

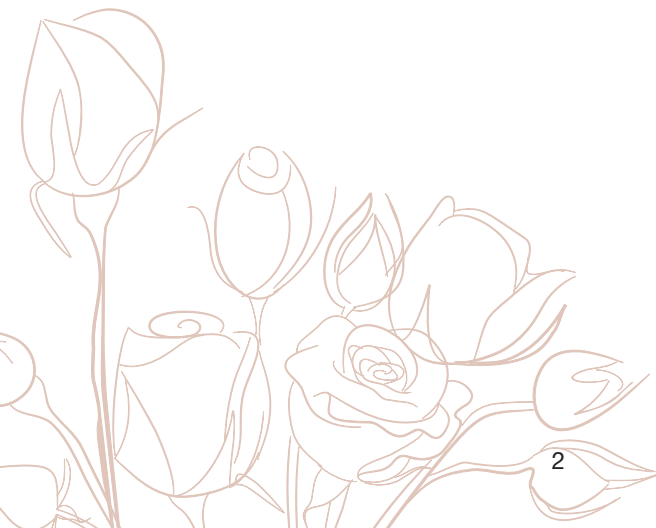


Readings and poetry for your  
marriage ceremonies

The following are readings which are suitable for civil marriage ceremonies.

**If you wish to use a reading not included in this booklet, please ensure that it has been agreed with the Superintendent Registrar who will conduct the ceremony, at least 7 days before the day. Please be aware that by law, no religious content can be allowed at a civil marriage.**

You may like to ask a friend or relative to give the reading. You will see in the ceremony some spaces where readings can slot in, please use any or all of these opportunities.



## A Dance by Colin Wicker

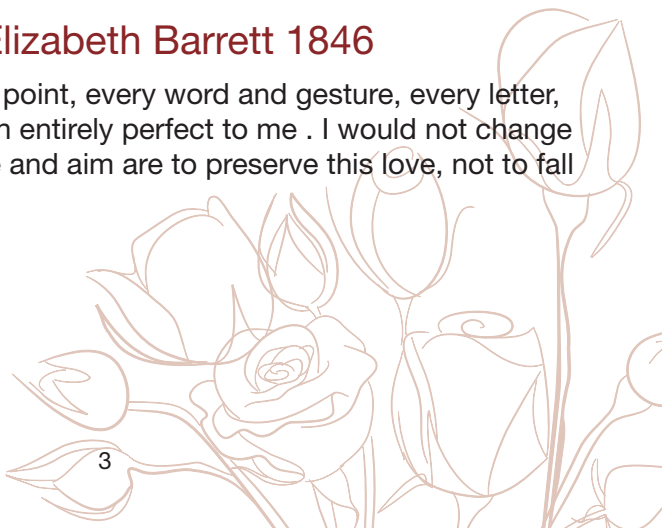
A good relationship is something like a dance – built on the same rules. Partners in a dance do not need to hold on tightly, because they move in the same patterns, confident in each other. To touch heavily would be to arrest the pattern and freeze the movement – to check if not to stop the beauty of its unfolding. There is no place here for the possessive clutch, the clinging arm, the heavy hand. Only the barest touch in passing is sufficient to carry the deepest wealth of meaning. Now arm-in-arm, now face-to-face, now back-to-back – it doesn't matter which. As dancers, they know they are partners responding to the same rhythm, creating a pattern together and being invisibly nourished by it. The joy of such a dance is not only the joy of creation: it is also the joy of living in, and for, the moment. The joy of knowing that lightness of touch and life itself are inter-twined.

## Oh, the comfort

Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort, of feeling safe with a person; having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pour them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together. Knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and then – with the breath of kindness – blow the rest away.

## Robert Browning to Elizabeth Barrett 1846

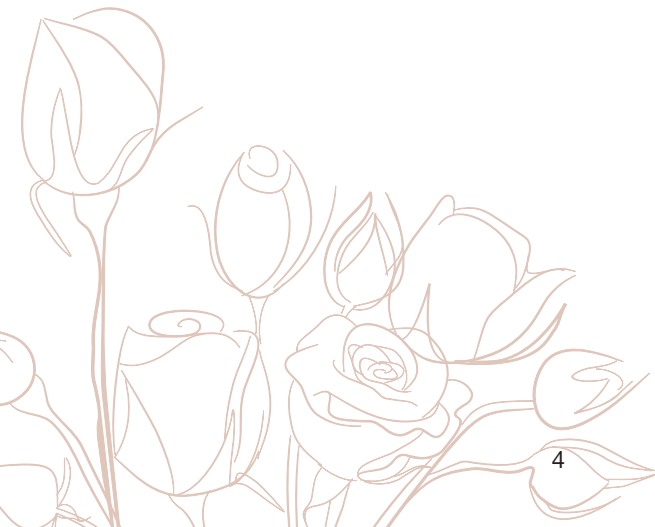
I look back, and in every one point, every word and gesture, every letter, every silence – you have been entirely perfect to me . I would not change one word, one look. My hope and aim are to preserve this love, not to fall from it.



## Marriage is More

Marriage is more than standing here side by side,  
Exchanging looks full of love, full of pride.  
It's more than the ceremony, which lasts just a while,  
It's a promise that's shared, it's an intimate smile.

It's a personal bond that you know will not end,  
The knowledge that someone your love will defend.  
It's a vow of commitment, special and true,  
It's a hope and a dream of love endless for you.



## Always Love Each Other by Larry S. Chengges

If you can always be as close and as happy as today, yet be secure enough to grow and change along the way.

If you can keep for you alone your love as man and wife, yet find the time to share your joy with others in your life.

If you can be as one, and walk through marriage hand in hand, yet still support the goals and dreams that each of you have planned.

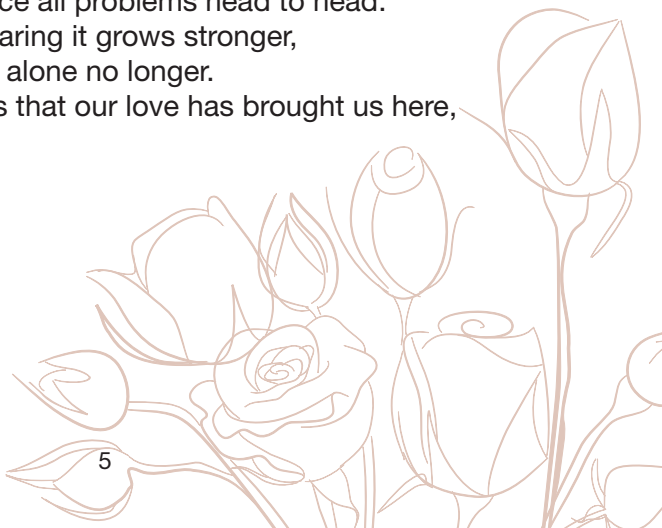
If you can dare to always go your separate ways together, then all the wonder of today will stay with you forever.



