

*Robyn Ashley Weddings*

NYC WEDDING OFFICIANT

THE OFFICIANT'S CUT

# The Lasso Ceremony.

*El lazo, the way it is meant to be done: who the padrinos are, the words for the placement, the order of the figure eight, and the swap when the family lives in two faiths.*

AS SEEN IN

*Tamron Hall · Brides · The Knot*

FROM ROBYN'S DESK

# The ritual that *holds the family in it.*

The first lazo I performed, the bride's grandmother was crying before we began. She had been married with a lazo fifty-two years before, in Puebla, and never expected to stand under one again.

That is what this ritual carries. When the padrinos drape the lazo, they are not only marking a bond. They are joining a couple to a line of marriages that came before, with the people who made those marriages standing right there.

So this is el lazo with the meaning kept whole and the staging made simple. The spoken words are set in large type so whoever reads can do it at arm's length. In the margins are the cues I have learned over 300+ ceremonies.

Read it once aloud in your own voice, and ask your family what the lazo meant in their wedding. The story they tell back belongs in the ritual.

## *Robyn*

ROBYN ASHLEY WEDDINGS · BROOKLYN ·  
NYC



# What you'll *actually need.*

***The lazo itself.*** A long beaded rosary with a crucifix at the center is the most traditional, though a satin cord or a floral garland is just as honored. It needs to be long enough to loop in a figure eight over two sets of shoulders with room to settle.

***The padrinos de lazo.*** A sponsor couple the two of you choose, traditionally a married couple held up as an example. They place the lazo and, often, give it as their gift. Ask them well before the day.

***A clear place to stand, and a reader.*** The couple stands or kneels close together so the lazo can reach both. Pick a reader for the words so the padrinos can use both hands for the placement.

---

## ROBYN'S NOTE

Lay the lazo out flat the night before and find its real center. A rosary lazo has a heavy crucifix that wants to sit *between* the couple, not on one shoulder. Knowing where center falls saves the fumble at the altar.

# Brief the padrinos *first.*

## DO NOT SKIP THIS

*The padrinos are placing a long loop over two people in front of a watching room. Untold which shoulder comes first, they freeze, the loop tangles, and a tender moment turns into a knot nobody can solve at the altar.*

Walk the padrinos through it once before the day. Groom's shoulders first, then the bride's, so the cord crosses into a clean figure eight between them.

Show them how to lift it clear of a veil or a boutonniere, and where to set it down at the end. Two minutes of rehearsal is the whole difference.

---

## ROBYN'S NOTE

If the padrinos are elders who have done this before, let them lead and follow their order. The tradition lives in their hands. My job, and yours, is to give them room and stay out of the way.

# Place it *after the vows.*

***Where it goes.*** The lazo comes after the vows and rings. In a Catholic Mass it sits in the Nuptial Blessing, after the Our Father, and the couple wears it until the Mass ends. Outside a Mass, place it right after the rings, before the pronouncement.

***Who delivers it.*** The priest or officiant reads the words while the padrinos place the cord. If the couple kneels, the words carry over their heads to the room.

— *[Officiant, step to the side so guests can see the padrinos work. The placement is the picture, not your face.]*

---

## ROBYN'S NOTE

El lazo rarely travels alone. It often comes with las arras, the coins. Ask the family early whether both belong, so the order is set before anyone is at the front.

# A sign of *one bond*.

— *[Officiant, address the room. The couple is together at the front, vows and rings already done.]*

**[PARTNER 1]** and **[PARTNER 2]**, having joined yourselves in marriage, will now be united by el lazo.

— *[The padrinos come forward with the lazo.]*

**[PADRINO NAMES]** will place the lazo, a sign that these two are now bound together as one.

---

## ROBYN'S NOTE

Name the padrinos out loud. Half the room came to see those two specific people give this gift. Saying their names is a small honor that the family remembers.

# The figure *eight*.

— *[The padrinos drape the lazo over the groom's shoulders first, then the bride's, forming a figure eight with the center resting between them.]*

This cord forms an infinity, with no beginning and no end.

Let it remind you, and everyone who loves you, that your lives are now a single, unbroken circle.

---

## ROBYN'S NOTE

Hold this line until the lazo has actually settled on both sets of shoulders. Read it too early and you are talking over a fumble. Wait for the cord to rest, then speak.

# While they *wear it.*

— *[The couple remains under the lazo through the blessing. In a Mass, this is where the Nuptial Blessing is read.]*

May your union be as strong and as endless as the bond now resting on your shoulders.

