

THE CEREMONY: "My favorite part was the vows. Cory is a man of few words and was really nervous about writing his vows, but he did the best job," Caroline says. Cory acknowledges that writing his vows was stressful: "She's an incredible writer and wordsmith, and I knew I couldn't compete with that." But in the end, their sentiments overlapped. "She said she'd always be my cheerleader and I burst out laughing because I had the exact same line in my vows," Cory says. "It was so coincidental and fitting for us."

A SENSE OF HUMOR: "We are a very silly couple, always try to laugh, play pranks on each other, joke around, so we tried to infuse that into our wedding," Caroline says. They knew that Gary Rutter, Caroline's godfather, was the right choice to be their officiant when he showed up at the rehearsal dinner wearing an over-the-top pope outfit and a hat like Moira Rose's from the *Schitt's Creek* sitcom. He added just the right amount of humor to the ceremony, including a joke about Cory and Caroline getting married on their third wedding date. In a nod to the couple's shared love of *The Office*, Caroline walked down the aisle to an orchestral version of the theme song from the popular television show.

THE CAKE: The Passion Bakery Cafe in Sandy Spring designed their cake, which included a custom topper—a scuba diver and a mermaid—that picked up on the couple's wedding logo. The cake also featured an edible golden retriever that looked like their dog, Waffles.

THE FIRST DANCE: Cory and Caroline took dance les-



sons at Arthur Murray Dance Center in Gaithersburg and did a choreographed first dance to "Cheerleader" by Omi. Midway through one of many twirls, the unseasonably hot day and heavy ball gown caught up with Caroline, who recalls thinking: "This is not good." Feeling queasy, she ran from the dance floor and Cory followed. She got

sick, but quickly recovered to enjoy the rest of the evening. "Luckily, the bridal party started dancing on the dance floor like nothing even happened. It turned out to be totally inconspicuous," Cory says.

GOOD TIMING: The couple felt lucky to have their wedding in the "golden time" when

most people were eligible for vaccinations, and before the delta variant, Cory says. "It was definitely worth the wait. It hit all our expectations," Caroline says. "One thing that COVID has taught us is that togetherness and being with friends and family is a gift. ... It really made everything sweeter and made us a lot more appreciative."

THE HONEYMOON: The newlyweds spent 10 days at the Cooabay Resort on the island of Antigua, where they had a private villa and their own pool. They went snorkeling and discovered the fun of handheld sea scooters to propel them underwater.

VENDORS: Cake, The Passion Bakery Cafe; catering, The Chef's Table; decor and florist, Electric Events DC; dress, Curvaceous Couture; event planners, Christine Ash, Danielle Fisher and Linor Shemesh of Save the Date LLC Events; hair, Nancy Kongsomboon; makeup, Sweet Virginia's Beauty + Salon; music, Round Midnight (Entertainment Exchange); photographer, Jana Scott; transportation, Coughlin Transportation; limos, The Black Taxi; videographer, Washington Talent Agency. ■

PHOTOS BY JANA SCOTT