

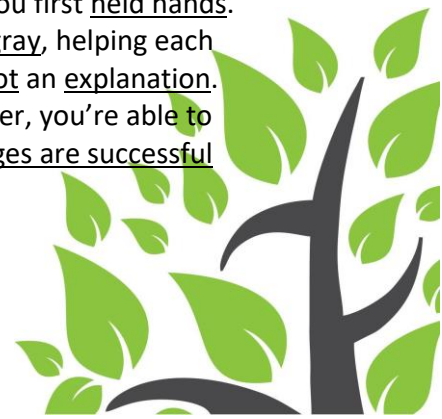
## Opening Commentary

### Continue to Flirt

Bride and Groom, your relationship stands for love, honesty and trust, but also for friendship. You're not just in love with each other, you're best friends too and that forms the wonderful foundation of your relationship. Think about how much fun you have and how much you enjoy doing together, and today you both take a leap of faith into the commitment of marriage. This ceremony solidifies your moral, emotional and physical union. Groom, you've found Bride. With her, you can safely let your guard down to be vulnerable. For the rest of your life, she's the girl you get to whimper to when you cut your finger or stub your toe. You've got someone to share the smallest things with, like great conversation while in the car or over a meal, as well as someone to support you during tough times so remember Groom, that your anniversary is a special day and a card won't suffice! Plan something that requires a little thought. Surprise her with a weekend trip somewhere you've both talked about going or relive a favorite date. Show the world how successful marriage and serious commitment can be because a happy wife is a happy life. Fortunately, she knows that happy husbands are important too! Bride you've found Groom, someone who will always get you a blanket when you're cold and who will assure you that no matter what you're wearing, you're beautiful and you look great! Groom is unlike any guy you've ever met. He's a better fit for you in every way and so you can easily see your future together and so can he, which is why he goes out of his way to make you smile. Groom is there to share the highlights, like today, and give you a shoulder to lean on when things are too stressful to handle on your own. He's shown you that he has your back no matter what, and so you're both prepared to make your marriage a life-long practice of loving one another to the fullest, and it is a practice so we all want you to nurture your playful attitudes and think of different ways to express your love to one another. Continue to flirt with each other and act as though you're still dating to keep your relationship fun and alive because marriage is full of peaks and valleys. You've been together long enough to know that's just life, and sometimes there are surprises. Some surprises will cause you to beam with joy. While others will test the youthful love that you share. Fortunately, you both know how important it is to truly listen to each other, and not just to your dreams, but to your fears and frustrations. Stay open, honest and compassionate with each other and you'll nurture your marriage and future family-life with care. Bride and Groom you're teammates and best friends, and we're excited for you. May you hold hands until you're old and gray and may your love grow deeper and sweeter with each passing year.

### A Few Suggestions

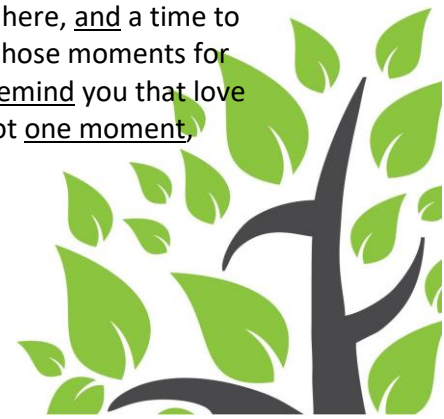
Bride and Groom, so much energy went into your relationship up to this point and it's blossomed into the commitment that you're making today. It's fitting that everyone would gather like this to honor you both and the next phase of your lives. Your friends and families are here to celebrate with you! I hope that you can recall the feeling from your first date, or when you first held hands. We want you to hang onto that feeling and to hold hands until your old and gray, helping each other to get around and to keep living your life together as an exclamation, not an explanation. You're best friends and so you have fun. You don't just laugh with one another, you're able to laugh at one another too and that's a beautiful thing because lifelong marriages are successful



friendships and when looking back you're going to realize that these still are the good old days! Enjoy them because as you know, time flies. The secret to life is caring about how you feel because what we put out into the world, we tend to get back so help each other when you forget. Strive to feel excitement, joy, gratitude, laughter, happiness and love. Continue to celebrate those feelings and to be there for each other when times are tough. You're home with each other. It's not just a place. It's a feeling and with each other you feel safe and protected so when there are bumps down the road, remember to stay compassionate with each other. Rest assured that it's alright to admit that you are wrong, that you don't know, and even that you weren't paying attention. You both know that disagreements and mistakes are so trivial when compared to the loving energy between you, because you balance each other out. It's your perfectly matched imperfections that make you two perfect for one another. Stay flexible and continue to embrace change. All successful marriages do! You're both looking at your life-long partner for every adventure to check off your bucket list. So set time aside for "date night" and create different ways to express your love to the other. Groom, have surprise plans for the weekend, buy what kids are selling from tables in their front yards and hold other people's babies to impress her because the courtship does not end tonight. It is your love that has brought us all here today so keep the romance alive and flirt with each other. If you decide to raise a family, I promise you that your wonderful friendship will carry over into your parenting. The smiles, the laughter and inside jokes are important. We want you to stay teammates and to stay best friends. If you think dating each other has been fun, just wait. A successful marriage is said by many, to be the best gift given to anyone. Get ready to experience one of the most important relationships that exists. You're teammates, best friends and we're excited for you. Tonight's a party in your honor, to celebrate the adventure that will be the rest of your lives.

