



WEDDINGS WITH CATHY

A time for love

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Wedding Ceremony Information Kit

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Letter of Introduction

Congratulations to both of you on your decision to marry! What an exciting time for you both.

My name is Cathy Wolfenden and it will be my pleasure to create a personal and unique ceremony that you will always remember. My aim is to make your day one that you, your family and your guests will remember with love and joy.

This kit provides you with information about, and options for, your special day. Please read through it and feel free to phone or email me with any questions you may have.

As part of my services:

- I adhere to the Celebrant's Code of Practice, a copy of which can be found within this pack.
- I prepare all documents and register them with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.
- I offer an obligation-free first meeting at no cost to you.
- Contact and discussions with couples are unlimited. We can meet in person or by video chat, and can communicate also by email and phone.
- If desired, I write a personalised ceremony, with your input and approval.



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Purpose and Structure of Ceremony

You have chosen to celebrate your love and commitment to each other by marrying. Much of your ceremony can be as personalised as you wish. However, as marriage is of a legally binding nature, there are parts that must be said, as required by the Attorney-General's Department, by your celebrant and by you. The basic structure of a wedding ceremony is as follows:

Housekeeping

- This takes place before you arrive and includes any information you'd like your guests to be aware of. This may include asking guests to turn off their phones, letting them know whether or not they can take photos and whether they can post to social media.

Entrance

- The walk down the aisle bit, often with a parent or significant person. This can be done in many different ways, or not at all.

Welcoming

- Your celebrant welcomes your guests, including people who are absent or may be watching via livestream. Consider whether you'd like an Acknowledgement of Country included. The celebrant introduces herself. Acknowledgement of deceased or absent loved ones may occur.

Your story

- This may include how you met, your commitment to each other or anything else you feel is meaningful to you.

Reading/s

- Poetry or texts may be read at any part of the ceremony, either by your celebrant or by a friend or family member.

Monitum

- This is mandatory and must be performed by your celebrant.



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Purpose and Structure of Ceremony (cont)

The Asking

- This is where you get the opportunity to say "I do."

Legal Vows (mandatory)

- I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, _____ take thee, _____ to be my lawful wedded (wife or husband or spouse).

Personal Vows

- Your personal vows may be exchanged immediately before or after you say your own legal vows. These vows may reflect your hopes and desires for your married life, and the promises you are prepared to make to each other.

Ritual

- This may be the perfect time to complete a ritual for the first time as a married couple. Ritual options may be found on page 5.

Ring Exchange

- One or both or neither of you may wish to exchange rings. This is totally up to you.

The Pronouncing

- Where the celebrant pronounces you as husband, wife, spouse, partners in marriage or however you wish to be announced. You may like to kiss at this point.

Signing of the Register

- You and your two witnesses sign two copies of the Official Certificate of Marriage, as well as the Marriage Certificate that you keep.

Conclusion and Presentation

- Where you are presented as a married couple to your guests.

Recessional

- Where you leave the ceremony area.



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Legal Requirements

To get married in Australia, you must:

- not be married
- not be marrying a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister
- be at least 18 years old, unless a court has approved a marriage where one person is 16-18 years old
- understand what marriage means and freely agree to marry
- use specific words during the ceremony
- give a notice of intended marriage form to an authorised marriage celebrant at least one month and no more than 18 months before your wedding
- be married by an authorised marriage celebrant
- Provide evidence of date and place of birth
- Provide photo id
- Provide evidence of the end of a previous marriage

More information may be found on the Attorney General's Department's website.

Required Legal Wording

Monitum (spoken by celebrant)

I am duly authorised by law to solemnise 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 now about to enter.

Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Vows (spoken by parties being married)

I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, _____ take thee,
_____ to be my lawful wedded (wife or husband or spouse).

Full legal names must be stated earlier in the ceremony, or used here.



