



The Wedding of Lauren and Mason ~ May 29, 2021

Today, Lauren and Mason, stand before you all, excited to begin the next chapters of their lives together, as husband and wife.

This transition as a couple, not only honors the love between them, but it also recognizes everything they've received from all of you.

Growing up in a family of six, with many aunts, uncles and cousins, Mason remembers that every weekend was a family reunion. The roots of this family run deep and strong. It's a community that raised this kind gentleman to have a good heart with steadfast loyalty.

Lauren's family, while smaller in numbers, was big on extending the welcome to all. She remembers her mom's Christmas Eves, where the house was packed and all were always welcome. As Lauren looks forward to creating new traditions in their home, there's no doubt that her caring and welcoming nature comes from those early celebrations she experienced as a kid.

All these memories helped shape Lauren and Mason into the people they are today. So we thank you all, both family and friends, for everything you have done over the years to guide and support them. This day would not be complete without you in it.

Thank you all for this gift and your presence. In this moment, let us pause to remember those who cannot be physically present, especially Mason's Aunts; Judy and Kathy and Lauren's Mom, Janice — three beautiful and strong women with a lasting impact on their lives. Without a doubt they are with you in this moment and always. May we remember that the missing are never truly gone, as long as we hold their memory in our hearts.

As Lauren and Mason begin their own branch on this family tree, let's take a moment to go back and remember how it all began.

It's often said that the best things in life come to us when we least expect it and perhaps in the most unlikely of ways. Almost 4 years ago, Lauren was simply looking for someone to help sort out and organize her home. What she got was the help from a professional feng shui decluttering expert who would turn out to be, not only a matchmaker, but her soon-to-be mother-in-law.

Finding someone to love can be a lot like cleaning an old house; it feels daunting and you don't know where to start. If any of you know Joan, she always has a way to keep it simple. As she worked with Lauren and got to know her better, she offered one day: "I don't usually do this, but I wonder if you'd be interested in meeting my son, Mason. You both have dogs, you both like going to Two Roads brewery and you both have the same slippers."

Just three little things — a good place to start.

Lauren thought, "why not?!" and with an open mind, a date was set to meet Mason, just a few weeks before Christmas.

Mason remembers that afternoon, at Two Roads, as the day he first saw this pretty girl with the beautiful smile and nice eyes. She was animated and talked a lot with her hands but Mason liked her and right away there was a spark.

Lauren enjoyed being with Mason as well and they spent the time talking about dogs, family, traveling and everything in between.

After that day, they went on a few great dates but then, as it tends to do, life took them in different directions for a time.

It wasn't until the following fall when they reconnected. Everywhere she went Lauren seemed to be constantly running into Mason. Each time, he would make it known that he was still interested. Lauren, impressed by his persistence, decided to give him a chance. There was something different about him in the all the best ways and she knew she needed to get to know him better to find out.

Joining Mason for his Friends-giving dinner that November made it official. Lauren was "his lady" and he was proud to have her by his side. From that day forward, they spent as much time together as they could, moving slowly and kindly to build the strong foundation their relationship has now.



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In a big moment, the first meeting of their dogs, Cosmo and Gus, something new happened - they created their own pack!

As I listened to Mason and Lauren's story, on a sunny afternoon, surrounded by the dogs, one word constantly came to mind: loyalty. In any relationship, of course love is important - but, the promise of loyalty, faithfulness, unwavering devotion - that is not always easy.

From their spots on the couch, where Cosmo and Gus peacefully snored, loyalty is not a word for dogs, but a way of life.

For Lauren and Mason it is the same way. What makes them work is their acceptance that life will have ups and downs, but sharing it with someone you love, who will always have your back — that's what makes it perfect.

How Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog - A Poem by Taylor Mali

First of all, it's a big responsibility.

So think long and hard before deciding on love.

On the other hand, love gives you a sense of security.

When you have a leash on love, 'ain't no one going to mess with you.

On cold winter nights, love is warm.

It lies between you and lives and breathes and makes funny noises.

Love wakes you up all hours of the night with its needs.

It needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy.

Love doesn't like being left alone for long.

But come home and love is always happy to see you.

It may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life, but you can never be mad at love for long.

Love leaves you little surprises here and there.

Love makes messes. But then love gives you big kisses. And you laugh at the little things it does.