### **Love Is What We're Doing Right**

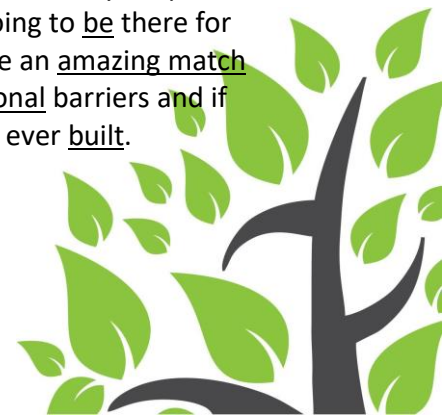
The marriage ceremony is important across nearly every culture, religion, generation, and society. We have thousands of important moments that happen throughout our lives, but this one is so significant, we acknowledge its special status by sharing it with others. The whole thing is kind of weird, right? You're standing up here, looking fancy, and being admired by almost everyone who means something to you. Weddings are important because despite all our differences, love is what we all share. It's the great unifier, our one universal truth. No matter who we are, where we've come from, or what we believe, we know this one thing: that love is what we're doing right. You know that. That's why you're both standing here today and that's why everyone came here to support you. We've all loved in our lifetimes and in this moment, we're reminded that the ability to love is the very best part of our humanity. All of us here today have our own love stories. Some are short, others long, some are unwritten, while others are just getting to the good part. Love's usually a high note, but there are chapters in all our stories that are sad or disappointing, and you're both there to support each other when challenging times come up. You know that no matter what, you won't have to face those times alone and that you're there for each other every step of the way. This is a time to look back and smile at all the moments that brought you here, and a time to look ahead to all the moments yet to come. We're all here because we want those moments for you. We're here to hope with you, to support you, to be proud of you, and to remind you that love isn't happily ever after, it's the experience of writing your own story. It's not one moment,



not even this moment. It's every moment. Big ones, like saying "I love you," moving in together, getting engaged, but mostly a million little ones that come in between the big moments; falling asleep next to one another, making dinner together, spending holidays with your families, getting a big hug when you get home from work and then binge-watching a new favorite show together. These everyday moments fuse together into one big experience and this experience is so incredible, words fail us when we try and explain it. Love's meant to be felt, not described, but trying to describe it is one of our favorite pastimes. Think of all the songs, books and movies about love. Even though we describe it in different ways, and even though love can look and feel different from one person to the next, we all know it when we see it. And we see it here, with you two! If love is not all, it's nothing. If love is all, then it's everything. It will be the basis of every aspect of your relationship. Love's not just a word, you two, it's an action. Love is something you say, but it's also something you express. Allow it to show through in everything you do; in good times and in bad. The promises that you'll make to each other in a few minutes, encompass everything I've just said. You know it and that's why we're all so happy for you both. Congratulations!

### **Most Traditional and Faith-Based**

Bride and Groom, congratulations on the strength and the courage it has taken for each of you to arrive at this special place in your lives. Today you receive the gift of true love through the devotion of marriage. Lots of couples say that they complete each other and I understand. You balance each other out and are at your best when you're together, but I'm here to tell you that you've always been whole on your own. You didn't meet an incomplete person. You don't need each other. You complement one another and that's why your relationship works so well. We're glad to know you individually, and together in your marriage you'll contribute to life even more fully. Bride, Groom is God's gift for you. He came into your life to share the successes, to grow with you, and to lift you up when life's challenges have you down. He loves you so much and so the unique ways that you express your love to him mean more to Groom than you'll ever know. When you're with each other, you're both tapped into the best of yourselves and there's nothing you can't accomplish, but Groom is not a gift for you alone. In your love, Bride he will find an even greater sense of who he's meant to be, so that by extension he's a gift to all of us. Continue to see the best in him, accepting Groom for who he is and for who he'll become. Evolve together and continue to embrace change as part of life. All successful marriages do. In this way, divine purpose will be accomplished through your relationship. Also, remember the person you fell in love with. You can share your honest feelings with him and stay true to yourself. May you both literally find the kingdom of heaven through the love you share. From this point forward Bride, Groom's needs carry the same priority as your own. Likewise Groom, from this point forward Bride's needs will be seen as equal to yours because she's God's gift for you. Bride has revealed her innermost world to you, Groom, but she's not intended for you alone. Continue to love her unconditionally; that in your love she might find her divine self, so beautiful and bright that the rest of us, the entire world might see her light. May she know that there's one person on whose love she can always depend. The person standing in front of you loves you exactly for who you are and is going to be there for you, going on adventures and checking items off your bucket list, for life! You're an amazing match so stay open and honest with each other. Do away with any remaining emotional barriers and if there truly aren't any, cherish that trust and freedom so that none are ever built.





Renewing your vows on anniversaries will help with that and will give you the chance to reflect on the things that are right in your relationship, and also time to think about things you might change. Our prayer for both of you is that you find in each other's love profound acceptance and total release from the unimportant things of the world. May the energies of your lives blend into harmony and oneness. We are all so excited for you both. May you create with God a piece of heaven on Earth.

