

Ceremony Script - Final

August 3, 2019

#marrytinez

Processional

Song: "Xo" by John Mayer

1. Dillon, Ramon & Debbi
2. Peter/Alec & Debbie
3. Danny & Shannon
4. Robbie & Paige
5. Jeff & Bailey
6. Chris & Alyx
7. Ramon & Amber
8. DJ & Melissa
9. Collin & Annabel
10. Kiara

Song: "Here Comes the Sun" by Nina Simone

★ **John & Amanda** ★

Ceremony

Richard

- Hello! Welcome and thank you for joining us. Amanda and Dillon, I'd like to start by thanking you for the opportunity to officiate your special day. I'm so excited to be here! When you first asked me to be your officiant, I was a little surprised because I've never done one of these before. You obviously have a lot of blind trust in me! That's a pattern you will notice throughout this ceremony - Dillon and Amanda are not afraid to veer from the traditional or expected path, as long as it's something meaningful and unique to their journey. They have made sure today will be made up of the places, things, words and people that mean the most to them.
- Just a quick announcement, the bride and groom request that you please silence and set down your cell phones during the ceremony and just be present with them in this moment. They have a very talented professional photographer here today and promise that he will share with you all!

- While I may not have a lot of experience in officiating weddings, I do have first-hand experience in marrying into the Martinez family! For those of you who don't know me, I'm RJ's husband and Dillon and (soon to be Amanda's) brother-in-law. The day I joined this family was one of the happiest days of my life, so it is my honor to officially join the two of you today.
- Alright now, it's a hot day in August, we're in a greenhouse and Amanda and Dillon have already waited a decade to get married, so what do you say we get started?
- Kicking us off with a reading is the mother of our maid of honor, who Amanda likes to call her "2nd mom," Shirley Marano.

Shirley

Poem: *Love is Friendship Caught Fire*- Laura Hendricks

Love is friendship caught fire;
 it is quiet, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.
 It is loyalty through good and bad times.
 It settles for less than perfection, and makes allowances for human weaknesses.
 Love is content with the present, hopes for the future,
 and does not brood over the past.
 It is the day-in and day-out chronicles of irritations, problems, compromises,
 small disappointments, big victories, and working toward common goals.
 If you have love in your life, it can make up for a great many things you lack.
 If you do not have it, no matter what else there is, it is not enough.

Richard

Thank you, Shirley. I think those words are especially fitting for Amanda and Dillon as they have spent so long getting to know each other before taking this next step. The two of them are truly each other's best friend and that is the best foundation that a marriage can start on. I would now like to invite Kiara and Dru to come forward and lead us in a flower ceremony.

Kiara: (*While Dru drops flowers in a circle around Dillon and Amanda*) Today, with both sides of family and friends present, we acknowledge these two separate circles being united into one. Gathered in this room are people you can turn to in times of need and who will share your happiest moments together. This is your circle.

Dru: (*While Kiara drops flowers in a circle around Dillon and Amanda*) Just like Amanda and Dillon's relationship together, a flower starts small and grows throughout time. It is born of a plant with roots that remind us of the families who raised Amanda and Dillon to become the one person in the world each holds most dear.

Richard

Thank you, ladies. As the girls mentioned, family and friends are a huge part of Dillon and Amanda's life together. They are lucky to have examples of strong love all around them. Each of their parents have been married for over 30 years, and they have both new and mature marriages to look toward as they begin this journey together.

Next, we welcome Dillon's grandparents, Kathy and Jim, to drop some wisdom on making marriage last. Following them will be longtime friends and newlyweds, Jeff and Emily, with tips on making the best out of the first year of marriage.

Kathy and Jim

Making Marriage Last

Jeff and Emily

First Year of Marriage

Richard

Thanks, everyone. As I mentioned earlier, Amanda and Dillon wanted to shake things up today (literally). They will symbolize the blending of their lives together the best way they know how, by uniting the ingredients of a cocktail. After all, it's not officially a celebration until someone says cheers, right? Amanda's Aunt, Teri, will be our mixologist today.

