return Policy

Sofia, next door, sets the standard: folding chairs returned the next morning with two slices of lemon cake. She has also waived return of the cake plate.

Dress Code Update

June reports the bride ate breakfast in her dress. Toast crumbs were noted. June would not change a thing, and this newspaper sees no reason to overrule her.

Supply Desk

Mae arrived with three tissues and used all three before the vows. Theo supplied a fourth without looking away from Lena. Future guests, please pack four.

Ten guests reporting, one tie missing, and seconds requested on the lemon cake.

THE WEEKEND PAGES

From the Garden Floor

Umbrellas, place cards, index cards, a dance request and a cake, as reported by the guests.



Illustration: the couple and guests under Nora's three mismatched umbrellas, which Lena declared a coordinated collection.

WEATHER DESK

Three umbrellas, one coordinated collection

FROM NOTES BY NORA

Portland did its "tiny drizzle thing halfway through the photos," according to Nora, a friend whose title for the day was umbrella supplier. She happened to have three completely different umbrellas in her car.

Lena, unbothered, "called it a coordinated collection." Nora reports the response: "We all pretended to believe her." The mismatched trio went into service, and the photos carried on outdoors. "Nobody went inside," Nora writes, which in Portland counts as a weather plan.

The collection has not been formally cataloged. Nora's note lists no colors, patterns or matching handles, only the count, three, and the unanimous decision to stay put under them.



Illustration: Ben at the table with his seven index cards, which he dropped and picked up in the wrong order.

SPEECHES

Best man opens with the cake

FROM NOTES BY BEN

Ben, the best man, wrote his speech on seven index cards. He dropped them. He picked them up in the wrong order. The best man's preparation held up right until gravity got involved.

The speech therefore opened, by his account, with "thank you for the cake," an unusual place to begin a toast. "Theo was laughing so hard I stopped being nervous," Ben writes, crediting the groom.

The final running time was six minutes. This figure is not an estimate. "I timed it," Ben reports, suggesting the cards may have been out of order but the timekeeping never was.



Illustration: Lena and Theo dancing with Aunt Ruth, whose Dancing Queen request, Val reports, beat a month of playlist planning.

DANCE FLOOR

Aunt Ruth overrules the playlist

FROM NOTES BY VAL

Val, a friend on music duty, reports that a month went into "a very tasteful playlist." Aunt Ruth had other ideas. She was first on the dance floor and requested Dancing Queen before anyone had even sat down.

Val concedes the point in three words: "She was right." The evidence: Lena had both arms in the air. Nobody filed an appeal.

Theo, meanwhile, contributed what Val, with evident admiration, calls "a very committed two-step." The month of curation goes unmentioned for the rest of Val's note, which may be the most honest review a playlist has ever received.



Illustration: the couple with Dev and the lemon cake, which leaned a little and still earned requests for seconds.

KITCHEN REPORT

The lemon cake leaned and won

FROM NOTES BY DEV AND SOFIA

Dev, the friend who baked the cake, made it lemon and drove it over with the air conditioning on full and a beach towel wedged beside the box.

The precautions were mostly successful. "It leaned a little on the table," Dev reports, with the candor of a baker who already knows the ending.

The ending: "They asked for seconds. That is the only review I need." Leaning, it seems, did not count against it. The cake also outlasted the party. Sofia, the next-door neighbor, received two slices the next morning along with her returned folding chairs.

SEATING DESK

The chart lasted one course

FROM NOTES BY MARA AND ELI

Mara, a friend in charge of flowers and seating, arranged garden flowers in borrowed jam jars and produced a seating chart. "Nobody followed it after the first course," she reports.

Eli, Theo's sibling, was among the defectors. "I moved my place card three times and ended up next to Mae," Eli writes. "Excellent decision."

Three moves of a single place card suggest the chart was less a plan than an opening offer.

By dessert, Mara's neighbor was comparing allotment notes with Theo's aunt. Mara, the chart's author, accepts the outcome: "Better than any seating chart I could have made."

“They both checked the other one had eaten. Simultaneously.”

ELI, THEO'S SIBLING

CONTRIBUTORS Mae · Arthur · Nora · Ben · Val · Dev · Mara · June · Eli · Sofia / Made with love, for Lena & Theo.