May the love that joins you today carry the strength of the marriages that came before you, and bless the years still to come.

---

## ROBYN'S NOTE

This is a long stillness, and that is the point. The couple is held in one loop while the room watches. Resist the urge to fill the quiet. The image is already doing the work.

# Lifting it *away*.

— *[At the end of the blessing, or the end of the Mass, the same padrinos or the priest lift the lazo away, bride's shoulders first, then the groom's.]*

The lazo is lifted, and the bond it marked stays.

What this cord showed for a moment, your marriage will carry for a lifetime: two lives joined into one unbroken circle.

---

## ROBYN'S NOTE

The lazo is usually kept. Many couples frame it or pass it on. Tell the padrinos to coil it gently and hand it to someone who will keep it safe, not leave it on a chair.

# If the family lives *in two worlds*.

*If you are honoring heritage, not faith.* Keep the lazo and swap a rosary for a plain satin cord or a floral garland, then name the figure eight as the meaning. The symbol carries without the crucifix.

*If two faiths share the day.* Let the padrinos place the cord and have a reader from each side speak a line of the blessing. The lazo becomes the place where both families meet.

*If las arras belongs too.* Place the coins just before the lazo, so the room moves from shared prosperity into the binding. Ask the grandparents which order their wedding used.

---

## ROBYN'S NOTE

If you are drawn to the lazo from outside the tradition, learn what it means and say that meaning aloud in the ceremony. Honored on purpose, it belongs. Used as decor, the room can tell.

## If it goes *sideways*.

*If the lazo tangles going on.* Pause and let the padrinos work it free. Say, "Take your time, this knot is worth getting right," and the room reads it as care.

*If it catches a veil or a button.* Stop, free it gently, and keep going. A snagged cord is a story the couple will tell for years, so let it be light.

*If the padrinos start the wrong order.* A quiet hand on the shoulder and the word "groom first" sets it straight. Say it low, not to the room.

---

### ROBYN'S NOTE

The difference between a first-timer and a pro is not that the pro never fumbles. It is that the pro has a warm line ready, says it, and keeps the ritual moving.

# Three things *before they place the lazo.*

*This is one ritual, marked the way I would mark my own. Treat it as a working draft and it starts sounding like you.*

---

## *i* Choose the padrinos early and ask the family what the lazo meant to them.

Pick the sponsor couple weeks out, not days. The story a grandparent tells about their own lazo is the line that belongs in your blessing.

---

## *ii* Find the center and rehearse the order once.

Lay the lazo flat, mark its true center, and walk the padrinos through groom's shoulders first, then the bride's, so the figure eight falls clean at the altar.

---

## *iii* Read it aloud once, and fill every bracket a week out.

Whoever is reading runs it start to finish in their own voice. Fill each [BRACKET] in advance, print a clean copy on cardstock, and confirm the order with the priest if it is a Mass.

*"We knew we wanted the lazo, but we had no idea how to fit it around the vows and the readings without it feeling stuck in. The kit had the whole arc already. We dropped our family's words in and it sounded like us."*

ELENA & MARCUS · MARRIED IN QUEENS, 2025

IF THIS RITUAL IS DOING ITS JOB

## The whole ceremony, *not just the lazo.*

The lasso is one ritual. A ceremony is the architecture around it: the processional, the welcome, the vows, las arras, the lazo, the pronouncement, all timed so the placement falls at the right beat instead of feeling bolted on. The Couple's Ceremony Kit is the full word-for-word framework I use, with scripts for el lazo and every other unity ritual, written so you can drop your own words in.

# \$79

Open the Couple's Ceremony Kit →

ONE-TIME PAYMENT · LIFETIME ACCESS · 48-HOUR MONEY-BACK

# Where this *came from*.

## PULLED FROM

The lazo ceremonies I have folded into NYC and Hudson Valley weddings, with the staging notes I now give every couple and every set of padrinos. The structure is field-tested over *more than 300 ceremonies*.

## WHAT IS IN THE KIT

The full word-for-word ceremony framework, with scripts for el lazo, las arras, and every other unity ritual, written so you can drop your own words in. All of it in *the Couple's Ceremony Kit*.

## USE THIS FREELY

Print it, mark it up, hand a copy to the padrinos and whoever is reading, run it at the rehearsal.

## IF YOU DO ONE

Email me. I read every one.  
*hello@robynashleyweddings.com*.

*Marked from a working ritual, with the staging notes and cues I use at the front of the aisle.*

*About this ritual, and the families who have stood under it.*