Love is born with the pleasure of looking at each other, it is fed with the necessity of seeing each other, it is concluded with the impossibility of separation.

## Together

Hand in hand we walk together, through the days ahead.  
Side by side we stand and face all problems head to head.  
All our love we pool, in it's sharing it grows stronger,  
now that two are one, we are alone no longer.  
Let friends and family witness that our love has brought us here,  
and may you all be joyful  
as in our joy you share.



## Us Two by A.A. Milne

Wherever I am there's always Pooh,  
there's always Pooh and Me,  
Whatever I do, he wants to do,  
"Where are you going today?" says Pooh,  
" well that's odd cos I was too."  
" Lets go together", says Pooh, says he.  
"Let's go together", says Pooh.

"What's twice eleven?" I said to Pooh,  
" Twice what," said Pooh to me.  
"I think it ought to be twenty-two" " Just what I think myself" said Pooh.  
"It wasn't an easy sum to do, but what's what it is" said Pooh, said he.  
"That's what it is", said Pooh.

"Lets look for dragons", said Pooh,  
"Yes let's", said Pooh to me.  
We crossed the river and found a few,  
"Yes, those are Dragons all right", said Pooh.  
"As soon as I saw their beaks I knew"  
"That's what they are", said Pooh, said he.  
"That's what they are" said Pooh.

"Let's frighten the Dragons", I said to Pooh.  
"That's right", said Pooh to Me. "I'm not afraid", I said to Pooh.  
And I held his paw and shouted "Shoo!"  
Silly old dragons, and off they flew.  
"I wasn't afraid", said Pooh, said he,  
"I'm never afraid with you".

So wherever I am, there's always Pooh, there's always Pooh and Me.  
"What would I do", I said to Pooh, "if it wasn't for you"  
and Pooh said "True".  
It isn't much fun for one, but two can stick together, says Pooh, says he.  
"That's how it is", says Pooh

## Towards a Happy Future

Loving, thoughtful, understanding,  
giving, taking, undemanding.  
Little words with lots of meaning  
when on each other you are leaning.  
But these all help to pave the way  
for a Happy Future from this day.

## From Anne Sophie Swetchine

In the opinion of the world, love ends all, as it does in comedy.  
The truth is precisely the opposite: it begins all

## The Day

May this be the start of a happy new life  
that's full of special moments to share.....

May this be the first of your dreams coming true  
and of hope that will always be there.....

May this be the start of a lifetime of trust  
and of caring that's just now begun.....

May today be a day that you'll always remember  
the day when your hearts become one.....



## I will be here

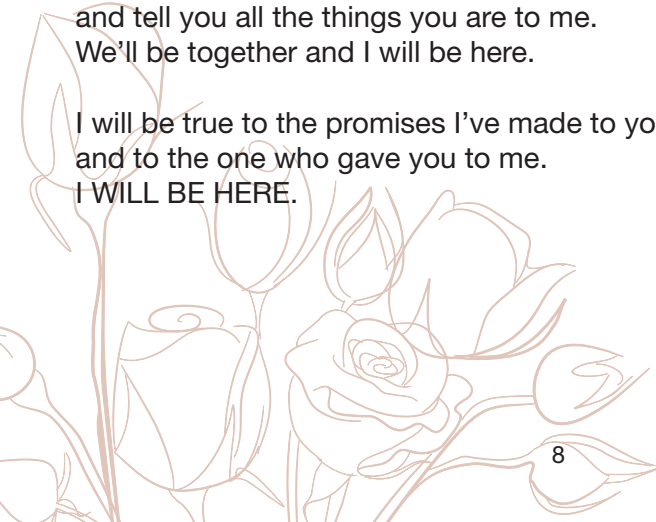
If in the morning when you wake,  
if the sun does not appear,  
I will be here.  
If in the dark we lose sight of love,  
hold my hand and have no fear.  
I will be here.

I will be here,  
When you feel like being quiet,  
when you need to speak your mind  
I will listen,  
Through the winning,  
losing and trying we'll be together,  
and I will be here.

If in the morning when you wake,  
if the future is unclear,  
I will be here.  
As sure as seasons were made for change,  
our lifetimes were made for years,  
I will be here.

I will be here,  
and you can cry on my shoulder,  
when the mirror tells us we're older.  
I will hold you, to watch you grow in beauty,  
and tell you all the things you are to me.  
We'll be together and I will be here.

I will be true to the promises I've made to you,  
and to the one who gave you to me.  
**I WILL BE HERE.**





## When I Look at You

I see all the hope and promise of our life together.

As the love that was always there in us grows stronger still. I see the wonder, the mystery, the miracle of love and all our dreams waiting to be born.

I see that we've learned what it takes to make a relationship work, and ours does. Thank you for being you, and making me feel so loved. Because what we have is special, and together as it will only grow.

## If we wanted to

Our love is strengthened by knowing that, each of us could survive on our own if we wanted to- but realising that more than anything – we choose to be together.

## Building a Marriage

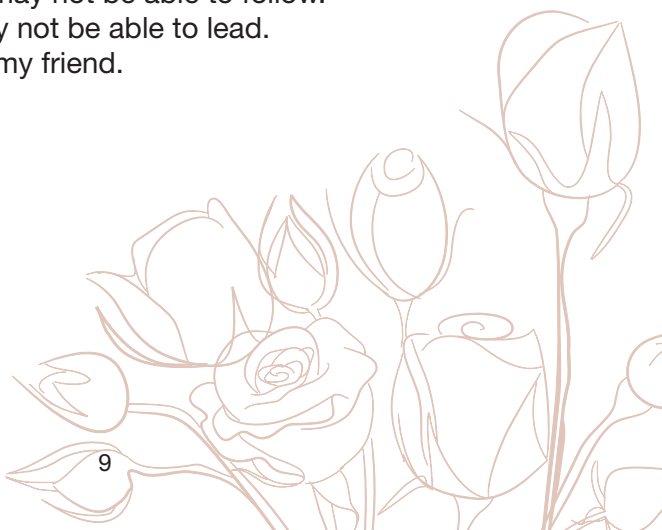
A happy marriage is the best thing life has to offer. It is built up brick by brick over the years, and cemented as much by the moments of tenderness as by those of irritation.

## Walk With Me

Do not walk in front of me, I may not be able to follow.

Do not walk behind me, I may not be able to lead.

Just walk beside me and be my friend.



