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Real Love

July 19, 2021

People
Exclusive
Details

Gwen & Blake's Country Wedding!

Surrounded by close friends and family, the singers say 'I do' in a backyard chapel at his Oklahoma ranch: 'Blake wanted the day to be perfect for Gwen'



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Nearly six years after falling for each other on *The Voice*, Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton finally get their "perfect" wedding.

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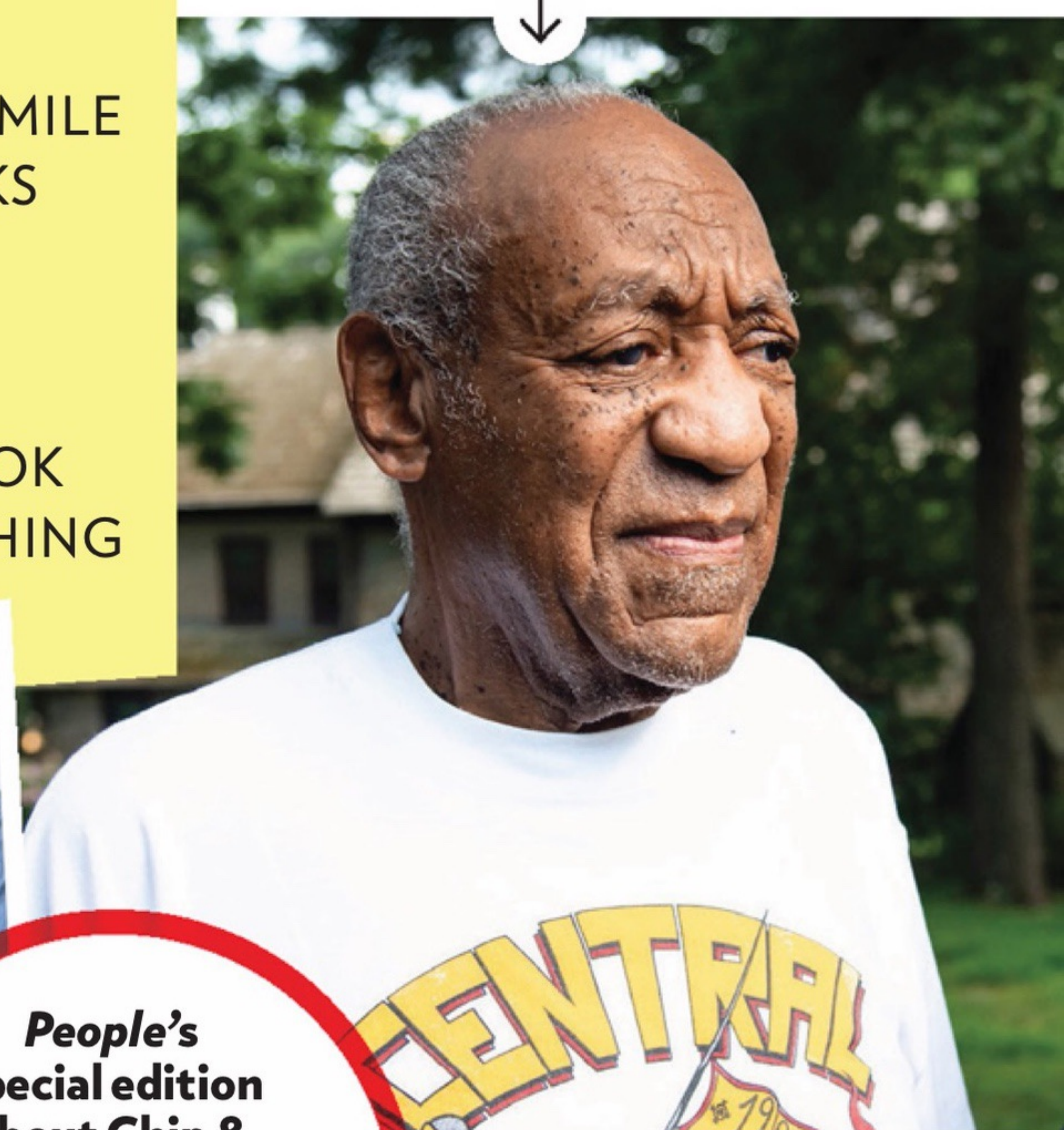
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People's special edition about Chip & Joanna Gaines's new Magnolia Network is available now wherever magazines are sold.