Teri

Dillon and Amanda haven't chosen to name the cocktail we are making today: "The Punch Line". As you all know, the punchline is the ending of a joke that ties everything together. Today, Amanda and Dillon close this first chapter of their relationship, while simultaneously embarking on a new journey together. Just like a punchline, this is where their story falls into place and everything that has happened before today suddenly makes perfect sense. Not to mention, it's a nod to the line you will all be standing in to get this punch, which will be used as their signature cocktail this evening. Dillon and Amanda chose a punch as their cocktail because of the history that it represents. Punch was developed in the 1500s by villages of people who all gathered and brought whatever they had to the table, mixing it together to create something tasting better combined than as separate parts. In cocktail culture, a punch should technically be composed of 5 different elements, which we will use to illustrate Amanda and Dillon's future together.

(pour bitters into the cocktail shaker)

The first ingredient is Jamaican Inspired Bitters, composed of Banana, Thyme and Ginger which have been infusing for weeks. Over time, these very distinct elements mesh into one big flavor that will be the star of our cocktail. This is representative of Dillon and Amanda's very different personalities and strengths... these two are the definition of opposites attract. But over time, they have learned to accept and utilize these differences to make themselves a great team.

(pour syrup into the cocktail shaker)

The next ingredient is our Cinnamon Agave Syrup. The spice of the cinnamon paired with the sweetness of the agave nectar symbolizes the peaks and valleys that will happen throughout your relationship. Navigating how to come back together during those highs and lows is important in keeping your marriage strong.

(pour whiskey into cocktail shaker)

Now we add the whiskey, which represents everyone here sharing this special day. Whiskey is the base of so many cocktails, just as family & friends are the foundation that Amanda & Dillon's relationship is built on. Your love and support is critical to their happiness and has played a huge part in getting them here today.

(pour amaro into cocktail shaker)

Next is the amaro, a bittersweet Italian liqueur. Unlike tequila, bourbon, or wine where production is governed by rules and even laws, an amaro producer can really infuse whichever herbs, barks, and spices they choose. This illustrates the individuality within your marriage. While the two of you are coming together today as one, you are still two unique beings and should continue to explore your own separate interests and goals, encouraging each other along the way.

(pour pineapple juice into cocktail shaker)

The final touch is the pineapple juice. Pineapple has a vibrant flavor and quirky aesthetic. This is symbolic of the fun the two of you have together and should continue to embrace. Never taking life too seriously will force you to always remember one another as the young, eager and bright partners you are today.

(Amanda stirs drink, passes to Dillon to strain and pour)

By combining Jamaican Bitters, Cinnamon Agave Syrup, Whiskey, Amaro and Pineapple Juice, Amanda and Dillon have created this delicious cocktail – The Punch Line. This combination can never be separated into its original ingredients, just as Amanda & Dillon are agreeing to a lifelong commitment today.

(strain into glasses)

Please raise your glasses.– To Dillon and Amanda, to friends and family, and to finding an excuse to sip a cocktail mid-wedding ceremony... Cheers!!!

Next, we will hear a song performed by Robbie Clum and Kayla Gauthier.

Robbie and Kayla

Song: "Say You Won't Let Go" - James Arthur

Richard

Thanks guys, that was great. Amanda and Dillon have chosen to write their own vows which they will read for the first time today. However, they have decided to read each other's vows

instead of their own. Reading each other's words shows us that over the past decade, the two of them have come to know one another better than they know themselves.

Vows

Richard: Hands Ceremony

Dillon and Amanda, please join hands.

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Richard: And now, if our best man could present the rings. *hands over rings*

Dillon, please repeat after me:

"I give you this ring to wear with love and joy. As a ring has no end, neither shall my love for you. I choose you to be my wife today and each day forward."

Amanda, if you'll repeat after me. "I give you this ring to wear with love and joy. As a ring has no end, neither shall my love for you. I choose you to be my husband today and each day forward.

Closing (Richard): And with that, I proudly present to you for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. Martinez! Dillon, you may kiss your bride."

Recessional

Song: "Love on Top" by Beyonce

Richard: Thank you again for being here today! Dillon and Amanda invite you to head out the door to your left and make your way to the entrance on the opposite end of the greenhouse for a cocktail hour followed by the reception.

We ask that you please exit the greenhouse and walk around the building rather than walk through the center in order to clear a path for staff to set up for dinner.

Now let's have some fun- don't forget to try out Amanda and Dillon's signature cocktail tonight!