



*Just about 300 Texans and New Yorkers traveled to Nashville to witness the union of Danielle Therese Ciampa and Cade Robert Culver on November 6th, 2010 at the famous Country Music Hall of Fame.*

For all those who believe in love at first sight, you'll like this story. For all those who like to have a free cocktail in hand you'll like this story too, and for all those who believe in 50:1 odds, well you'll like this story even more.

It was rainy and cool that 2nd of May in Louisville, Kentucky – less than ideal conditions for the track, as all you horse racing fans can attest. However, the conditions were just right for romance. Cade Robert Culver, son of Ed and Julie from Canadian, Texas, was based in Nashville and working for Taylor Farms. That day, however, his work required being present at Church Hill Downs for the 135th running of the Kentucky Derby. The 24-year-old was decked out appropriately in a blue and white seersucker suit with a bright pink and lime green tie. When it came time for the main event, he was busy entertaining customers in Section 321-Row J-Box 10, making sure they all had their bets placed and Mint Juleps in hand.

Just one box over, in Section 321-Row J-Box 11, Danielle Therese Ciampa, daughter of Therese and Joseph from Manhasset, New York, was styling in a black and white form-fitting dress with an over-sized Derby hat. The beauty was busy calling her father who suggested the long shot, Mine That Bird, even though the odds were 50:1.

Right before the big race, Cade realized he was the only one without a Mint Julep. So with a shout, he announced to everyone in his box that he was going to get one more drink if anyone needed anything.

"I have an extra drink over here if you want it," a sweet voice answered from the next box. Cade turned around to see Danielle smiling ear to ear. What happens next is where the boat was sunk, concrete was poured, put the pencils away and get out the pens....IT WAS OVER!!!

Thinking that she was pretty darn cute, Cade gladly accepted the

offer, but when he reached for the drink, Danielle said, "If you want this drink, then you need to hop over this rail and get it buddy!"

Such a bold move from such a little lady! Nevertheless, the young buck from Texas hopped right over, took the drink and inquired about her bet. When he learned the New York beauty's money was on the worst horse in the race, Cade suggested a good luck kiss as the only way to assure a win. It was an offer she did not refuse.

Ring, ring, ring... and they were off!! Cade looked at Danielle, folded her brim toward the sky and moved in with his lips puckered. Danielle quickly turned her head, and Cade landed a big ol' smooch on her cheek!

He might have gotten his cocktail, but she won the race. Mine That Bird had the longest margin of victory in more than 60 years and was the longest-odds horse to win the Derby in more than 85 years. It was quite a moment for everyone, but it was just the beginning for this couple of lovebirds!

Cade got Danielle's business card. Danielle answered Cade's email. Cade went to New York. Danielle went to Nashville. Cade proposed to Danielle. That's the condensed version anyway.

Who knew that a short eighteen months after the Derby, the two would be saying "I do"? Apparently Cade and Danielle knew it was coming. As they walked away from the races that day, they both called their respective families and said, "I have met the one I will marry."

Cade Culver, the middle child of three born to Ed and Julie, is undeniably proud of his roots in the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma. For starters, his parents live in Canadian. Ed is a Petroleum Landman and President of Arrington CJM, Inc. Ed and Julie both graduated from The University of Oklahoma. Big Ed played football for Barry



A black and white photograph showing a person's legs from the knees down. They are wearing light-colored, intricately patterned cowboy boots with high shafts. The person is also wearing a skirt with large, ruffled, circular patterns. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor setting with some foliage.

New York  
Marries  
Texas  
in Nashville!



Switzer at OU, and he has been a Hemphill County Commissioner for 16 years. Julie played Women's Basketball at OU, worked for the late Gov. William P. Clements and the late State Representative Dick Waterfield as their District Representative in the Texas Panhandle, and taught elementary school in Canadian for 25 years.

Cade's maternal grandparents are George and Jane Arrington also of Canadian. George has been an independent oil and gas producer for more than 50 years. He runs a cow-calf operation at the Arrington Rocking Chair Ranch SE of Canadian, served as past President of the Panhandle Plains Museum, and had served on the Red River Water Authority Board for 19 years. Jane has served on many boards in the Texas Panhandle, including the Don Harrington Cancer Center Board and the Coffee Memorial Blood Center Board.

Cade's paternal grandparents are Bob Ed and Jo Ellen Culver of Tahlequah, OK. The Culver Family owned and operated Reed-Culver Funeral home in Tahlequah for 50 years. After retiring, Bob Ed served in the Oklahoma Legislature as a State representative for 10 years.

"Growing up in Canadian, where God puts us to bed underneath the stars and wakes us up with a huge golden sun," says Cade, "and where there are more oil wells and cattle than people, taught me that stock markets will come and go, but friends and family will be there forever. From 'Friday Night Lights' to brisk horseback mornings, Canadian was a great place to build my foundation for life. It gave me the values and excitement that get me through every day."

Cade's journey led him to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. He says, "It was there that I learned the true meaning of really cold weather, abundant snow and extreme discipline."

