

The Marriage of

Bride

And

Groom

Venue

TBApm

Date

Before Bride arrives

Good afternoon everyone, our beautiful bride should be here shortly so if I could please ask you all to take your seats. As you get settled if you could ensure that your mobile phones are switched to silent that would be great!

Please be upstanding for the arrival of our bride, Bride.

Good afternoon again. My name is Meg Marshall and it gives me great pleasure to be here today as the celebrant at my favourite venue Immerse. Today we have come together to witness the joining of two lives, specifically of Bride and Groom, better known to us all as Bride and Groom. For them, 4 years and 364 days ago, out of the routine of ordinary life, the extraordinary happened. They fell in love and are finalising it with their wedding today.

They are delighted that you, their closest family and friends can be here today to celebrate, witness, honour, dance, laugh, sing, eat, and be glad because these two have found each other. They would also like to take this moment to acknowledge those that are no longer with us. While they are not here physically today, Bride and Groom would very much like to think they are joining the celebrations in spirit.

In thinking about the roads that have led Bride and Groom to this point, there are four people who have played an extremely significant role as their parents and so I direct this question to them – who here brings this couple today to celebrate their love in the commitment of marriage?

Parents: We Do

Bride and Groom actually met each other about 8 years ago but didn't start dating until a number of years later. Together they have started their fur family consisting of the pugs Obi and Delilah and the king and the Russian queen of the house Leon and Stella. They recently bought a house in Mill Park and are enjoying getting it just the way they (and Jason) like it. I was very impressed to hear that Bride cooks the boys roasts despite being a vegetarian – it must be love!. As you all know, they enjoy spending time with family and friends and see these people as a big part of their lives. As such, I would like to invite Nat Groom's sister to share with us a reading called Love by Roy Croft.

LOVE

by Roy Croft

I love you,
Not only for what you are,
But for what I am
When I am with you.

I love you,
Not only for what
You have made of yourself,
But for what
You are making of me.

I love you
For the part of me

That you bring out;
I love you
For putting your hand
Into my heaped-up heart
And passing over
All the foolish, weak things
That you can't help
Dimly seeing there,
And for drawing out
Into the light
All the beautiful belongings
That no one else had looked
Quite far enough to find.

I love you because you
Are helping me to make
Of the lumber of my life
Not a tavern
But a temple;
Out of the works
Of my every day
Not a reproach
But a song.

I love you
Because you have done
More than any creed
Could have done
To make me good,
And more than any fate
To make me happy.

You have done it
Without a touch,
Without a word,
Without a sign.
You have done it
By being yourself.

Thank you Nat. I would now like to invite Kyra, Groom's sister in law to share a particularly apt reading called How Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog by Taylor Mali

First of all, it's a big responsibility,
especially in a city like New York.
So think long and hard before deciding on love.
On the other hand, love gives you a sense of security:
when you're walking down the street late at night
and you have a leash on love
ain't no one going to mess with you.
Because crooks and muggers think love is unpredictable.
Who knows what love could do in its own defense?

On cold winter nights, love is warm.
It lies between you and lives and breathes
and makes funny noises.
Love wakes you up all hours of the night with its needs.
It needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy.

Love doesn't like being left alone for long.
But come home and love is always happy to see you.
It may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life,
but you can never be mad at love for long.

Is love good all the time? No! No!
Love can be bad. Bad, love, bad! Very bad love.

Love makes messes.
Love leaves you little surprises here and there.
Love needs lots of cleaning up after.
Sometimes you just want to get love fixed.
Sometimes you want to roll up a piece of newspaper
and swat love on the nose,
not so much to cause pain,
just to let love know *Don't you ever do that again!*

Sometimes love just wants to go out for a nice long walk.
Because love loves exercise. It will run you around the block
and leave you panting, breathless. Pull you in different directions
at once, or wind itself around and around you
until you're all wound up and you cannot move.

But love makes you meet people wherever you go.
People who have nothing in common but love
stop and talk to each other on the street.

Throw things away and love will bring them back,
again, and again, and again.
But most of all, love needs love, lots of it.
And in return, love loves you and never stops.

Bride and Groom's wish for today was for a personal and simple ceremony, so with that in mind let's start the formalities.

I am duly authorised by law to solemnize marriages according to law.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are about to enter.

Marriage according to law in Australia is the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others voluntarily entered into for life.

It is an old Celtic tradition when a couple makes the commitment of marriage to bind their hands together as a physical sign of this commitment. In fact, this is where we get the saying –“tying the knot”. And as long as this knot shall stay tied, the promises you are making to each other today will hold steady. Bride and Groom have green ribbon today as it symbolises compassion, affection and caring and a yellow ribbon as this symbolises enthusiasm, spontaneity and equality – all characteristics which fit Bride and Groom perfectly.