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Ceremony Examples

Ritual Examples

Wedding rituals are used to signify the love and affection a couple have for each other and the commitment they are about to make. They make a beautiful inclusion in any wedding ceremony. There is a wide variety of wedding rituals that are used around the world. Some you may like to consider are:

- Candle lighting (not suitable outdoors - potential for it to be blown out)
- Sand ceremony (can not use coloured sand due to asbestos risk, but bath salts or dyed beach sand work beautifully)
- Hand-fasting

Reading Examples

Readings can illustrate particular aspects of your love for each other. A reading may consist of a poem or another text and may be read as a whole or in part. Some examples of readings are:

- **The Invitation** by Oriah Mountain Dreamer
- The section on love from **The Prophet** by Kahlil Gibran
- **Love** by Rod McKuen
- **In One Another's Souls** by Rumi
- **How Do I Love Thee** by Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- **The Art of a Good Marriage** by Wilferd Arlan Peterson

The texts for each of these may be found in Appendix 1.

Music

Music is often played when a couple enters the ceremony, during the signing and when they leave the ceremony venue. There are many, many songs about love for you to choose from - we can play anything from Spotify if you wish.



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Ceremony Examples (cont)

Scripting Examples - these are from real ceremonies and are to give you a glimpse into how I write.

Welcome

General warm welcome with interstate/overseas guests:

A huge welcome to everyone here. You are here because [Name] and [Name] treasure you — you're the people who have shown up for them, laughed with them, and loved them through all of life's chapters, and they couldn't imagine getting married without you in the room. A particular welcome to those of you who have travelled from interstate or overseas to be here. The effort that takes is not lost on them — their hearts are genuinely full knowing you made the journey.

Intimate inner circle:

A big welcome to you all. [Name] and [Name] want you to know exactly what it means to them that you're here today. You're not just guests — you're their people. Their inner circle. The ones they call when something wonderful happens, and the ones they lean on when it doesn't. Having you here beside them today makes this moment everything they hoped it would be.

Blended families / children present:

Welcome, everyone. Look around — this room is filled with the people who matter most to [Name] and [Name], and that includes some very important small people in the front rows. Today isn't just a celebration of two people choosing each other — it's a celebration of the whole wonderful, imperfect, beautiful family they're building together. Thank you all for being part of it.

Words about marriage

Grounded, everyday love:

Marriage isn't really about the wedding day — though today is a pretty good one. It's about every ordinary Tuesday that follows. The cups of tea made without being asked. The choosing to be kind when tired. The quiet comfort of knowing someone is in your corner, not just when life is easy, but especially when it isn't. That's the kind of marriage [Name] and [Name] are stepping into today, and by the look of things, they're more than ready for it.



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Ceremony Examples (cont)

Scripting Examples (cont)

Blended families:

[Name] and [Name] don't see this marriage as simply the joining of two people. They see it as the building of something bigger — a family where every member is valued, every relationship is nurtured, and every child grows up knowing they are loved and that they belong. That intention is one of the most beautiful things about them as a couple, and it says everything about the kind of home they are creating together.

Second chance love / later in life:

There's a particular kind of courage in choosing love later in life. It comes without the naivety of youth — these are two people who know exactly what commitment costs, who have lived enough to know what they need, and who have decided, with clear eyes and full hearts, that they want to do this. That kind of love isn't less — in many ways, it is more. And today, we get to celebrate it.

Maya Angelou (multicultural or long-distance couples):

Maya Angelou wrote that love recognises no barriers — that it jumps hurdles, leaps fences, and arrives full of hope. [Name] and [Name] know something about that. Whether it was distance, or difference, or simply the gap between two people finding the right moment — they found their way to each other anyway. And today, they stand here proof that love, when it's real, tends to win.



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Ring Ceremony Examples

Where the rings carried personal meaning:

The ring you will wear has been loved before. It once belonged to your mother, and today it becomes a living connection between past and present — a way of carrying her love, strength, and presence forward with you. It is a reminder that love doesn't disappear; it is carried, honoured, and woven into what comes next.

The ring you wear was chosen with deep intention. A gold band to represent your partner — the person you choose and stand beside — and three small diamonds, each one representing the children who are at the heart of your family.

Where the couple made their own rings:

These rings aren't identical to anything you might find in a shop window — and that's exactly the point. The small imperfections are part of what makes them perfect, because they were made by the person who loves you.

