

# *A Waterfront Wedding*

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ELYLYN EYED HIM CAREFULLY. FOR the first time since she'd walked into Alicia's office, a shiver of doubt passed through her. Was this the year the Captain's Cottage lost out to another competitor? *Impossible*. She shook off the thought and squared her shoulders. She'd promised to fill Ryan in on the important aspects of the contest. It was time to get down to business and do just that. "About Wedding-In-A-Week. The blue binder covers every possible contingency, but there are only three things you really need to remember."

Ryan blinked as if reeling his thoughts back in from a place he hadn't intended them to go. Patting his shirt pocket, he located a pen.

"No badmouthing the competition." She ticked the first item off on one finger. "The whole reason the vendors in town participate is to showcase their products and services. If one of us makes a negative comment that finds its way into the *Weddings Today* article"—she shook her head—"people won't sign up next year." She waited until he nodded before she

held up the next finger. “No bribery or other undue influence. It’s okay if Mildred Morrey provides a light snack when the couple visits Forget Me Knot, but if she treated them to dinner at a steakhouse, that’d be a problem.”

Ryan’s blue eyes twinkled. He snapped his fingers. “Guess I’d better cancel those season tickets at Fenway. And here I thought I’d found the perfect bribe.”

“Exactly. Something like that would get you thrown out of the contest.”

“Well, we can’t have that!”

They both shared a laugh. She’d hadn’t realized how much she’d missed being around Ryan. It felt good to laugh with him again. She shook her head. “Last and most important, live up to the Heart’s Landing promise and deliver a perfect wedding. No matter what happens along the way.”

“Got it.” Ryan clicked the end of his ballpoint pen. “So how much of this is our responsibility? Are we expected to accompany them throughout the week?”

“Not usually.” Evelyn started to run her fingers through her hair, thought better of it, and tugged on an earring instead. In years past, Jason had shown up at the train station to greet the arriving guests, given the lucky couple an in-depth tour of the wedding venue in Heart’s Landing, and had known his work was done when he’d seen a sparkle in the bride’s eyes or heard the groom ask for a tape measure. He’d left instructions for her to do the same. But after seeing Ryan’s photographs, she wasn’t sure the usual routine would do the trick. This year might call for all hands on deck in order to save the day for the Captain’s Cottage.