## Words from a Native American Ceremony

May the sun bring you new energies by day,  
may the moon softly restore you by night.  
May the rain wash away your worries.  
And the breeze blow new strength into your being,  
and then, all the days of your life,  
may you walk gently through the world and know its beauty.

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for 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 each of you will be companion to the other . Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you.  
Go now to your dwelling-place, to enter into the days of your life together.  
May beauty surround you both, in the journey ahead and through all the years. May happiness be your companion to the place where the river meets the sun.  
And may your days together be good and long upon the earth.

## True Love Holds the Key

The marriage commitment begins with a promise.  
That two people lovingly say.  
And everyday life, hold the key to the secret  
for keeping this promise each day....  
A good sense of humour, an unbroken trust.  
Giving compliments, comfort and praise  
and taking some time for the fun things together  
in thoughtful affectionate ways.  
A marriage is made up of everyday kindness,  
and that is the beautiful key,  
to make every moment of life together,  
as wonderful as it can be.

## Love Is.....

Learning to give not always to take,  
learning to forgive each little mistake,  
learning to love whatever the cost,  
always remember alone you'd be lost.

Trying so hard your partner to please,  
trying to save whilst paying the fees,  
trying to smile when things turn out wrong,  
always remember to curb your tongue.

Never think of only your self,  
never to say you wish you had wealth,  
never let your temper get hot,  
always be thankful for what you have got.

If you remember all of these things,  
you will discover the joys that it brings,  
then you'll have what so many folks miss,  
always you'll have a life full of bliss.



Let me be the person  
that you walk with in the mountains.  
Let me be the person  
that you pick flowers with.  
Let me be the person  
that you talk to in confidence.  
Let me be the person  
that you turn to in sadness.  
Let me be the person  
that you smile with in happiness.  
Let me be the person  
THAT YOU LOVE



## Crazy with Love

I know every bump, every bulge, every wrinkle, every sag,  
every bag, every scar, every flaw.

I know that you flood the bathroom floor with water, and leave the bath  
towels in a heap, that you never take your plate out to be washed up, that  
your clothes and shoes can be found strewn throughout the house.

I know that your socks never reach the wash-bin, that you tell me the  
endings to detective novels, that you track mud through the house, that  
you never remember to pay the bills on time.

I know all your eccentricities, your prejudices, your moods. But somehow,  
for some reason I can never fully understand,

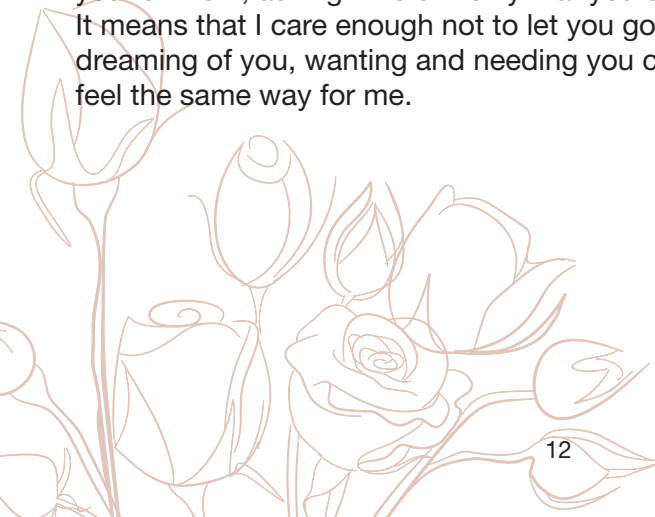
I AM CRAZY WITH LOVE FOR YOU.

## I Love You, by Deanne Laura Gilbert

‘I Love You’ means that I accept you for the person that you are, and  
that I don’t wish to change you into someone else. It means that I do not  
expect perfection from you, just as you don’t expect it from me.

‘I Love You’ means that I will love you and stand by you even through  
the worst of times. It means loving you when you are in a bad mood or  
too tired to do the things I want to do. It means loving you when you are  
down, not just when you’re fun to be with.

‘I Love You’ means that I know your deepest secrets and do not judge  
you for them, asking in return only that you do not judge me for mine.  
It means that I care enough not to let you go. It means thinking of you,  
dreaming of you, wanting and needing you constantly, and hoping you  
feel the same way for me.



## ‘I Love You’ means forever.

Marriage is the blending of two hearts, two lives, two minds into one everlasting love. Many things in life are best in pairs.

A bird's song is more beautiful when it is returned by a companion.

Laughter is more joyful when accompanied by another.

Success is more satisfying when there is someone with whom to share it.

And love is never so wonderful as when there is someone to return it

## Friendship by Elizabeth Jennings

Such love I cannot analyse, it does not rest in lips or eyes.

Neither in kisses or caress, partly I know it's gentleness.

And understanding in one word, or in brief letters.

It's preserved by trust and by respect and awe.

These are the words I'm feeling for.

Two people, yes, two lasting friends, the giving comes the taking ends

There is no measure for such things, for this all nature slows and sings

I cannot promise you an easy pathway,

that leads away from change or growing old.

But I can promise a love that's ever true and ever growing,

and a hand to hold in yours through each tomorrow.

I cannot promise you a life of sunshine,

I cannot promise riches, wealth or gold.

But I can promise all my hearts devotion

and a smile to chase away your tears of sorrow.

## This Life

The life that I have is all that I have, and the life that I have is yours. The love that I have in this life that I have, is yours for evermore

## Wedding Day

Now comes the knitting, the tying, entwining into one,  
mysterious involvement of two, whole, separate people  
into something altogether strange and changing, new and lovely.  
Nothing can ever be, we will never be, the same again,  
not merged into each other irrevocably, but rather  
from now on we go the same way, in the same direction,  
agreeing not to leave each other lonely, or discouraged, or behind.  
I will do my best to keep my promises, to treasure you and keep you  
warm, and we will make our wide bed beneath the bright and ragged quilt  
of all the yesterdays that make us who we are.  
The strengths and frailties we each bring to this relationship,  
and we will be rich indeed.

## Poem by Leslie Adams

As you stand at this your threshold to the treasure house of life  
may you use it's riches wisely, to avoid all pain and strife.

As you pass along the path of life, do remember all the way,  
that the joys you reap in years to come, spring from seed you sow today.

And when in later years you pause, to reflect on what you've done,  
may you look back contented and value what you've won.

## From the I Ching

When two people are at one in their inmost hearts, they shatter even the  
strength of iron or bronze. And when two people understand each other  
in their inmost hearts, their words are sweet and strong like the fragrance  
of orchids.