Classic and elegant:

Wedding rings are timeless symbols of love, commitment, and unity. Their unbroken circle represents eternity, reminding us that marriage is a bond without end. They serve as daily reminders of the promises made, the partnership shared, and the journey embarked upon together.

Simple and warm:

These rings are simple, beautiful symbols of the promises you make today — promises you will wear and carry every day of your lives.

Clean and contemporary:

You've chosen to exchange rings as a symbol of your commitment — a visible reminder of the promises you make today and the life you are choosing to build together.



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Personal Vows Example

When I think about why I'm standing here today, it really comes down to three things. You make me laugh — properly laugh, the kind that catches you off guard. You make me feel completely at home in myself, in a way I never quite managed before I met you. And you are, without any doubt, the kindest person I have ever known.

I keep coming back to one particular night. We'd had a terrible day — nothing dramatic, just one of those days where everything goes sideways at once. And instead of falling apart separately, we just sat on the kitchen floor and laughed about it. I thought to myself: this is what I want. Not someone to share the good times with — anyone can do that. Someone to sit on the kitchen floor with. That was when I knew.

So here are my promises to you. I promise to always be in your corner, even when I think you might be wrong — and I'll tell you that too, kindly. I promise to keep showing up, on the hard days especially. And I promise that no matter how busy or tired or distracted life gets, I will never stop choosing you.

I can't wait for what comes next. The holidays we haven't taken yet, the ordinary Sundays, the big milestones and the small ones. I'm most looking forward to all the things we haven't even thought of yet — because with you, I know they're going to be good.

You are my favourite person, and today is the best day. I love you completely, and I always will.



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Writing Personal Vows

Writing your own vows is a beautiful way to express your love, commitment, and the unique bond you share. They don't have to be long or overly poetic—what matters most is that they come from the heart. If you're feeling stuck, these prompts can help spark inspiration. Of course, there are no rules—include whatever feels right for you.

Here are some guiding questions to help you get started:

- What are three reasons you're excited to marry your partner?
- What does he/she mean to you?
- What do you love most about them?
- Is there a memory that reminds you why you fell in love?
- What are you most looking forward to in your life together?
- What adventures, goals, or milestones do you hope to share?
- What promises do you want to make for the future—whether romantic, heartfelt, or even a little funny?

Your vows are your chance to tell your story, celebrate your love, and make promises that will shape the life you're building together. So take a deep breath, reflect on what makes your relationship special, and let your heart do the talking.

Using AI to help

Writing Your Vows — A Little Help from AI

Writing your own vows can feel equal parts exciting and terrifying. Where do you even start? These prompts are designed to help you find your words — copy each one, fill in the blanks, and paste it into Claude (claude.ai) or ChatGPT. What comes back won't be perfect, but it will give you something real to work with. Edit it, make it yours, and don't be afraid to cut anything that doesn't sound like you.

The opening — why this person, why now

Copy this prompt and fill in the gaps:

I'm writing my wedding vows and want to open with why I'm so excited and grateful to be marrying [person's name]. The main reasons I love them and want to spend my life with them are: [reason 1], [reason 2], and [reason 3]. Can you help me turn this into a warm, heartfelt opening for my vows? I want it to feel personal and emotional, not generic.



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Writing Personal Vows

A memory that says it all

The best vows usually include one specific moment — something small or significant that captures exactly why you belong together. Try this:

I want to include a meaningful memory in my wedding vows. I want to describe the time when [describe what happened]. This moment matters to me because [explain why — what did it show you about your partner, or about your relationship?]. Can you help me weave this into my vows in a way that feels vivid and emotional, without being overdone?

The promises — what you're actually committing to

This is the heart of your vows. Rather than promising the world in abstract terms, think about what you specifically promise this specific person:

I'm writing the promises section of my wedding vows. I want to make promises that feel real and personal, not like something from a greeting card. The things I most want to promise [person's name] are: [promise 1], [promise 2], and [promise 3]. Some things that are unique to us or our relationship are [add anything specific — inside jokes, quirks, challenges you've faced]. Can you help me turn these into vow promises that are loving, a little personal, and genuinely moving?