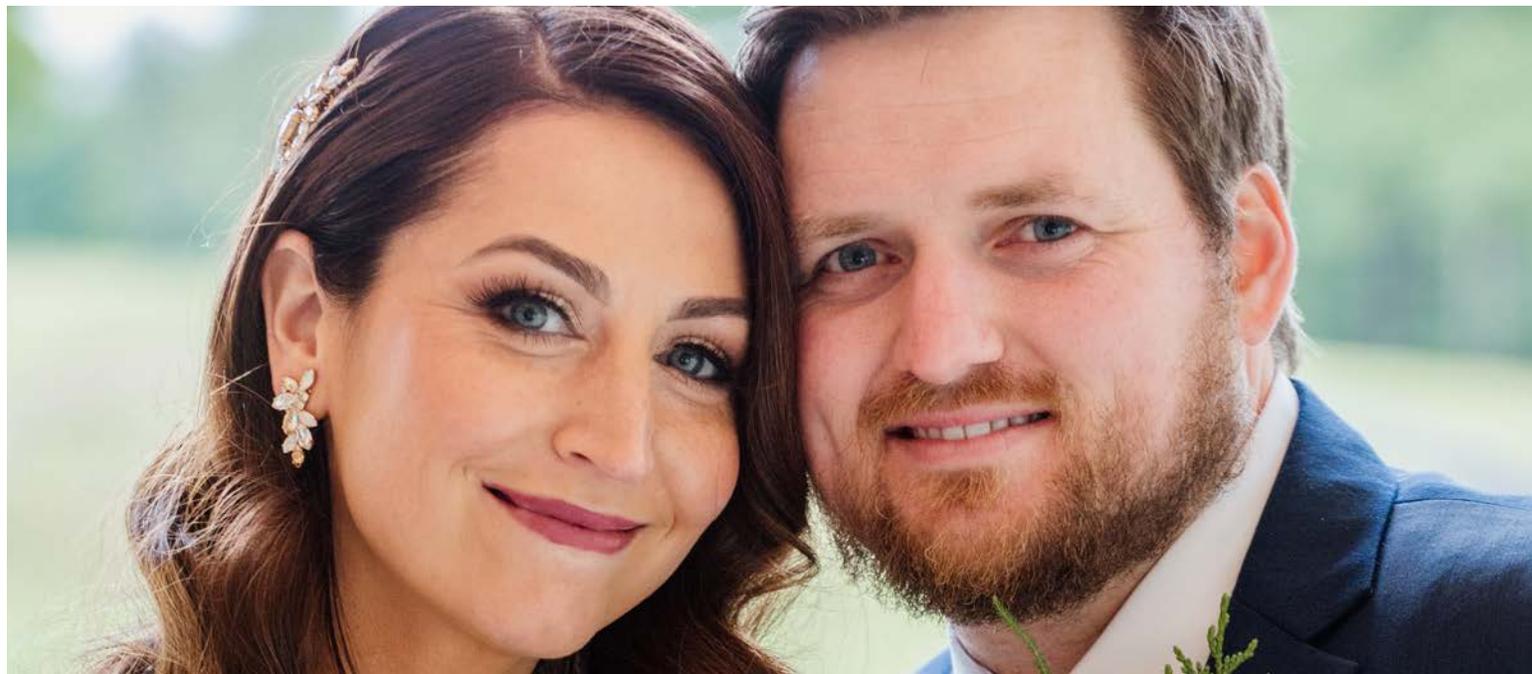
Sometimes love just wants to play. Running you around the block, pulling you in several different directions at once, or it winds around and around you until you're all wound up and can't move.

And love brings people together. People who have nothing in common but love, stop and talk and greet each other on the street.

Throw things away and love will bring them back, again, and again, and again.

But most of all, love needs love.

And in return, love loves you and loves you and never stops.



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HANDBASTING CEREMONY

As a final symbol of their vows and commitment to each other, Lauren and Mason will now take part in the ancient Celtic ritual of hand fasting.

This Hand Fasting cord is woven from three separate ribbons, done so with a very special purpose. They represent your families and the new journey you are about to embark on together.

Law Family and Costello Family, you will always be part of their past but you are also a very important part of their future.

They have chosen these colors; Ivory for this fresh new beginning, blue for their unity and the longevity of it, and green for good health throughout their years.

Lauren and Mason, these are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you.

Throughout the years, these hands will work alongside yours, as you build your future and family.

These hands will cook with you, work on numerous home improvement projects with you and share a high five when the job is done.

These hands will reach for yours as you take the dogs for a walk and grab hold of your children, keeping them safe as you cross the street.

These are the hands that will clap for you in celebration when you succeed and hug you tight for any reason at all.

These are the hands that will comfort you when fear, grief or doubt fills your mind. They will give you strength when you need it.

They will wipe away your tears and remind you "Everything is fine. I am with you and we are good."

And lastly, when these hands are wrinkled with age, they will still reach for yours, giving you that same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

With the tying of this knot, you make it even stronger than before. After today, display it prominently in your home, reminding you of this moment and the vows you've made to each other.

Please tie your knot now!