## The Confirmation by Edwin Muir

Yes, yours, my love, is the right human face.  
I in my mind had waited for this long.  
Seeing the false and searching for the true.  
Then found you as a traveller finds a place of welcome suddenly,  
amid the wrong valleys and rocks and twisting roads.

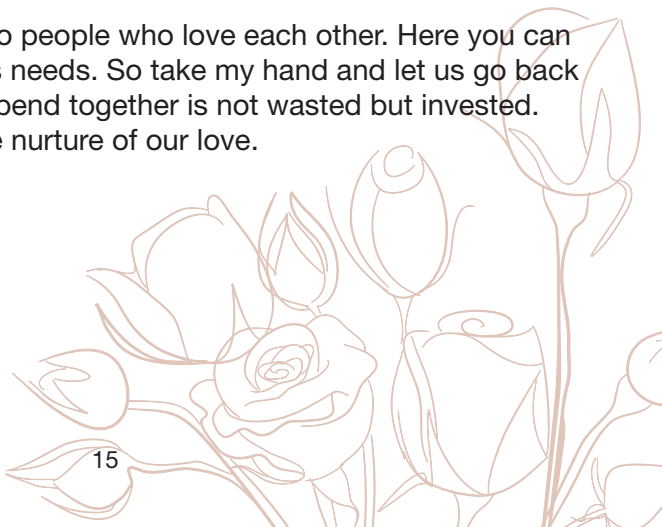
But you, what shall I call you?  
A fountain in a waste, a well of water in a country dry,  
or anything that's honest and good.  
An eye that makes the whole world bright.  
Your open heart, the simple with giving, gives the primal deed.

The first good world, the blossom, the blowing seed.  
The hearth the steadfast land, the wandering sea.  
Not beautiful or rare in every part,  
but like yourself, as they were meant to be.

## A walled Garden

Your marriage...should have within it, a secret and protected place, open to you alone. Imagine it to be a walled garden, entered by a door to which only you hold the key. Within this garden you will cease to be a mother, father, employee, homemaker or any other of the roles which you fulfil in daily life.

Here you are yourselves – two people who love each other. Here you can concentrate on one another's needs. So take my hand and let us go back to our garden. The time we spend together is not wasted but invested. Invested in our future and the nurture of our love.



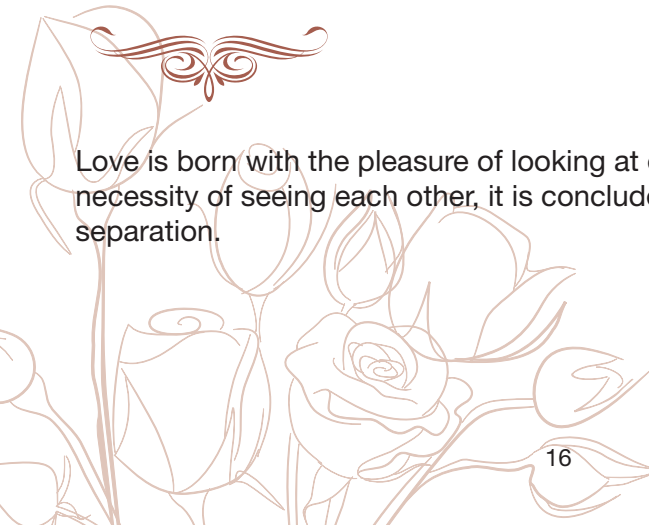
## A New Chapter

Today is a very special day, for it is the day you start another chapter in your book of life.

As parents, we always know that one day our children will grow to need much more than we can offer. Now that day has finally arrived, and you have both found the special person with whom you want to share your love and your life. Someone who can make the sun shine in your heart – even on the cloudiest of days, and someone who will fill the next chapter in your life with happiness beyond your dreams.

Live the life you believe in, and you will have everything you need to reach those dreams. Just look into your hearts and you will find the strength in each other that will make each new challenge easier to face – together. The close friends and family, sharing this day with you, all have memories very precious and personal to each of them, but would ask only this of both of you. Always give the best of yourselves to each other and ask no more than you can give. Accept one another for the way you are.

You fell in love with the qualities and abilities and the outlook on life that you both have – don't try to change them. Share your time, your close attention, and bring joy, strength and imagination into your relationship. Grow along with each other, be willing to face changes as you both change in order to keep your relationship alive and exciting. And most importantly, love each other in good times and in bad, in the only way you know how. Completely and forever.



Love is born with the pleasure of looking at each other, it is fed with the necessity of seeing each other, it is concluded with the impossibility of separation.



## I Promise by Dorothy R Colgan

I promise to give you the best of myself,  
and ask of you no more than you can give.

I promise to respect you as your own person  
and to realise that your interests, desires and needs  
are no less important than my own.

I promise to share with you my time and my attention,  
and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship.

I promise to keep myself open to you

To let you see through the windows of my world into my innermost fears,  
and feelings, secrets and dreams.

I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face changes

In order to keep our relationship alive and exciting.

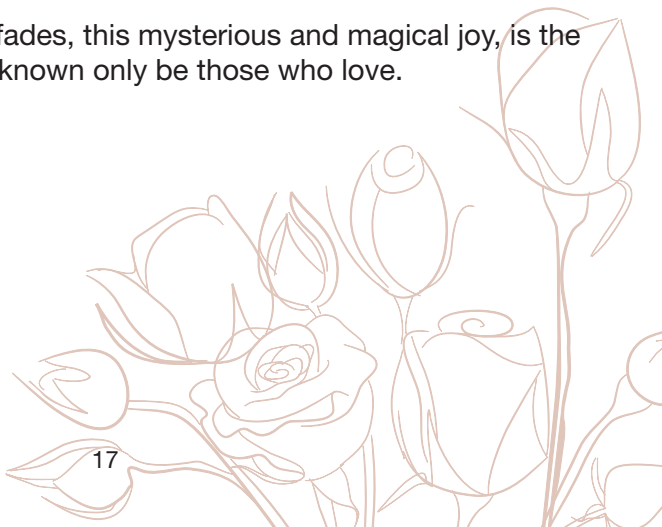
I promise to love you in good times and in bad,  
with all I have to give and all that I feel inside in the only way I know how.  
Completely and forever.

## What is Love

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on  
Valentines and romance in the movies. We begin to know that love is here  
and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives.

For love is a creator of our favourite memories and the foundation of our  
fondest dreams. Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that  
can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of  
places.

And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy, is the  
greatest treasure of all – one known only by those who love.



## If I Can Make You Cry by Paul Williams

If I can fill your eyes with pleasure, just by holding you,  
in the early hours of morning, when the day that lies ahead's not quite  
begun.

If I can make you smile, if I can move you close to laughter  
with a word or two.