ON THE COVER
Photographs by Jeremy Bustos. Top insets, from left: Alamy(2); Elder Ordonez/Splash News



The Look of Love
From getting ready to making their getaway, Stefani and Shelton had a joyful and intimate wedding day on July 3.



*GWEN STEFANI
& BLAKE
SHELTON*

Their Dream



SURROUNDED BY FAMILY,
FRIENDS AND AN ABUNDANCE
OF LOVE, THE SINGERS SAY
'I DO' NEARLY SIX YEARS AFTER
FALLING FOR EACH OTHER

By **BRIANNE TRACY**

m *Wedding*

In the days leading up to their long-awaited July 3 wedding, superstars Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton kept things decidedly low-key. After flying into town for last-minute preparations,

Stefani stopped by a Dairy Queen near Shelton's ranch in Tishomingo, Okla., with her sons, Kingston, 15, Zuma, 12, and Apollo, 7, on June 30 for some sweet treats (the bride-to-be chose a vanilla cone). Then, on the eve of their wedding, pop star Stefani, 51, and country singer Shelton, 45, toasted their love with a small group of family during a dinner celebration featuring southern staples like fried catfish, pork tacos and hot chicken salad at Shelton's Ole Red restaurant. As they made their way into the dinner, "Gwen looked so glamorous and Blake looked so handsome," says Dorothy Crowe, who lives just outside of Tishomingo and drove into town in hopes of seeing the stars. "You just couldn't help but smile when you saw them together. They look made for each other!"

Despite the fanfare surrounding their big day, the couple pulled off an intimate celebration of their love. As 40 friends and family cheered them on and longtime friend Carson Daly officiated, Shelton—who dressed up his usual blue jeans with a tuxedo jacket, vest and bow tie—and Stefani said "I do" in a backyard chapel on his ranch. "They purposely kept the wedding simple," says a source close to Stefani, who stunned in a custom silk-and-tulle Vera Wang wedding gown and chapel-length veil embroidered with Shelton's and her sons' names. "They didn't want a circus. In the end, they just wanted to have this moment with their loved ones. They're a very family-oriented couple, and that's

"They're a very family-oriented couple, and that's exactly what the wedding was about"

—A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE PAIR



Special Touches
Before changing into her custom silk, georgette and tulle Vera Wang gown for the ceremony, Stefani got ready for the big day in a robe. Her chapel-length veil was hand-embroidered with the names Blake, Gwen, Kingston, Zuma and Apollo.





Toasting to Their Love
At the reception, Shelton and Stefani held up their glasses and shared a kiss before cutting into their five-tier wedding cake.



Bold Bride
For the reception, Stefani changed into a second custom Vera Wang dress, with a pair of lovebirds plus three baby birds sewn into the embroidery. Her sky-high Le Silla cowboy boots had her and Shelton's initials monogrammed in crystals on the soles.

Blake's Bond with Gwen's Boys



Kingston

Shelton showered Stefani's oldest son with kisses on his 14th birthday last May. "He is a good dad," she told *Today* in 2019.



Apollo

"I have a blast," Shelton (with Stefani's youngest) told KFROG 95.1 in February of life with his new stepsons.



Zuma

The country star showed off matching ink (Zuma's was temporary!) with Stefani's second child in 2021.

exactly what the wedding was about."

Friends say the simple wedding was the perfect representation of the life they've built over the past six years. Despite their differing musical styles and upbringings, Shelton and Stefani—he the country crooner from Oklahoma and she the rock star from California—have deeply similar values. "Their shared faith is very important," says the source. "Having the wedding at home was a way for their families—and Gwen—to be as comfortable as possible. Blake wanted the day to be perfect for Gwen. His love for her is so deep."

Over the years Oklahoma has become a refuge for Stefani and her sons from the hustle and bustle of their lives in Los Angeles, where she and Shelton moved in to a new home earlier this year. When the COVID-19 lockdowns began in 2020, the couple spent the majority of their time in Shelton's hometown. "The simple pleasure of being together in one place for an extended period of time has been a real gift," Shelton told *People* last July. "We cook, we clean, we ride four-wheelers. We just enjoy being with each other and with family." With so many happy memories at the ranch,



Gone Country

After she began dating Shelton, Stefani channeled her inner cowgirl in a 2015 Instagram with son Apollo.

Life on the Ranch



She Said Yes!
Oklahoma native Shelton popped the question on his Tishomingo ranch in October before they wed there.



Making a Mark Camo Couple

In 2016 Stefani shared a photo on Instagram of her and Shelton cuddling in front of a tree they carved their initials in.

