

## AMES — ALVARADO

**M**y husband Herminio and I met the summer I was going into my senior year of high school; he was a freshman in college at the time. It was summertime when we met at Dutch Bros Coffee. He worked there as a barista and I was a weekly customer. My mom would always try to set us up and get us to talk through the drive-through window (humiliating for a teenage girl). She knew I always had a little crush on the cute guy at Dutch Bros. Little did I know that it would turn into a full-fledged relationship. Four years later we got married on Aug. 26, 2017.

My favorite wedding memory would be our first look. For starters, the day was nothing but wedding jitters, times 10. The entire morning, I was surrounded by my bridesmaids so I didn't spend a lot of time thinking about what our first look would be like. Needless to say: I was a wreck, with that feeling you get when you're so nervous you don't know if you should go for a run or throw up. Being together for four years, you would think I'd be okay, but no, this was different. I was going to remember this day forever, I couldn't wait to see him in his suit. If you've ever been a bride before you know what it's like to have your day be one big blur of crazy emotions. Our first look was anything but a blur. There was endless smiling, nonstop staring, and even a few tears from the groom. Our wedding venue had a flower tunnel with twinkle lights. Herminio was standing at the very end of it waiting for me to tap his shoulder. Walking up to him, probably 10 steps max, felt like an eternity. Once we finally got to see each other for the first time on our wedding day, I knew from that very second that every second, every fight, every penny, every single disaster that goes hand in hand with wedding planning was worth it.

On your wedding day it can be really challenging for the bride and groom to have two seconds alone together. Our first look was very intimate with just us, it was nice to escape for a second to have some down time, and take it all in.

— Abigail Ames

## BRAY — CRISCOLA

**M**y husband Blake and I met in March 2013. We met online through meetme.com. Though we met online, we soon figured out that we not only went to school together, but also rode the same bus and lived down the road from each other. We started talking and that same day, we met at the Hermiston movie theater. From that day on, he never left. He moved in the same day we met, and our love has grown nonstop since then. We have been together for five years on March 3. My favorite memory from our wedding is when I got to walk back down the aisle with a new last name and my husband in hand.

— Michaela Criscola



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