When your day's been filled with strangers,  
and the castles that you build all tumble down.

Oh well, that's enough for me. That's all the hero I need to be.

I smile to think of you and me, you and I

And how our pleasures make you cry.

## Love is Giving

Love is giving, not taking, mending, not breaking,  
trusting, believing, never deceiving.

Patiently bearing and faithfully sharing each joy, every sorrow,  
today and tomorrow.

Love is kind, understanding, but never demanding.

Love is constant, prevailing, its strength never failing.

A promise once spoken for all time unbroken,  
love's time is for ever.

## How to Stay Together One More Day!

Laugh at yourself and at each other. Practice unselfishness.

Show your love. Take to, not at, each other. Respond lovingly to his or  
her request. Greet and leave each other with kind words. Criticise the  
action, not the person. Hold hands. Resolve the day's differences before  
bedtime. Admit your failings and ask for forgiveness. Don't fight dirty.  
Enjoy the present and welcome the future. Make love, not waves.

## Into The Future

Each year you've been together, your love has grown and grown. Undaunted by the trials you've faced, reassured by the joys you've known.

And now you stand before us, side by side and hand in hand, to take this step together, towards the future you have planned. The promises you're making, you make with love filled hearts. Safe in the knowledge that today, is the day that future starts.

## Sometimes

Sometimes it seems as if you were always meant to be together. That even from the time of your birth your lives have followed paths which have inevitably brought you to today. To this marriage. To these promises of a shared future. Now it is important to plan for that future. Be always together, but within the togetherness let each partner have space to grow as an individual. For each must learn the art of communication, compromise and commitment. Not making a bond of love, rather allowing love to be the rock on which a secure shared future can be built. A happy marriage cannot be created by one person, just as a happy tune cannot be played on a single note.

## When You Met

When you met you were not planning to fall in love, you were not planning to feel so attracted to someone. But when you met you awakened feelings inside yourselves that you had forgotten existed.

On the day you met, you did not realise how much your love would grow, that the attraction which first brought you together would reach beyond passion, to the comfort of knowing that you each had someone very special.

Someone who would be not only a lover, but also a close friend.

When you met you had no idea where your relationship would lead you, or how beautiful you would make each other's world, but today you know that without a doubt the luckiest day of your lives was the day you met.

## In Love or Real Love

In love brings goosebumps and butterflies.  
In love is obsessed with the colour of eyes.  
In love swings like a pendulum, in love rises and falls.

Not so for real love, this is for always.  
Real love holds you when you feel alone.  
Real love is unconditional and enduring.  
Your best friend always.

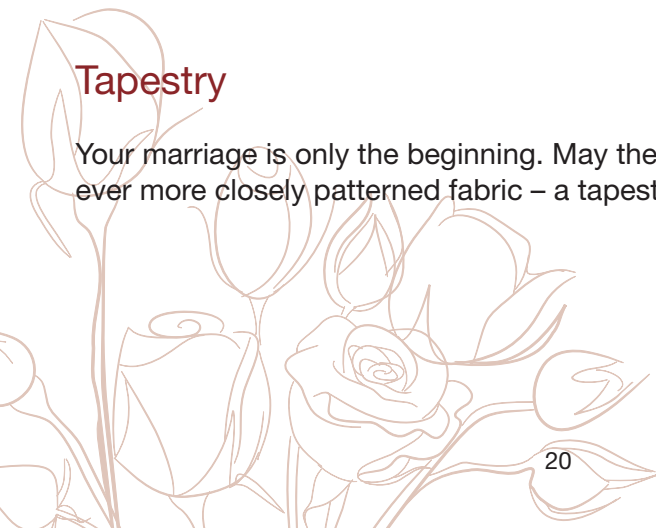
Real love sees the wrinkles and loves you more.  
For they tell a story of a path walked together.  
In love washes in and out, like waves on the sand.  
Real love strengthens and binds you together.  
Real love is a choice not a feeling.  
Choose real love today and forever.

## Love by Guy De Maupassant

Love is a short word, but it contains all,  
it means the body, the soul, the life, the entire being.  
We feel it as we feel the warmth of the blood,  
we breathe it as we breathe the air, we carry it in ourselves as we  
carry our thoughts. Nothing more exists for us. It is not a word, it is an  
inexpressible state indicated by four letters.

## Tapestry

Your marriage is only the beginning. May the lines of your loving weave an  
ever more closely patterned fabric – a tapestry of your shared life.



## Love's Testing

Life is precious and isn't always filled with the best or the worst:  
It is not all roses or all thorns.

There are ups and downs, good days and bad – and then there are some days which are the nadir, the pits, the all-time lows.

It is those times when your love for each other will be tested. It is at those times when you must become true partners and friends. It is at those times that you must show patience and kindness.

When your love is tested, show respect for each other. Be the most important person in each other's life. Love and care for each other when you are strong, be each other's strength in weakness.

Consult with each other and communicate. For communication allows for disagreement with being disagreeable. When you love, give generously of yourself, without counting the cost of giving. Remember the saying,

If you love a little, you give a little,  
But love a lot and you give a lot.  
For true love, when tested, endures.

## I love you by Dylan Thomas

I love you, it's almost too wonderful to me to say: but I want to say it and I am saying it – I love you.

And we'll always keep each other alive. We can never do nothing at all now, but that both of us know all about it.

You can do anything and be anything, so long as it's with me.

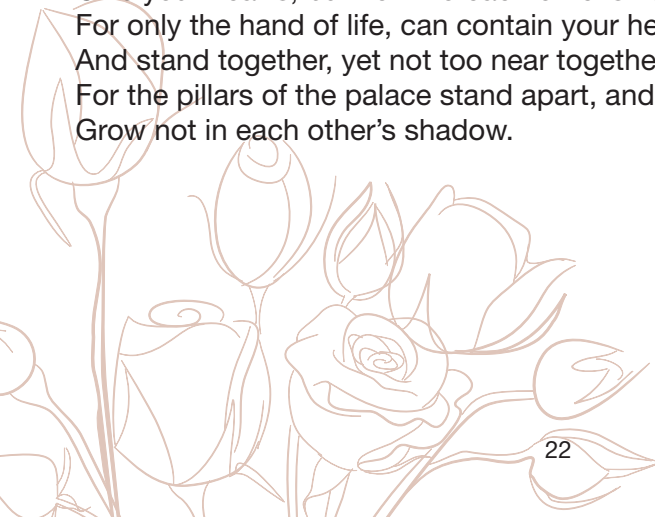
## The First Day by Christina Rossetti

I wish I could remember the first day.  
First hour, first moment of your meeting me:  
If bright or dim the season, it might be  
Summer or Winter for aught I can say.  
So unrecorded did it slip away,  
So blind was I to see and to foresee,  
So dull to mark the budding of my tree.  
That would not blossom yet for many a May.  
If only I could recollect it.  
Such a day of days I let it come and go  
As traceless as a thaw of bygone snow.  
It seemed to mean so little, meant so much  
If only now I could recall that touch,  
First touch of hand in hand! – Did one but know.