The future — what you're building together

I want to include a section in my vows about our future together. Some of the things we're looking forward to are [shared dreams or plans], and the everyday moments I'm most excited about are [simple pleasures — morning coffee together, Sunday walks, whatever is true for you]. Can you help me write about our future in a way that feels hopeful and warm, without being clichéd?

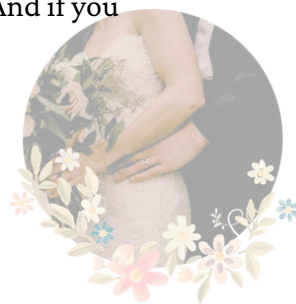
The closing — your final word

The last line of your vows is the one people remember. Make it count:

I need a closing line for my wedding vows. I want it to feel like a genuine declaration — something that captures my joy about this marriage, my commitment to the promises I've just made, and my love for [person's name]. It should feel uplifting and memorable, and ideally sound like something I would actually say. Can you give me a few options to choose from?

A few tips before you start

Read your vows out loud as you go. If you stumble over a sentence or it doesn't sound like you, change it. Aim for around 1–2 minutes when spoken — that's roughly 150–250 words. And if you find yourself tearing up while writing them, you're probably on the right track.



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Marriage Education Services

Solid relationships set you up to meet the changes and challenges of life. It is important to develop good communication and sound relationship skills, so that you can fall back on these skills in difficult times.

Pre-marriage education can prepare you for marriage by providing skills and information to build lifelong marriages. Some providers of such courses are listed below.

Relationships Australia

<https://www.relationshipswa.org.au>

Weekend, group course

For "for couples planning a future together, whether they are going to marry, live together or have already begun sharing their lives."

Breathe Counselling Perth

<https://breathecounsellingperth.com.au>

Private sessions

Private Health rebates possible

Offers "effective solutions to address and overcome relationship struggles, emotional and mental health concerns and roadblocks to a fulfilling life.

Marriage.com Pre-marriage online course

<https://www.marriage.com/marriage-courses/pre-marriage-course>

US Based

"This step-by-step online premarital class is recommended to build trust, communication and discuss goals, beliefs, and challenges of marital life."

The platinum level gives additional resources including motivational videos, a mini course and bonus e-book.



CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS

The Code of Practice for Marriage Celebrants is contained in Schedule 2 of the Marriage Regulations 2017.

1 APPLICATION OF THIS CODE OF PRACTICE

This Code of Practice applies to marriage celebrants.

Note 1: A marriage celebrant is a person registered under Subdivision C of Division 1 of Part IV of the *Marriage Act 1961*: see subsection 5(1) of that Act.

Note 2: Under paragraph 39I(1)(b) of that Act, if the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants is satisfied that a marriage celebrant has not complied with an obligation under section 39G of that Act, including this Code of Practice, the Registrar may take disciplinary measures against the marriage celebrant.

2 HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE

A marriage celebrant must maintain a high standard of service in his or her professional conduct and practice. This includes (without limitation) ensuring the following:

- (a) appropriate personal presentation for marriage ceremonies;
- (b) punctuality for marriage ceremonies;
- (c) accuracy in preparation of documents and in the conduct of marriage ceremonies.

3 RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF MARRIAGE

A marriage celebrant must recognise the social, cultural and legal significance of marriage and the marriage ceremony in the Australian community, and the importance of strong and respectful family relationships.

4 COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACT AND OTHER LAWS

A marriage celebrant must:

- (a) comply with the requirements of the *Marriage Act 1961* and the *Marriage Regulations 2017* which apply to the marriage celebrant; and
- (b) observe the laws of the Commonwealth and of any State or Territory in which the marriage celebrant solemnises marriages; and
- (c) avoid unlawful discrimination in the provision of marriage celebrancy services.