Shelton and Stefani wore matching camouflage outfits for a “quarantine photo shoot” in March 2020.



Burning Love

Shelton and Stefani kicked their feet up and enjoyed a night by the campfire in 2018.



says the source, “they thought it was the perfect place for their wedding.”



Stefani’s and Shelton’s worlds changed forever when they met in 2014 while working together on the coaches’ panel of *The Voice*’s seventh season. They were both married at the time, and “there wasn’t even much of a friendship that first season,” Shelton told *People* last February. But as they leaned on each other during their respective divorces a year later, a friendship blossomed—followed by an unexpected romance. (Stefani announced her split from Bush frontman Gavin Rossdale in 2015 after 20 years together just weeks after Shelton and country singer Miranda Lambert finalized their divorce following four years of marriage.) “Blake and Gwen met and fell in love during a time when they both were [going through difficulties],” says a music source. “They bonded during *The Voice*, and it grew from there.” As Stefani healed from her divorce, Shelton opened her heart again to the possibility of love. “We were both having trust issues, as you would if you were us,” Stefani told *Cosmopolitan* in 2016. “It was like, ‘I have so many problems. How can I now be getting into another potentially huge problem? What am I doing?’” But their flirty friendship quickly grew into a serious romance, and both stars have said over the years they “saved” each other. “Blake’s caring, take-charge attitude worked wonders for her,” the Stefani source says of the couple. “His compassion was great for her confidence, and the romance continued to develop. It’s a true love story.”

As the couple’s love grew, so did Shelton’s relationship with Stefani’s three sons, whom she shares with Rossdale. “Blake loves the kids and had no problem adjusting to a new role as an extra dad,” says the music source. Adds another industry insider: “They each put the other first and appreciate each other. They are seamless as a family.”



At their wedding reception, the newlyweds giddily cut into an ornate, five-tier wedding cake adorned with white frosting and a traditional bride-and-groom cake topper. As the festivities rolled late into the night, Shelton and Stefani—who changed into a strapless Vera Wang minidress featuring hand-pieced silk and crystal-and-sequin embroidery—danced to a playlist by deejay Lucy Wrubel that featured hits by their famous pals, including Carrie Underwood, Luke Bryan, Kelly Clarkson and Maroon 5. Stefani topped off her party look with a pair of sky-high bedazzled cowboy boots. “They’ve been really excited leading up to the big



Just Married! Shelton and Stefani posed outside the backyard chapel (left) and were joined by their dog Betty.



Their Love Story in Lyrics



New Romance
Stefani and Shelton sang in their first duet, 2016's "Go Ahead and Break My Heart," that they're "so scared" about being "so into" each other.



Head over Heels

In their 2020 duet "Nobody but You," the pair made their devotion to each other clear, singing, "I don't wanna live without you."



Ready to Wed

The couple vowed they'd be "Happy Anywhere" as long as they have each other in their 2020 duet. "You're always my destination," they sang.

'Blake wanted the day to be perfect for Gwen. His love for her is so deep'

—A SOURCE ON THE COUPLE

day," says the source close to the couple. "Blake and Gwen were just so happy and looking forward to celebrating their relationship with their families." Later in the evening a small group headed to Shelton's second home in the area, on the shore of Lake Texoma in Kingston, Okla., to continue the celebrations. The night ended with an elaborate fireworks show. "They already felt like husband and wife long before the wedding and have been operating as life partners," adds the source. "This day was a formality that was important to the whole family."



As they begin life together as husband and wife, Shelton and Stefani have a jam-packed rest of the year. She has been hard at work on an upcoming solo album, and her new Las Vegas residency kicks off in the fall as her sons head back to school in L.A. "She's able to lean on him to be an extra dad," says

the source close to the couple. "He's a wonderful role model for Gwen's sons. The kids love him and have a really special bond with Blake." Shelton will also be jetting across the country as he continues coaching on *The Voice* and traveling for his Friends and Heroes Tour starting in August. "Gwen found someone she could relate to on many levels, and Blake is in awe of her accomplishments and drive," says the music source. At the end of the day, friends say, Shelton and Stefani have found kindred spirits in each other. "They're both very trusting of each other and are very, very close," says the source close to the couple. "It's so hard to achieve that as celebrities in the spotlight, but they really have. They're going to have a wonderful future together."

Reporting by **PERNILLA CEDENHEIM, MELODY CHIU, STEVE HELLING and LINDA MARX**