## Love one another by Kahil Gilbran

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 the same cup.  
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be 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 palace stand apart, and the oak tree and the cypress.  
Grow not in each other's shadow.



## The Keys To Love

The key to love is understanding...the ability to comprehend not only the spoken word, but those unspoken gestures, the little things that say so much in themselves.

The key to love is forgiveness...to accept each other's faults and pardon mistakes, without forgetting-but with remembering what you learn from them.

The key to love is trust...though dark doubts lay in hollowed thoughts, it must shine brightly on with reassuring radiance that suppresses fear with faith.

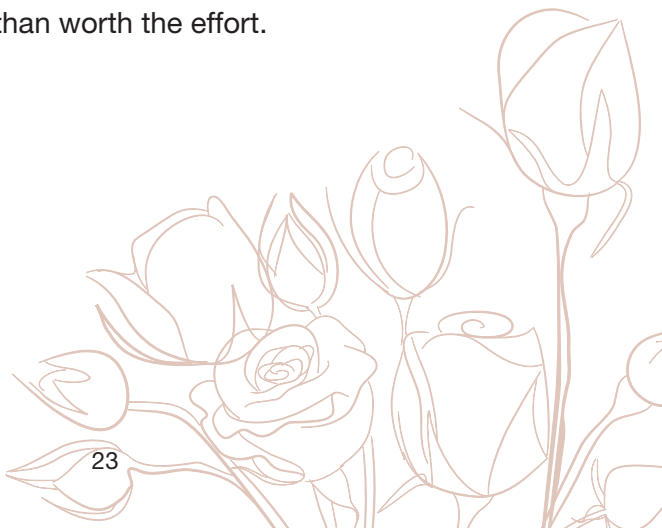
The key to love is sharing...facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together, both conquering problems forever searching for ways to intensify your happiness.

The key to love is giving...without thought of return, but with hope of just a simple smile and giving-in, but never up.

The key to love is respect...realising that you are two separate people with different ideas, that you belong with each other and share a mutual bond.

The key to love is inside us all...it takes time and patience to unlock all the ingredients that will take you to its threshold, it is a continual learning process that demands lots of work.....  
....but the rewards are more than worth the effort.

And you are the key to me.



## Love by Roy Croft

I love you, not only for what your are, but for what I am when I am with you.

I love you, not only 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.

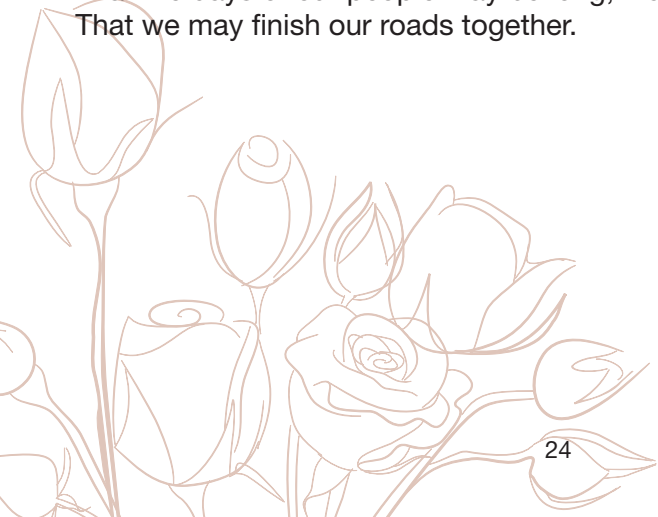
I love you because you have done more than any creed could have done, to make me good, and more than any fate could have done to make me happy.

You have done it, without a touch, without a word, without a sign.

You have done it by being yourself, perhaps what is what being a friend means after all.

## Keres Indian Song

I add my breath to your breath, that our days may be long on the earth.  
That the days of our people may be long, that we may be one person.  
That we may finish our roads together.





# Marriage is a Commitment to Life

## 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 emotional joining that is promised for a lifetime.

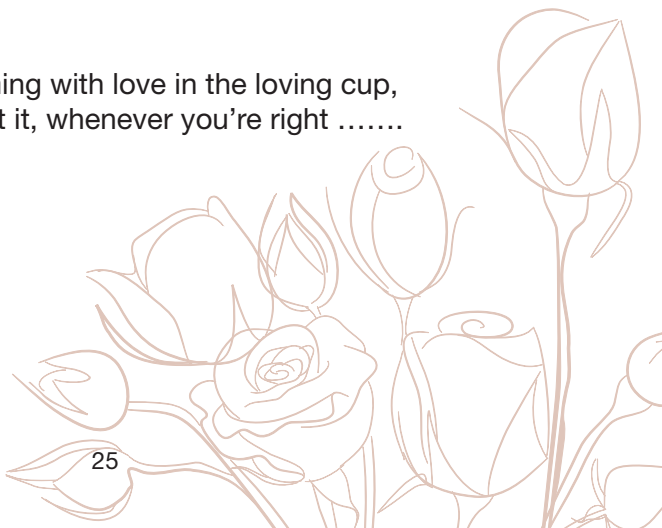
Within the circle of love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each others best friend, confidant, lover, teacher, listener and critic. And there may come times when one partner is heartbroken or ailing, and the love of the other may resemble the tender caring of a parent for a 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 and 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 bond 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 fulfil.

## Sound Advice!

To keep your marriage brimming with love in the loving cup,  
whenever you're wrong admit it, whenever you're right .....  
Shut up!



## On your Wedding Day

Today is a day you will always remember,  
the greatest in anyone's life.  
You'll start off the day just two people in love,  
and end it as Husband and Wife.

It's a brand new beginning the start of a journey,  
with moments to cherish and treasure.  
And although there'll be times when you both disagree,  
these will surely be outweighed by pleasure.

You'll have heard many words of advice in the past,  
when the secrets of marriage were spoken.  
But you know the answers lie hidden inside,  
where the bond of true love lies unbroken.

So live happy forever as lovers and friends,  
it's the dawn of a new life for you.  
As you stand there together with love in your eyes,  
from the moment you whisper "I do".

And with luck, all your hopes and your dreams can be real,  
may success find it's way to your hearts.  
Tomorrow can you bring you the greatest of joys,  
but today is the day it all starts.

