

DAVID
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GUIDE



Everything you need to know before the big day to look your best, feel comfortable, and enjoy every moment

A guide to natural, emotional wedding portraits

The best photos don't happen by accident. They're planned just enough so the day feels free, natural, and authentic

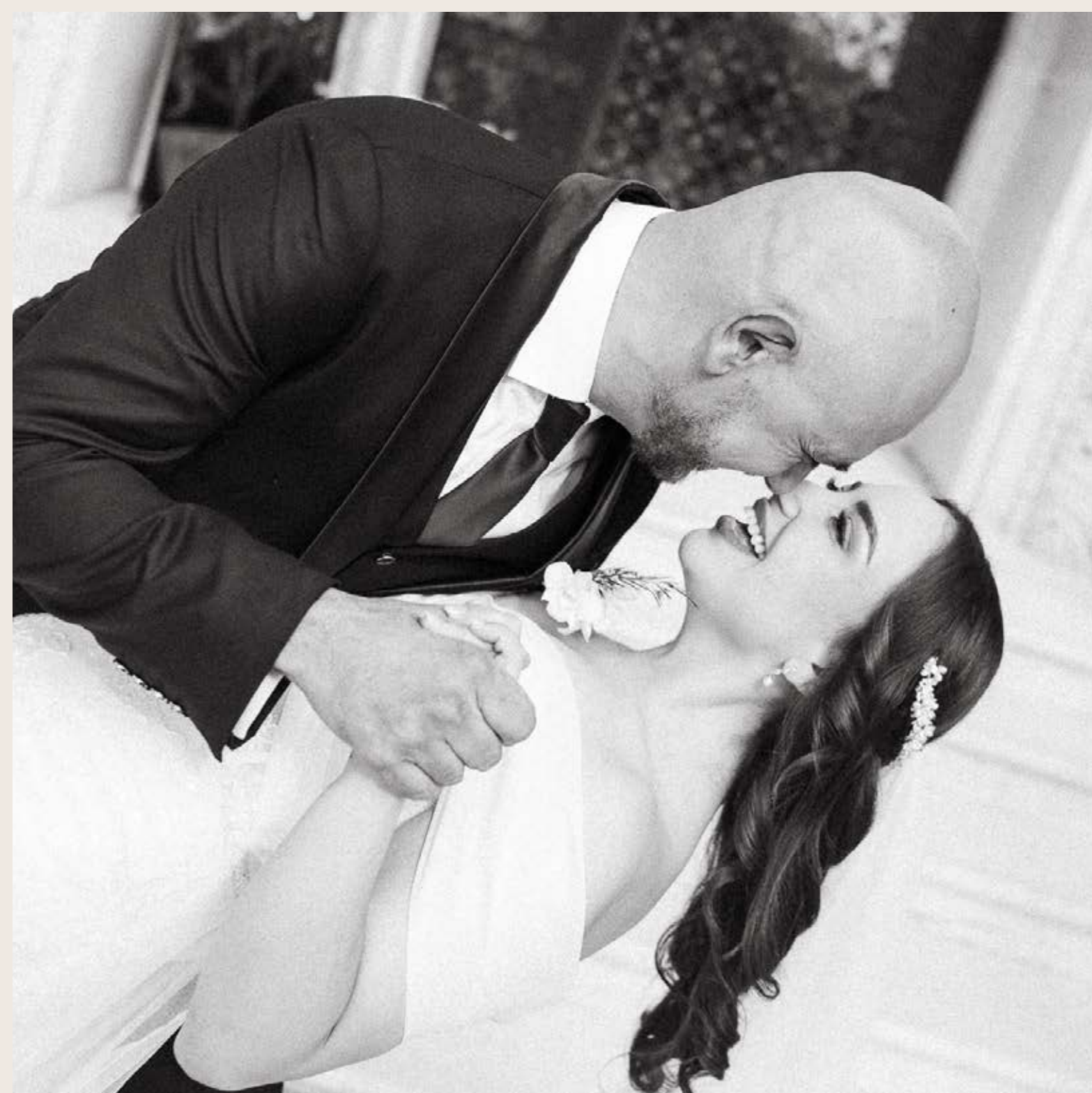
01/ PHOTOS AREN'T JUST POSING

Before we talk about prices, packages, or schedules, almost every couple asks me the same question: "Have you worked with people who aren't photogenic?" And I completely understand it. It comes from a very real place — the fear that your wedding photos won't really look like you, that you'll come out different from how you see yourself in the mirror, that someone will look at those photos in 10 years and notice you weren't comfortable.

What I've learned over time is that most of the time it's not about how you look physically. It's about how comfortable you feel with the person holding the camera. Part of my job is getting to know you before the day, understanding which angles work best for you, which positions help downplay what makes you self-conscious, and how to create an environment where you can relax and forget for a while that someone is taking your picture. That's not something you improvise on the wedding day.

The photos couples love most are almost never the formal poses. They're the moments when they were laughing at something, comforting someone, or simply looking at each other without thinking about anything else.