5 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONIES

A marriage celebrant must respect the importance of the marriage ceremony to the parties and the other persons organising the ceremony. This includes (without limitation) the following:

(a) giving the parties information and guidance to enable them to choose or compose a marriage ceremony, including information to assist the parties to decide whether a marriage ceremony rehearsal is needed or appropriate;

(b) respecting the privacy and confidentiality of the parties, including by:

- (i) arranging for appropriate facilities to interview parties; and
- (ii) dealing appropriately with personal documents and personal information; and
- (iii) maintaining appropriate facilities for the secure storage of records; and
- (iv) ensuring the return of all personal documents belonging to the parties as soon as practicable (unless it is necessary to keep the documents for the ceremony);

(c) giving the parties information about how to notify the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department of any concerns or complaints they may have regarding the marriage services provided by the marriage celebrant.

6 KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS SERVICES

A marriage celebrant must:

(a) maintain an up-to-date knowledge about appropriate family relationships services in the community; and

(b) inform the parties to the marriage about the range of information and services available to them to enhance, and sustain them throughout, their relationship.



Complaints Form

Making a complaint about a Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrant

Before making a complaint, please read the information on the '[Complain about a marriage celebrant](#)' webpage (available at www.ag.gov.au/marriage), which outlines the complaints process, including the types of complaints we can deal with and possible outcomes.

You can use this form to make a complaint about a **Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrant** to the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants. If you are unsure whether the celebrant is a Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrant, you should check the [List of Commonwealth Registered Celebrants](#).

If your complaint is about a [Minister of Religion of a recognised denomination](#), please direct your concerns to your [state or territory registry of births, deaths and marriages](#).

The Registrar of Marriage Celebrants has no power to compel a celebrant to provide a complainant with compensation or a refund for services. If you are seeking a refund, please visit the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) website at www.accc.gov.au/consumers, where you can use an online tool to identify the state or territory consumer affairs body that may be able to assist you with your consumer complaint.

PRIVACY NOTICE

This form collects personal information for the purposes of managing a complaint against a marriage celebrant. This information may also be used for the performance review of, or disciplinary measures against, a marriage celebrant.

The department is bound by the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988*, including the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs). Your personal information will be handled in accordance with the department's obligations under this Act.

Under the Marriage Regulations 2017, the Attorney-General's Department must disclose information about the details of this complaint to the marriage celebrant to which the complaint relates, including any supporting documents you provide. Your contact details will be removed before we provide a copy of the complaint to the marriage celebrant. The Registrar may also need to contact you to request further information in relation to the complaint.

In addition, the department may need to collect and use personal information from, or disclose personal information to, the following entities:

- the marriage celebrant

- the registry of births, deaths and marriages in the state or territory where any marriage referred to in the complaint was solemnised
- any law enforcement authorities
 - other government departments assisting the department in the conduct of its functions (including, but not limited to, the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions)
- other areas within the Attorney-General's Department
- any other body where there is a legal obligation to do so.

The AGD privacy policy is available at www.ag.gov.au/Privacy. If you wish to access or seek correction of your personal information or make an enquiry or complaint about your privacy, you may contact the departmental Privacy Contact Officer on 02 6141 6666 or by emailing privacy@ag.gov.au or writing to:

Privacy Contact Officer
 Attorney-General's Department
 3–5 National Circuit
 BARTON ACT 2600

Part A: About you

Preferred salutation: _____ Other: _____
 Name: _____

Your contact details

Daytime phone or Mobile: _____
 Email or Postal address: _____

Part B: About the marriage celebrant

Preferred salutation: _____ Other: _____
 Name: _____

I have confirmed that this person is a Commonwealth-registered celebrant

Marriage celebrant's contact details

Daytime phone or Mobile: _____
 Email: _____

Website: _____

Postal address (if email not known): _____

Part C: About the marriage (or proposed marriage)

Couples' Details

Names _____

Date of marriage (or proposed marriage): _____

Part D: Efforts to resolve your complaint

Please outline any steps you and/or the marriage celebrant have taken to try to resolve this complaint:

What (if anything) was the outcome?

Have you tried to resolve this complaint by other formal means? Yes No

Have you made an official complaint about this to anyone else? Yes No

Has this complaint been the subject of legal action? Yes No

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please provide details:

Part E: About your complaint

Possible reasons for your complaint

One or more of the following may be a reason for your complaint. You will be asked to provide evidence to support any issues you select.