## No Greater Happiness

There is no greater happiness than that of sharing life, sharing all its joys  
and cares as a loving man and wife.  
Since you've found that happiness, what more is there to say, except to  
hope your joys will grow sweeter day to day.

## A walled Garden

Your marriage...should have within it, a secret and protected place, open to you alone. Imagine it to be a walled garden, entered by a door to which only you hold the key. Within this garden you will cease to be a mother, father, employee, homemaker or any other of the roles which you fulfil in daily life.

Here you are yourselves – two people who love each other. Here you can concentrate on one another's needs. So take my hand and let us go back to our garden. The time we spend together is not wasted but invested. Invested in our future and the nurture of our love.

## Rules for a Happy Marriage

If you sleep in it – make it.  
If you drop it – pick it up.  
If you open it – close it.  
If you empty it – fill it up.  
If you eat out of it – put it in the sink.  
If it rings – answer it.  
If it cries – love it.

## On Your Wedding Day

On your wedding day and every day thereafter, may your home be filled with happiness and your hearts with love and laughter?

And may each year together find you more and more in love, and bring you all the happiness you're so deserving of.

May the joy of true companionship be yours to share through life, and may you treasure always the day you became husband and wife.

## In Marriage

In marriage, cherish each other in big ways and in small ways, and never forget the magic of those three little words.....

I love you....

In marriage, remember that it is the little things that make the difference, don't forget the birthdays and the anniversaries.

An occasional note means a lot. Share each other's life, even the small details, for too often we forget that day-after-day becomes year-after-year, and then it's gone.

Give each other room to grow, we all need our time alone.

Keep strong your faith in each other, time has a funny way of testing us, and it is faith that gets us through.

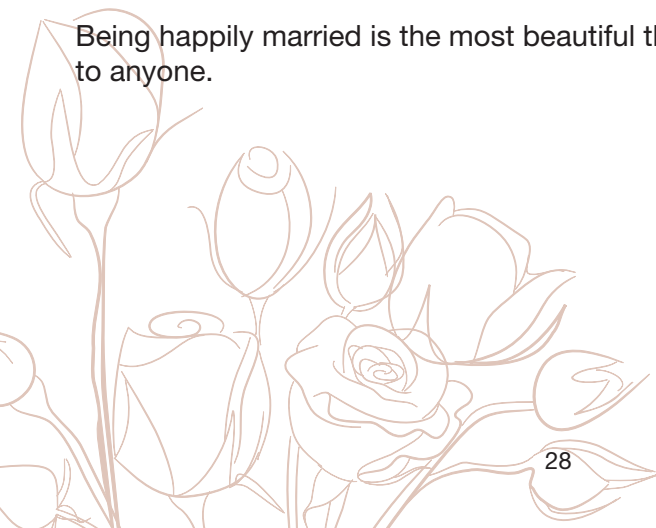
Respect one another, this world could always use more of that.

Speak your mind honestly, openly, but with kindness.

## What is a Marriage by Colin McCarty

It is the most beautiful thing that can happen between two people. A marriage is more than just a husband and a wife. It is a bridge which allows the love of two very special people to give meaning and worth and wonder to life. It is a continual process of building, of shaping, of communicating and caring. It is the deepest and sweetest understanding. It is sharing today's and tomorrow's together and making each one more treasured and more complete than anyone could make them alone. The thankfulness and love it can bring have no comparison.

Being happily married is the most beautiful thing that can happen.....  
to anyone.



## The Golden Chain of Marriage

Marriage is a golden chain, the links are friends so dear,  
and like a precious jewel, it's treasured more each year.

It's clasped together firmly, with a love that's deep and true,  
and it's rich in happy memories and fond recollections too.

Time can't destroy it's beauty, for as long as memories live,  
years can't erase the pleasure that the joy of marriage gives.

For marriage is a priceless gift that can't be bought or sold,  
and to have an understanding heart is worth far more than gold.

And the golden chain of marriage, is a strong and special tie,  
binding kindred hearts together as the years go passing by.

## Marriage is .....

Marriage is not a decision to be taken lightly.

It is a binding contract between two people sealing their love together.

Marriage is ensuring happiness and laughter. It does not happen automatically, it requires active thought, effort and consideration.

Marriage is a life's work.

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

Marriage is understanding actions as well as words.

It is accepting your partner for who they are and not who you want them to be.

Marriage is never being too old to hold hands.

It is being able to give generously, receive graciously and talk from the heart. Marriage is forever.

## Marriage is a Promise

A marriage is a promise that two hearts gladly make.  
A promise to be tender, to help, to give and take.  
A marriage is a promise to be kind and understanding.  
To be thoughtful and considerate, fair and undemanding.  
A marriage is a promise to share one life together.  
A love filled promise to be kept lovingly for ever.

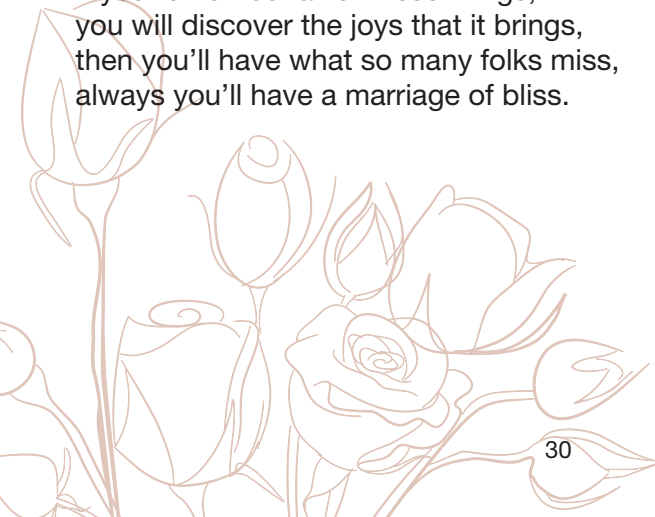
## Marriage is

Learning to give not always to take,  
learning to forgive each little mistake,  
learning to love whatever the cost,  
always remember alone you'd be lost.

Trying so hard your partner to please,  
trying to save whilst paying the fees,  
trying to smile when things turn out wrong,  
Always remember to curb your tongue.

Never think of only your self,  
never to say you wish you had wealth,  
never let your temper get hot,  
always be thankful for what you have got.

If you remember all of these things,  
you will discover the joys that it brings,  
then you'll have what so many folks miss,  
always you'll have a marriage of bliss.



# The Art of a Good Marriage

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 remember to say, "I love you" at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

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

It is standing together and facing the world.