02/ BEST MOMENTS OF THE DAY

The best wedding photos are almost never poses. They're real moments captured at exactly the right instant. And for that to happen, it doesn't depend on you knowing how to perform.

/Light. The time of day, the direction of the sun, the space you're in. A technically good photo starts with good light.

/Connection. Between the two of you. When you look at each other, when you laugh, when one of you whispers something to the other — that's what makes a photo unforgettable.

/Time. If the day feels rushed, the photos feel rushed. When there's time, there's calm, and calm shows in every image.





03/ HOW MANY HOURS IS ENOUGH

There's no universal answer to this question, but there is a way of thinking about it that makes it easier to decide. Instead of asking how many hours, ask yourself which moments of your wedding you don't want left without photos. That's what defines the real time you need.

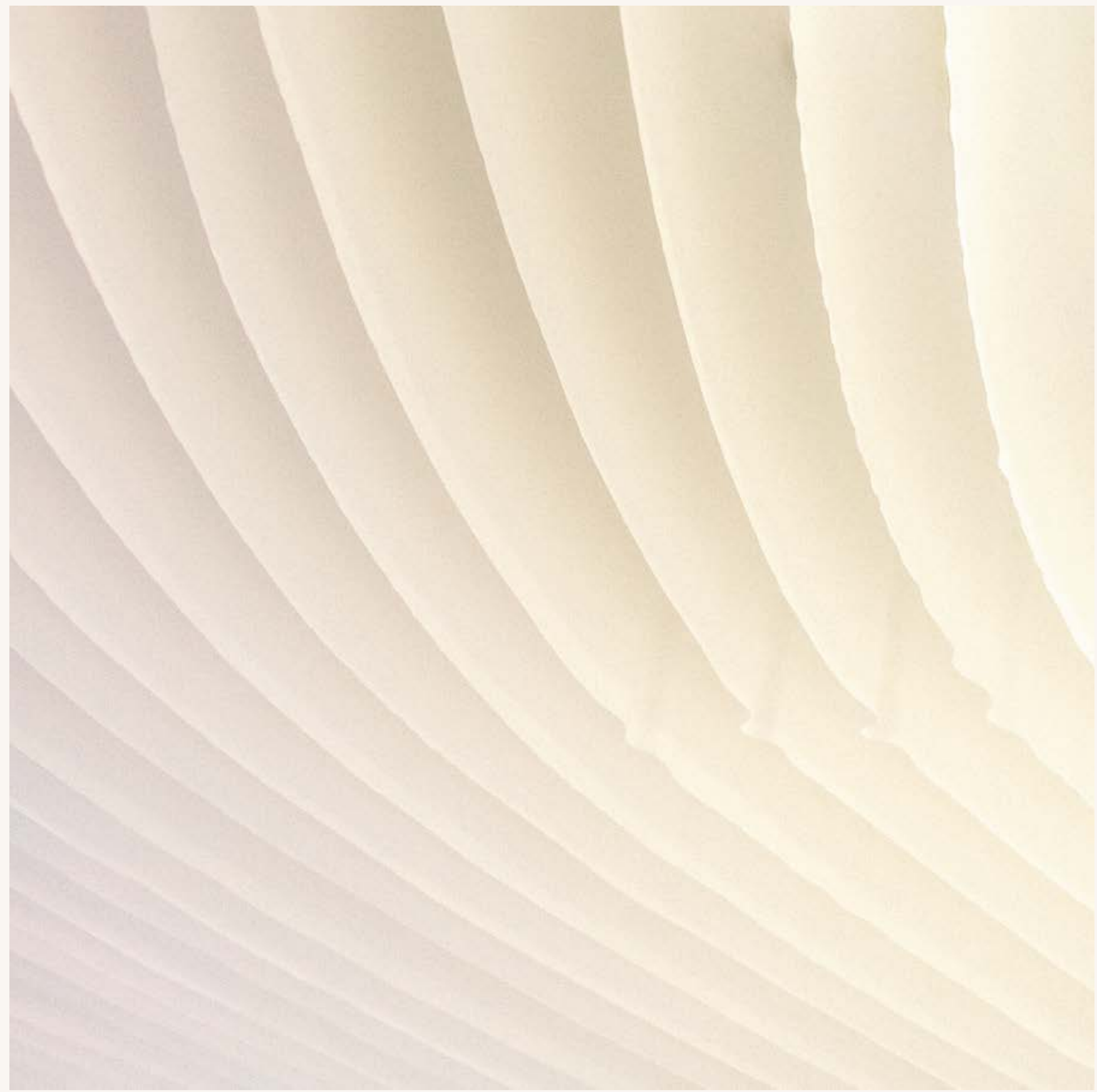
This is what typically happens at each part of the day:

/Getting ready. This is where the rawest emotion lives. The nerves, the details you spent weeks preparing, the people closest to you. If there's no photographer there, that's gone for good.

/The first look. If you decide to have one, it's the most intimate moment of the entire day. Two people seeing each other before the ceremony with no audience. There's no way to recreate it.

/The ceremony. The heart of everything. The looks, the tears, the first kiss. Almost every package covers this.

