



I love weddings and I love wedding ceremonies...

I get to play a part of 60+ weddings a year, and so this summer, I took great notes and compiled my list of the best...

WEDDING READINGS AND POEMS

Remember, you have to have a ceremony that reflects your personalities, values, and beliefs. We want your guests to say, “That is SOOOOOOOO you guys!”

You certainly do not NEED wedding readings, but if you do, here are my favourite wedding ceremony readings, poems, or quotes...

Call me romantic or corny, but these are killer :)

Some of these are funny, some moving, some but, in my opinion, all awesome. The first one is my favourite...

“Captain Corelli's Mandolin” by Louis de Bernières,

“Love is a temporary madness,
it erupts like volcanoes and then subsides.

And when it subsides, you have to make a decision.
You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined
together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part.

Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement,
it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion,
it is not the desire to mate every second minute of the day,
it is not lying awake at night imagining that he is kissing
every cranny of your body.

No, don't blush, I am telling you some truths.
That is just being "in love", which any fool can do.

Love itself is what is left over when being
in love has burned away,
and this is both an art and a fortunate accident.”

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“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.

"The Art Of Marriage" by Wilferd A. Peterson (longer version)

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens.

A good marriage must be created.

In the art of marriage the little things are the big things...

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted;

the courtship should not end with the honeymoon,

it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humour.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for the things of the spirit.

It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is being the right partner.

It is discovering what marriage can be, at its best.

"Marriage Joins Two People In The Circle Of Its Love"

by Edmund O'Neill

Marriage is a commitment to life,
the best that two people can find and bring out in each other.

It offers opportunities for sharing and growth
that no other relationship can equal.
It is a physical and an emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.
Within the circle of its love,
marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships.

A wife and a husband are each other's best friend,
confidant, lover, teacher, listener, and critic.
And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing,
and the love of the other may resemble
the tender caring of a parent or child.
Marriage deepens and enriches every facet of life.

Happiness is fuller, memories are fresher,
commitment is stronger, even anger is felt more strongly,
and passes away more quickly.

Marriage understands and forgives the mistakes life
is unable to avoid. It encourages and nurtures new life,
new experiences, new ways of expressing
a love that is deeper than life.

When two people pledge their love and care for each other in marriage,
they create a spirit unique unto themselves which binds them closer
than any spoken or written words.

Marriage is a promise, a potential made in the hearts of two people
who love each other and takes a lifetime to fulfill.

Paul's Letter to the Corinthians 13:1-13

Note: You may choose to use part or all of I Corinthians 13.

The most popular verses are 4-7, which begin "Love is patient, love is kind."

- (1) If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
- (2) If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
- (3) And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

- (4) Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,
- (5) does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,
- (6) does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
- (7) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- (8) Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.
- (9) For we know in part and we prophesy in part;
- (10) but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.
- (11) When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.
- (12) For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.
- (13) But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labour.

For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone?

And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him.

A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.

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From the “Velveteen Rabbit”, by Margery Williams

“Real isn't how you are made,' said the Skin Horse. 'It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real.'

'Does it hurt?' asked the Rabbit.

'Sometimes,' said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. 'When you are Real you don't mind being hurt.'

'Does it happen all at once, like being wound up,' he asked, 'or bit by bit?'

'It doesn't happen all at once,' said the Skin Horse. 'You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept.

Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand.”

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Blessing of the Hands - *author unknown*

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.

“Love Is Friendship Caught Fire”, by Laura Hendricks

"Love is friendship caught fire;
it is quiet, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving.
It is loyalty through good and bad times.
It settles for less than perfection, and makes allowances
for human weaknesses.

Love is content with the present, hopes for the future, and
does not brood over the past.

It is the day-in and day-out chronicles of irritations, prob-
lems, compromises, small disappointments, big victories,
and working toward common goals.

If you have love in your life,
it can make up for a great many things you lack.
If you do not have it,
no matter what else there is, it is not enough."

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"Benediction of the Apaches"

"Now you will feel no rain,
For each of you will be shelter to the other.

Now you will feel no cold,
For each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there is no more loneliness for you.
For each of you will be companion to the
other.

Now you are two bodies,
But there is only one Life before you.

Go now to your dwelling place,
To enter into the days of your togetherness.

And may your days be good and long upon
the earth"

"The Promises Of Marriage" by Bettie Meeks

Marriage is a promise of companionship, of having someone to share all of life's experiences.

Marriage does not promise that there will not be any rough times, just the assurance that there will always be someone who cares and will help you through to better times.

Marriage does not promise eternal romance, just eternal love and commitment.

Marriage can't prevent disappointments, disillusionment or grief, but it can offer hope, acceptance, and comfort.

Marriage can't protect you from making individual choices or shelter you from the world, but it will help to reassure you that there is someone by your side who truly cares.

When the world hurts you and makes you feel vulnerable, marriage offers the promise that there will be someone waiting to listen, to console, to inspire.

Marriage is the joining of two people who share the promise that only marriage can make...to share the sunshine and the shadows, and to experience a richer, more fulfilling life because of it.

The couple that laughs together, lasts together!

From "The Irrational Season" by Madeleine L'Engle

But ultimately there comes a moment when a decision must be made. Ultimately two people who love each other must ask themselves how much they hope for as their love grows and deepens, and how much risk they are willing to take...

It is indeed a fearful gamble...Because it is the nature of love to create, a marriage itself is something which has to be created, so that, together we become a new creature.

To marry is the biggest risk in human relations that a person can take...

If we commit ourselves to one person for life this is not, as many people think, a rejection of freedom; rather it demands the courage to move into all the risks of freedom, and the risk of love which is permanent;

into that love which is not possession, but participation...

It takes a lifetime to learn another person...

When love is not possession, but participation, then it is part of that co-creation which is our human calling, and which implies such risk that it is often rejected.

From "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.

Ay, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of heavens dance between you.

Love one another, but make not a bond of love:
Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls.
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.

Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.

Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.

And stand together yet not too near together:
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.

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Scottish Wedding Prayer

Lord help us to remember when
We first met and the strong
love that grew between us.

To work that love into
practical things so that nothing
can divide us.

We ask for words both kind
and loving and hearts always
ready to ask forgiveness
as well as to forgive.

Dear Lord, we put our
marriage into your hands

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(It's long but so worth it!!!)

From "The Alchemist" -- Paulo Coelho

"When he looked into her dark eyes, and saw that her lips were poised between a laugh and silence, he learned the most important part of the language that all the world spoke -- the language that everyone on earth was capable of understanding in their heart. It was love. Something older than humanity, more ancient than the desert. Something that exerted the same force whenever two pairs of eyes met, as had theirs here at the well. She smiled, and that was certainly an omen -- the omen he had been awaiting, without even knowing he was, for all his life. The omen he had sought to find with his sheep and in his books, in the crystals and in the silence of the desert.

"It was the pure Language of the World. It required no explanation, just as the universe needs none as it travels through endless time. What the boy felt at that moment was that he was in the presence of the only woman in his life, and that, with no need for words, she recognized the same thing. He was more certain of it than of anything in the world. He had been told by his parents and grandparents that he must fall in love and really know a person before becoming committed. But maybe people who felt that way had never learned the universal language. Because, when you know that language, it's easy to understand that someone in the world awaits you, whether it's in the middle of the desert or in some great city. And when two such people encounter each other, and their eyes meet, the past and the future become unimportant. There is only that moment, and the incredible certainty that everything under the sun has been written by one hand only. It is the hand that evokes love, and creates a twin soul for every person in the world. Without such love, one's dreams would have no meaning."

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