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future. These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it. And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

And now in the sight of the creator, I hereby seal these two souls, binding them as one for eternity

Bride and Groom you are now taking into your care and keeping the happiness of the one person in all the world you love best. You are adding to your lives and you are agreeing to share strength, responsibilities, and love.

At the end of this ceremony you will legally be husband and wife and you must keep the promises you will make close to your heart every single day, for it is a very important thing in life to love and be loved.

I am sure that no one here is surprised that Bride and Groom have written their own vows. So without further ado, I will hand over to them.

My dearest, beautiful Bride. Having never made a vow before I thought it prudent to fully understand the meaning:

A vow, as defined by the English dictionary, is a solemn promise, pledge, or personal commitment, or an earnest declaration.

So firstly let me declare, for all the world to hear, that I love you! I love you with the compassion a parent shows their child, I love you with the adoration a pug shows their owner, I love you with a passion that burns fiercer and hotter than a raging fire, and I love you with sincerity, wanting nothing more than to see you happy.

So that love, which words so inadequately define, I commit to you. I commit it whole-heartedly and without reservation, from now until the dying embers of eternity wink from existence.

And during that span of time you have my pledge that no sickness, no angry words, nor difference of opinion will dampen the love I have for you and nothing shall be more powerful than my desire to share my adventure through life with you.

Finally, today I Groom promise in front of these family and friends that you, Bride Wheeler, are the girl of my dreams, the woman of my heart, the one I take as my wedded wife and I love you, mind, body and soul. I promise to care for you and our family - fur and otherwise, the best way I can. I promise to hug you, kiss you, lift you up when life drives you down, and even carry you when life's adventure reaches it's most challenging. And I promise to be kind, gentle, caring and patient and shower you with affection so that you never need fear that the power of my love for you wanes.

This to thee, do I solemnly vow

Dear Groom,

I enter our marriage today with an open heart and an open mind.

I struggled to put into words exactly how much you mean to me and how best to describe how becoming your wife makes me feel. I thought long and hard and its impossible (in the time we have here today and without boring everyone!) to tell you exactly how I feel so I have tried my best in the words I'm about to say to you.

Because of you there are more smiles and laughter in my days, you show me how to relax and let go of the things that don't matter or cannot be controlled.

Because of you our house is filled with 4 fur babies who bring joy to my world (and the occasional frustration!) every day. Coming home to you and being greeted by them is one of the best feelings in the world.

Because of you I will be a better person tomorrow than I am today, you've taught me patience, acceptance, selflessness and forgiveness.

I vow to help you love life, to enjoy something in every day, to encourage you to do more of what you love (even if it means being on the computer until 2am!), to always hold you with tenderness and draw on your back or run my fingers through your hair, to have patience when our love demands it, to speak when words are needed and to share silence when they are not-I promise ill do my best to be quiet!

I vow not to keep score, even when I am totally winning!

I vow to be your best friend, to be silly with you, to grow old with you, to inspire you and to be your faithful wife. I Bride, also vow in front of these family and friends to take you Groom as my wedded husband.

I vow to love you truly through the amazing times and even more so through the not so marvellous times.

I look forward to forever being there to laugh with you and to lift you up and support you; for you Groom are my world.

Can our ringbearer please step forward with the rings.

Groom please repeat after me:

Bride, with this ring I wed you and promise my love always

Bride please repeat after me:

Groom, with this ring I wed you and promise my love always

It now gives me great pleasure to announce by the power vested in me by the Commonwealth of Australia, that you are husband and wife. Groom you may kiss your beautiful bride!

The Kiss

In order to make this lovely union official, there are a few documents that we need to sign. Bride has always had a close and special relationship with her aunt Kerry and I ask her to step forward as Bride's witness. Groom has chosen to have his brother in law and good friend, Duncan as his witness so can ask him to please also step forward. I would like to ask you at this time to hold on your photos until Groom, Bride and Groom's photographer has got their shots. Don't worry I will make sure that you have lots of time and plenty of kisses from the happy couple to get your shots as well. Please enjoy the music and feel free to chat amongst yourselves and we will be back with you as soon as possible.

Document Signing

Bride and Groom, as I present you with your marriage certificate, I wish you every happiness together and thank you for allowing me to part of such a special day at one of my favourite places in the world – it is such an honour to do the job that I love in the place where I was married.

Now that the formalities are over, Bride and Groom can breathe easier and more importantly have their photos taken. They ask that everyone join them for a group photo. Family photos will follow so if immediate family could stay close that would be great. For everyone else, drinks and canapes will be served in the restaurant from 5pm.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce for the very first time, our newly married couple – Groom and Bride!!!