/The cocktail hour and reception. Where people let their guard down and show up as they really are. The hugs, the laughter, the conversations that matter. It's easy to underestimate these moments until they're missing from the photos.



One of the things that most affects the outcome of the photos has nothing to do with the photographer. It has to do with how the day is organized. I've been at weddings where we lost 40 minutes of perfect light because nobody had calculated how long it actually takes to get from the church to the venue with traffic — and with a bride. I've also seen formal photo sessions happen with an exhausted couple because the reception ran an hour late and there was nothing left in the tank.

04/
THE
TIMELINE

Before your wedding, it's worth having a conversation with your photographer about this. Specifically, it helps a lot for them to know:

- /How much time there really is between each location — real conditions, not Google Maps.
- /If you want photos of the empty venue setup, they need to arrive before the guests — not at the same time.
- /Which family members are hard to pull together for formal photos, so they can be rounded up ahead of time.
- /If there's anything you absolutely need documented, no matter what.

*A 15 to 20 minute buffer between transitions seems like a waste of time — until you need it...
And you almost always need it*



05/ A STORY

I want to tell you something that happened at a wedding a few years ago, because I think it says a lot about what really matters at the end of the day.

It was October in the Chihuahuan desert. Laila and Fer's wedding. Perfect weather, early fall: 28 degrees, completely clear sky. It hadn't rained in weeks. The ceremony was beautiful — the entrance had a choir and an orchestra. I headed to the venue early to photograph the setup before the guests arrived: incredible flowers, a garden, a dance floor with lights. Everything was exactly as it should be. With 20 minutes to go before the couple arrived, I noticed a cloud on the horizon. Just one. I said something. Nobody paid much attention.

Ten minutes of rain. That's all it took. Flowers knocked over, chairs soaked, tablecloths drenched, the audio system flooded. When Laila and Fer arrived, they found the coordinators dragging everything into a storage room with no décor and barely enough light. The bride cried. The groom didn't know where to look.

And right then, something happened that I never could have planned.

Family members rolled up their sleeves and started moving tables, drying chairs, salvaging what they could. The cocktail musicians didn't stop — they kept playing while everyone worked around them. At one point I saw the bride's grandmother cleaning a chair with a towel — the chair her granddaughter was going to sit in. Nobody asked her to. She didn't even know it was that chair.

Those were the best moments of the day. When there was no perfect décor left to maintain, no glamour to keep up, everyone just celebrated however they could. The first dance that night had something in it that can't be faked.

It's not just about doing something. It's about being there, in the right place, at the right moment.

I'm not telling this story to say that unexpected things don't matter. They do. I'm telling it because often what ends up in the photos isn't what you planned — it's how you responded when the plans fell apart.

06/ HOW TO COMPARE

WITHOUT GETTING LOST IN THE PRICES

Comparing photographers is confusing because prices vary a lot and it's not always easy to understand why. There are things worth asking any photographer you're considering.

I'm not saying this to call anyone out. I'm saying it because there are questions that make the difference between knowing who you're dealing with and running into surprises on a day when there's nothing you can do

Questions worth asking:

- / What exactly is included in the delivery? How many photos, in what format, and how soon?
- / What's your process before the wedding? Do we have a meeting or call to talk through the day?
- / Have you photographed weddings at this venue or in this type of location?
- / What happens if something unexpected comes up — weather, a delay, a change of plan — on the day?
- / Can I see the complete work from a wedding, not just the photos selected for your portfolio?

A photographer who has done this enough times answers these questions calmly and in detail. Not because they have a script prepared, but because they've already thought through all of it.





07/
GAME
CHANGERS

There are factors entirely in your hands that make a real difference. I'm not bringing them up to put pressure on you — I'm bringing them up because nobody else is going to tell you with enough time to actually do something about it.

*/ The energy you bring on the day.
I've had weddings in very simple locations that produced incredible photos, and weddings in spectacular places where the photos felt forced. The difference almost always comes down to how the couple was that day. If you can arrive rested, without loose ends you're still trying to tie up at the last minute, it shows.*

*/ Having someone help gather family for formal photos.
This is one of the moments that eats up the most time unnecessarily. If there's a designated person to "go get the uncle" or "let the grandparents know," you can save 20 or 30 minutes that are worth a lot in terms of light and energy.*

*/ Listening to suggestions in the moment they're given.

It's not that the photographer is always right. It's that they're seeing something you can't see from where you're standing. If they suggest an angle, a position, or waiting just a second before moving, there's usually a visual reason behind it.*

*/ Giving a heads-up when something changes.

Last-minute changes aren't the end of the world, but they do affect the plan. A location change, an added session, a ceremony that runs half an hour late — anything you can communicate ahead of time helps adjust without improvising.*



IF YOU MADE IT THIS FAR

You're probably at the stage where you already know what you want for your wedding and you're figuring out who to do it with. That's exactly the moment this guide makes the most sense.

What matters most to me isn't that you hire me. It's that whatever decision you make, you make it with enough information that you won't regret it later.

If you'd like to talk — no commitment, no forms — you can reach out to me directly. I like getting to know couples before we talk packages or prices, because I think that's how we both figure out if working together actually makes sense.