

# SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

*Dickie Morris combines both  
in her custom-made bags.*

• BY KELSEY LESSICK •

**F**OR MONTHS, A 104-YEAR-old wedding dress hung in Dickie Morris' Charlottesville sewing studio before she could muster up enough courage to cut it, says the 29-year-old entrepreneur and owner of Just a Little Ditty—the custom bag company she started in 2008 that repurposes vintage or special fabric into her signature Ditty Bags.

"I was a little nervous—you're cutting fabric with a lot of history," confesses the ebullient UVA grad and

Charlottesville native whose business includes wedding and event planning. Morris finally did find the courage to work her magic on the intricately

embroidered fabric, and the result was two Ditty Bags—mementos for the bride and her mother—and a *chuppah*, which covered the couple as they said their vows.

"One of my favorite parts of my job is making new memories out of old ones and letting the old ones live again" says Morris. Taught to sew by

her mother, Morris combines bits of fabric—new or vintage—to create the one-of-a-kind bags that have found a following not just among brides and their families, but also others looking for a way to reuse and preserve fabric that holds special meaning. A wedding dress, a tie, even an old pair of jeans are all transformed in Morris' hands into living keepsakes.

For Morris, "Everything is in the details. It is the details that make things special." She has extended this attention to the small things in life in another business, Stonegate Event Rentals, which she started with her brother Ben (they are two of a set of triplets), that provides specialty event décor like steamer trunks, vintage frames and furniture for event planners, designers and photographers.

Now, after making hundreds of bags and expanding her business by diversifying, Peterson's combination of creative energy and a nose for finding a niche in an otherwise crowded industry seems to have her poised for growth and even greater success. But that isn't everything to the vivacious bioethics major who once was on track to become a doctor like her father.

"My goal," she says, "is to live a happy, meaningful life." [JustALittleDitty.com](http://JustALittleDitty.com)



*Finishing touches*



FIREWORKS PHOTO BY BENJAMIN WALLS

## GRAND EXITS

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Warsaw

Go out with a bang! Weddings at the bucolic Mount Airy Plantation end in a blaze of fireworks worthy of this fairytale location.

[MountAiryPlantation.com](http://MountAiryPlantation.com)

### Windsong White Dove Releases

Linden

Release a pair of lovebirds—a symbol of peace and prosperity—as you bid adieu to your guests.

[WindsongWhiteDoves.com](http://WindsongWhiteDoves.com)

### Hot Air Balloon at Keswick Hall

Charlottesville

Hop in the basket and wave to your guests as you float up, up and away ... then enjoy the view from on high!

[Keswick.com](http://Keswick.com)

### The Shenandoah Carriage Company

Purcellville

Complete the dream wedding with an exit in this elegant all-white carriage driven by liveried coachmen.

[ShenandoahCarriage.com](http://ShenandoahCarriage.com)



### Virginia Beach Helicopter Charters

Virginia Beach

Guests will have to hold on to their hats as you fly off into the sunset with blades whirring.

[VirginiaBeachHelicopterCharters.com](http://VirginiaBeachHelicopterCharters.com)