The marriage celebrant I am complaining about:

- Did not provide a high standard of service or was unprofessional.
- Did not respect the couple's privacy or confidentiality.
- Made mistakes on the marriage paperwork.
- Breached the Code of Practice for marriage celebrants in any other way.

A copy of the Code of Practice is available on the ['Your responsibilities as a marriage celebrant'](http://www.ag.gov.au/marriage) webpage of our [website](http://www.ag.gov.au/marriage) (www.ag.gov.au/marriage).

Did not lodge the marriage documents with the registry of births, deaths and marriages of the state or territory where the marriage took place (a marriage celebrant must do this within 14 days of the ceremony).

Did not ensure that each party to the marriage was capable of giving, or gave, real consent to marry.

If you have another complaint not listed above, please provide a brief description (including identifying any relevant part of the Code of Practice or marriage law that was breached):

What happened?

Please describe the events or issues that you wish to complain about. If you need more space, please attach another page.

Evidence which supports your complaint

Please attach copies of any documents which support your complaint. These might include emails, witness statements, the written agreement between you and the marriage celebrant, or photographs showing the issue/s you are complaining about.

Please list the items you are attaching in support of your complaint.

What outcome are you seeking?

If the Registrar finds that your complaint is well-founded, the Registrar may make a recommendation about the celebrant's future conduct or actions or take disciplinary action against the celebrant. Possible disciplinary actions include issuing a written caution, requiring the marriage celebrant to undertake professional development activities, suspension for up to 6 months or de-registering the marriage celebrant. The Registrar will generally only consider suspending or deregistering a marriage celebrant where there has been a serious or ongoing breach of the *Marriage Act 1961* or the Marriage Regulations 2017.

As advised above the Registrar of Marriage Celebrants has no power to compel a celebrant to provide a complainant with compensation or a refund for services.

What outcome are you seeking from the complaints process?

Part F: Send us your complaint

Please send your complaint by email to marriagecelebrantssection@ag.gov.au or post it to:

The Registrar of Marriage Celebrants
Marriage Law and Celebrants Section
Attorney-General's Department
3-5 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Next steps

You will be contacted to acknowledge receipt of your complaint. The Registrar will then consider whether to deal with the complaint.

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Appendix 1 - Readings

The Invitation by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me how old you are. I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for your dream, for the adventure of being alive.

It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon. I want to know if you have touched the centre of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals or have become shrivelled and closed from fear of further pain! I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide it or fade it or fix it.

I want to know if you can be with joy, mine or your own, if you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be careful, to be realistic, to remember the limitations of being human.

It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me is true. I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself; if you can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul; if you can be faithless and therefore trustworthy.

I want to know if you can see beauty even when it's not pretty, every day, and if you can source your own life from its presence.

I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine, and still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, "Yes!"

It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money you have. I want to know if you can get up, after the night of grief and despair, weary and bruised to the bone, and do what needs to be done to feed the children.

It doesn't interest me who you know or how you came to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the centre of the fire with me and not shrink back.

It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied. I want to know what sustains you, from the inside, when all else falls away.

I want to know if you can be alone with yourself and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.



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Appendix 1 - Readings (cont)

From **The Prophet** by Kahlil Gibran

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 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.

Love by Rod McKuen

Love,
puts the music in laughter,
the beauty in song,
the warmth in a shoulder, the gentle in strong.

Love,
puts the magic in memories,
the sunshine in skies,
the gladness in giving,
the starlight in eyes.

Love,
puts the fun in together,
the sad in apart,
the hope in tomorrow,
the joy in the heart.



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Appendix 1 - Readings (cont)

In One Another's Souls by Rumi

The moment I heard my first love story
I started looking for you,
not knowing how useless that was.
Lovers don't meet somewhere along the way.
They're in one another's souls all along.

How Do I Love Thee? by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being and ideal grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.



WEDDINGS WITH CATHY

A time for love

Appendix 1 - Readings (cont)

"The Art of a Good Marriage" by Wilferd Arlan Peterson

Happiness in marriage is not something that just happens.

A good marriage must be created.

In 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 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 expecting the other to wear a halo or have wings of an angel.

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.

