



**WEDDINGS**  
**VIVIAN CHEN**

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# A dream wedding tied in knots of red tape

**Couple who married on Swedish isle nearly didn't make it to the church on time after a legal hitch**

You might think an overseas wedding with just the two of you would be easier to pull off than a banquet with 500 guests to entertain, but the idea almost cost Alan Lee and Chrissie Ng their big day. Despite their setbacks, the couple enjoyed a fairy-tale wedding and even made the front page of a Swedish newspaper.

Alan, 32, a graphic designer, and Chrissie, 30, a marketing executive, were married on September 13 on the Swedish island of Gotland.

The bride wore a white mini wedding gown created by a Swedish independent designer, paired with a feather fascinator made by Alan.

They exchanged vows in the

historic St Katrina Church. Alan serenaded Chrissie during the ceremony with a song he wrote especially for her.

"It was really beautiful. The fact that we'd never been, except to get married, made the Baltic island even more special," Alan said.

The couple's story made it to the front page of the local newspaper *Gotlands Allehanda*, as they were reportedly the first Hong Kong couple to be married there.

The two met almost eight years ago when they were working for an advertising agency. Both of them later left the company, but they stayed in touch.

In 2007, they decided to travel to Beijing. "I wanted to ... see the Great Wall, and she wanted a getaway. So we decided to travel together," Alan said. "During the trip, we realised that we really clicked."

The pair started dating after returning from the trip and moved in together. "It's great. We don't play games and stuff. Our personalities are really compatible. We've never had a fight since we started dating eight years ago," Alan said.

Earlier this year, they started planning their marriage.

"I proposed that we should go travelling in Europe and maybe get married while we were there," he said. "And she said 'yes'. There was no kneeling down and all that fluff."

They started looking for a perfect destination to get married and became interested in the scenic Swedish isle after Chrissie read about it on a wedding blog. They soon made their decision and booked a wedding planner, flights, accommodation and a



Alan Lee and Chrissie Ng married on September 13 on the Swedish island of Gotland. The bride wore a white mini wedding gown. Photos: Ian Johnson

photographer for their big day, without looking into the legalities.

Two months before they were due to be wed, the wedding planner contacted them for their paperwork. "We then realised that the paperwork required by the Swedish government wasn't available in Hong Kong," Alan said.

So they enlisted the help of lawyers, but it took until two weeks before their big day to receive permission to be married in Sweden. "The whole processing of the paperwork was really upsetting. Chrissie got so sensitive before the wedding and obviously the setbacks didn't help," Alan said. "She even said that if this wedding didn't work out, she wouldn't want a wedding."

The experience was, nevertheless, memorable. "I still remember the day we received the e-mail saying that we could finally get married. For 10 minutes, we just hugged, tears in our eyes," Alan said.

He said he'd never forget the wedding for the rest of his life. "The reason why I wanted to do it was because I believe marriage is about just the two of us. I wanted to make it as special as possible."



**The fact that we'd never been [before] ... made the Baltic island even more special**

ALAN LEE, GROOM



The wedding was splashed across the front page of a local newspaper.

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