

The men had carried their little wooden and plastic guns into the church, and in a very serious voice I asked them to take their weapons and leave them outside, after a couple of seconds of shocked silence, they took me seriously and proceeded to walk outside leaving their guns at the door. When they sat down everyone burst out laughing and clapped their appreciation. One bride was so excited and so in love, once the ceremony was over, she grabbed her new husband's hand and skipped joyously down the chapel aisle. Everyone clapped!

Memorable venues?

Most weddings are held outdoors – I have conducted ceremonies on yachts up in the far North, in gardens, been taken by 4WD down a steep cliff to sandy beaches and once held a lovely ceremony under a Pohutukawa tree that spread out above us like a beautiful cathedral, with a rock for the altar. My favourite place is at Castaways Karioitahi Beach – it's a wonderful venue. Perhaps my most memorable marriage was there, on a hot, still day. In the middle of the ceremony, I heard a loud whirring and a helicopter came up over the cliff, creating a wind storm – the bride was holding onto her veil. As soon as the pilot saw us, he dropped straight down again. I heard later there had been a rescue on the beach. That same afternoon, I felt like I was being watched and after the ceremony, one of the guests said, "Did you know a paraglider dropped in to have a look? He was not far above your head. Then he gave everyone a little wave, and was up-up-and away again." It was quite an eventful day!

This valentines day make her feel like the goddess she is.....

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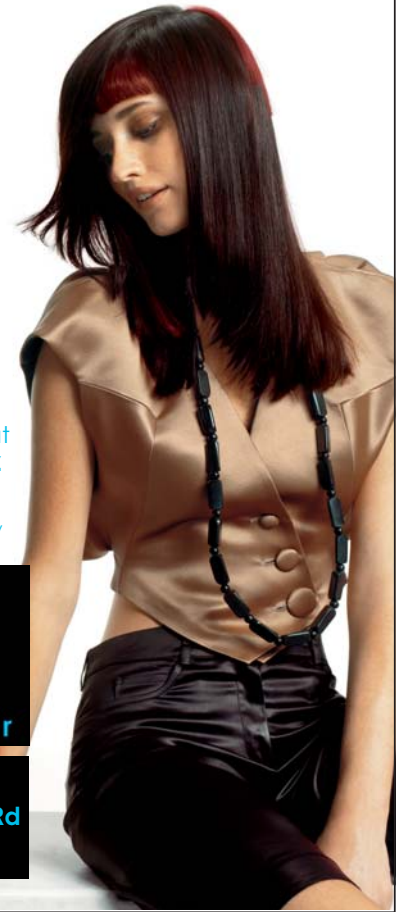
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