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ORDAINED ONLINE

Lead Focused / Comedy / 4 min

Cast 4 Female x2 Male x1 Any x1

Rowan got ordained on a website to marry two best friends. The ceremony script is in a binder, and the binder is in a car that just drove off. With the bride's mother watching from the front row, Rowan has to get this couple married on a blank index card.

CHARACTERS

ROWAN (LEAD) - 30s, any gender, the couple's oldest friend, ordained online, prepared for everything except this.

LENA - 30s, the bride, dry and quick, secretly nervous.

OSCAR - 30s, the groom, tall and cheerful, claps when planes land.

DIANE - 60s, the bride's mother, front row, has opinions.

SETTING

A garden wedding on a warm Saturday afternoon, under a trellis with slightly too many flowers.

A garden. Folding chairs. A trellis with slightly too many flowers. ROWAN stands under it holding a single index card. LENA and OSCAR face each other. DIANE sits in the front row, close enough to touch.

ROWAN

Dearly beloved. We are gathered here today.

(beat)

That's the whole card.

OSCAR

(whispering)

Where's the rest?

ROWAN

The rest is in a binder. The binder's in a car. The car belongs to your cousin, who I'm now told went to get ice.

LENA

We don't need ice.

ROWAN

I said that. He was very committed.

DIANE

(from the front row)

Is there a problem?

ROWAN

No problem, Diane. Just a brief moment of spiritual reflection.

DIANE

It's been forty seconds.

ROWAN

Reflection takes time.

ROWAN turns the card over. It is blank. ROWAN looks at the sky as if for help, then at the couple.

ROWAN

Okay. Okay. I know this. I wrote it. It's in here somewhere.

(clearing throat, big voice)

Lena. Oscar. Love is... a journey.

OSCAR

It's not, though. You said you hated that line.

ROWAN

I do hate that line. I'm stalling. Let me stall.

LENA

Rowan.

ROWAN

I got this. Marriage is a... a partnership. Like a business. But with feelings. And no revenue.

DIANE

Oh, for heaven's sake.

ROWAN

Diane, I love you, you've been like a mother to me, in that you've criticized everything I've done since I was nine.

DIANE

Somebody had to.

ROWAN

And you did. You really did.

ROWAN steps closer to the couple, dropping the card.

ROWAN

Forget the binder. Here's what I actually know. Oscar. When you met Lena you called me at two in the morning and said, and I quote, 'I think I'm in trouble.' And I said, 'Good trouble or bad trouble?' And you said, 'I don't know yet, but she laughed at my worst joke and then explained why it was bad.'

OSCAR

That's true.

LENA

It was a very bad joke.

ROWAN

And Lena. You told me you weren't sure. You said he was too tall and too cheerful and he clapped when the plane landed.

OSCAR

Once.

LENA

Twice.

ROWAN

And then six months later you told me you'd started clapping too.

LENA laughs despite herself. OSCAR reaches for her hand. DIANE dabs at an eye and pretends she isn't.

ROWAN

So. Rings.

OSCAR

(patting pockets)

Yes. Rings.

(patting more)

Rings.

ROWAN

Oscar.

OSCAR

They're in the binder.

ROWAN

Why are the rings in the binder?

OSCAR

It has a pocket!

DIANE

I told him to give them to the best man.

OSCAR

The best man is the cousin.

ROWAN

The ice cousin.

OSCAR

The ice cousin.

ROWAN takes a long breath. Then pulls a ring off their own finger and a hair tie off their wrist.

ROWAN

Lena, this is my grandmother's ring, it's a size too big for you, don't lose it. Oscar, this is a hair tie. It's symbolic. Everything today is symbolic.

LENA

Rowan, you don't have to.

ROWAN

I do. I do have to. Because there's one more thing I gotta confess, and I wanna get to it before the ice comes back.

(beat)

The website I got ordained on. It went down. Last week. I checked this morning and it's just a picture of a cat and the words 'domain for sale.'

DIANE

(standing)

I knew it.

ROWAN

Diane, sit down.

DIANE, astonished, sits.

ROWAN

So here's what's gonna happen. You two are gonna look at each other. You're gonna say the thing. And Tuesday morning you're gonna go down to the courthouse and sign the paper, and I'm gonna drive you, and I'm gonna buy the coffee, and nobody at that office will ever know that this was the real one.

(to the couple, gently)

Because this is the real one. Lena. Do you?

LENA

(softly)

I do.

ROWAN

Oscar.

OSCAR

I do. I really do.

ROWAN

Then by the power vested in me by a website that no longer exists, and by the power of every one of these people who gave up a Saturday, I pronounce you married. Kiss her

before her mother gets up again.

They kiss. Applause. DIANE stands anyway. From the distance, a car horn. The ice has arrived.

END OF SCRIPT