While at West Point, Cade traded the football field for the rugby pitch. An unfortunate injury sustained during a rugby match kept Cade from being commissioned into the United States Army upon graduation.

After West Point, Cade followed his best friend and brother, Capp,

to Atlanta, Georgia. They entered into the Fresh Cut Produce Industry with the family owned and operated company, Taylor Farms. The company is the world's largest shipper of fresh cut fruits and vegetables. After one short year in Atlanta, Cade was transferred to Nashville where his career flourished. Currently, Cade is the National Retail Product Manager for Taylor Farms Retail, Inc.

While he loves his job, Cade is madly in love with Danielle. He says, "My life truly began when I met the woman of my dreams. Every day I spend with Danielle makes me a better person, and I am looking forward to all the years to come."

The youngest of four, Danielle was born to Therese and Joseph Ciampa of Manhasset, New York. For those of you who are not familiar with New York, Manhasset is a suburban town about 35 minutes east of New York City, on the north shore of Long Island. Her parents have been married for more than 41 years now. Therese was an OB/GYN Nurse for 40 years. Joseph is the part owner of a family owned and operated Construction and Real Estate Development Organization started by his father, Joseph Sr., who was born in Italy and came to America in 1920. It was in New York where he met his wife Clara.

Danielle considers herself fortunate to be from an amazing, close-knit Italian-Irish family. She says, "The extended part of my family is large and extremely important to the fabric of my life."

Danielle's family was always on the go. She raced competitively during ski season, representing Windham Mountain where they owned a ski house, and during the school year played Lacrosse and Field Hockey.







When she wasn't busy with sports, Danielle spent time at her grandparents' vacation home and at Strathmore Vanderbilt Country Club. She says, "I really have had one of the best lives anyone could ask for, and I am so thankful to my parents for it."

Danielle studied fashion and design at Syracuse University. After graduation, she freelanced in the fashion industry, eventually taking a job with Polo Ralph Lauren on Madison Avenue in New York City. Most recently, the bride has found great joy working in Real Estate, a natural fit considering her family's business.

Danielle says, "I haven't stopped smiling since I met my tall handsome Texan! Ranches and cattle and oil and hunting and hay stacks and tractors and Texas and Texans were all foreign to me. I now know that it fits me perfectly! I love my Texan, and I love the new life I now have."

It is rare these days to find families with so many generations of strong marriages. Between Danielle & Cade, their grandparents have been married a total of 211 years and between their parents a total of



68. Marriage to them is the most important promise you make in a lifetime, and from the moment they met each other, they knew it was fate.

Anyone who meets them knows right away the love they have for each other, and during their vows, most said the room was glowing with love. They

both just could not wait to make it official with all their loved ones surrounding them!

Since the Derby is where they met, they knew they had to keep the theme through their wedding day "New York Marries Texas in Nashville" Derby style! With Danielle's background in design, she knew she needed to be unique and different, and with Cade being from Texas and "Everything is bigger in Texas," they wanted grand. They knew their wedding planner Angela Proffitt of *Elegant Weddings* would be the one to pull off these over the top ideas!

The Culver-Ciampa wedding grabbed the attention of its attendants as well as the entire downtown of Nashville that evening in November. The ceremony was different than most weddings. They chose to not



have a wedding party, a scenario perfect for the circular stage in the Rotunda of the Country Music Hall of Fame. All eyes watched attentively as Danielle, dressed in a lovely Blue Label Amsale gown, and Cade, in Calvin Klein, declared their vows with the help of Kade Curry, their preacher from Canadian. The bride changed into a knee length custom designed Karen Hendrix Couture number for the reception, which was held in the Conservatory of the Country Music Hall of Fame. It was an extravaganza to say the least. Every detail was covered!

Working with the bride and her mother, the wedding planner enlisted Event Designer Jennifer Milam (*Reveal Event Style*) and Prop Builder Brian Best (*Front Porch Farms*) to create an elegant fashion-filled Derby atmosphere. Rustic Texas props were adorned with accents of New York style. Intricate lighting by *Nashville Event Lighting* lit up the sky and vibrant pink runners grazed the steps of the museum, creating a jealous buzz among onlookers! The waiters dressed like Derby jockeys, and the tables were beautifully decorated with the names of famous horses from the Derby's history. Abundant colorful floral arrangements greeted each guest while candles twinkled in mason jars scattered around.

Special touches of the evening included their cake - an amazing creation by Jay Qualls of *Maples Wedding Cakes*, who recently appeared on TLC's show *Next Great Baker* - and an array of musical entertainment. Vocalists including Joey Ciampa, Cassie Ballew and Brett Duke, serenaded the couple and guests. The Craig Duncan Band played early on and then guests partied the night way to the tunes of "Super T."

Anyone who meets Danielle and Cade can sense the love that they share, which couldn't be more evident than in their vows spoken that November day. Perhaps Cade didn't win money on Derby Day, but he did win the ultimate prize, to race down the track with Danielle for the rest of his life!

The couple now resides in Nashville. ■





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