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

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

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

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

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

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

## Happiness Cake Especially good for newlyweds

Take:

1 heaped portion of True Love

1 heaped cup of perfect trust and confidence

1 heaped cup of tenderness

(the most tender available)

1 heaped cup of good humour

1 tablespoon of good spirits

Blend well with:

1 heaped cup of unselfishness

A dash of interest in all one does and a good helping of work.

Mix all ingredients with a pint of sympathy and understanding combined.

Flavour with loving companionship.

Bake well all your life.

Ice with kisses, fond hope and tender words

This cake keeps well and should be served often.

## The Promises of Marriage by Bette Meeks

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

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 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 to 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.



Let me be the person that you walk with in the mountains.

Let me be the person that you pick flowers with.

Let me be the person that you talk to in confidence.

Let me be the person that you turn to in sadness.

Let me be the person that you smile with in happiness.

Let me be the person

THAT YOU LOVE

Susan Polis Schutz



## Yes I'll Marry You by Pam Ayres

Yes, I'll marry you my dear, and here's the reason why.  
So I can push you out of bed, when the baby starts to cry.  
And if we hear a knocking, and it's creepy and it's late,  
I hand you the torch you see, and you investigate.

Yes, I'll marry you my dear, you may not apprehend it, but when the  
tumble-drier goes, it's you that has to mend it.  
You have to face the neighbour, should our Labrador attack him.  
And if a drunkard fondles me, it's you that has to whack him.

Yes, I'll marry you, you're virile and you're lean.  
My house is like a pigsty, you can help to keep it clean.  
That sexy little dinner, which you served by candlelight,  
as I do chipolatas, you can cook it every night.

It's you who has to work the drill, and put up curtain track.  
And when I've got PMT it's you who gets the flak.  
I do see great advantages, but none of them for you.  
And so before you see the light,  
I do, I do, I do!



## A Lovely Love Story by Edward Monkton

The fierce dinosaur was trapped inside his cage of ice. Although it was cold he was happy in there. It was, after all, HIS cage.

Then, along came the lovely other dinosaur.

The lovely other dinosaur meted the dinosaur's cage with kind words and loving thoughts.

I like this dinosaur, thought the lovely other dinosaur. Although he is fierce he is also tender and his is funny. He is also quite clever though I will not tell him this for now.

I like this lovely other dinosaur, thought the dinosaur. She is beautiful and she is different and she smells so nice. She is also a free spirit which is a quality I much admire in a dinosaur.

But he can be so distant and so peculiar at times, thought the lovely other dinosaur.

He is also overly fond of things. Are all dinosaurs so overly fond of things?

But her mind skips from here to there so quickly, thought the dinosaur. She is also uncommonly keen on shopping. Are all lovely other dinosaurs so uncommonly keen on shopping?

I will forgive his peculiarity and his concern for things, thought the lovely other dinosaur. For they are part of what makes him a richly character individual.

I will forgive her skipping mind and her fondness for shopping, thought the dinosaur. For she fills our life with beautiful thoughts and wonderful surprises. Besides, I am not unkeen on shopping either.

Now the dinosaur and the lovely other dinosaur are old.

Together they stand on the hill telling each other stories and feeling the warmth of the sun on their backs.

And that, my friends, is how it is with love. Let us all be dinosaurs and lovely other dinosaurs together.

For the sun is warm, and the world is a beautiful place.

## Oh the places you'll go – Dr Seuss

Congratulations!  
Today is your day.  
You're off to great places.  
You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.  
You have each other, and you know what you know.  
And you are the ones who'll decide where to go.

You'll look up and down the streets, look' em over with care.  
About some you will say, we don't choose to go down there.  
With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet, you're too smart  
to down a not-so-good street.

And you may not find any you'll want to go down, in that case, of course,  
you'll head straight out of town. It's opener there in the wide-open air.

Out there things can happen and frequently do, to people as brainy and  
footsy as you. And when things start to happen, don't worry, don't stew.  
Just go right along, you'll start happening too.  
Oh, the places you'll go.

You'll be on your way up, you'll be seeing great sights.  
You'll join the high flyers who soar to high heights.

You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed, you'll pass the  
whole gang and you'll soon take the lead.  
Wherever you fly, you'll be best of the best.  
Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.

Except when you don't.  
Because sometimes you won't.  
You'll get mixed up of course, as you already know.  
You'll get mixed up with so many strange birds as you go.

So be sure when you step, step with great care and great tact and  
remember that life's a balancing act.  
Just never forget to be dexterous and deft, and never mix up your right  
foot with your left.

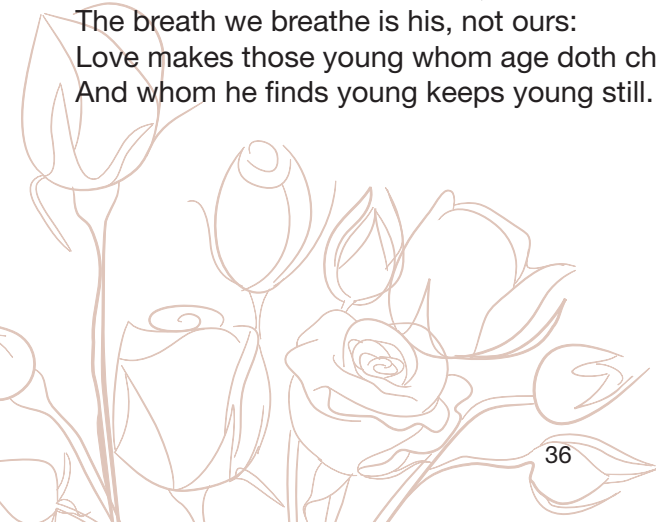
And will you succeed?  
Yes, you will indeed (98% guaranteed)

Kids you'll move mountains!

So be your name Buxbaum or Downe or Bass or Mordecai Ali Van Allen  
O'Shea, you're off to great places.  
Today is your day.  
Your mountain is waiting so get on your way.

## To Chloe - William Cartwright

There are two births; the one when light  
First strikes the new awaken'd sense;  
The other when two souls unite,  
And we must count our life from thence:  
When you loved me and I loved you  
Then both of us were born anew.  
Love then to us new souls did give  
And in those souls did plant new powers;  
Since when another life we live,  
The breath we breathe is his, not ours:  
Love makes those young whom age doth chill,  
And whom he finds young keeps young still.



## Unknown title - Regina Hill

When two people join together  
and bond their lives forever  
because they are certain they have something special  
that will make their commitment last...  
this is the first act of faith. Upon this act of faith these two people will  
build a life.  
and as long as their determination stays with them  
this life will always be their hope, their dreams, their truth, their being,  
their inspiration,  
and their source of strength.  
Through their life together, they will hurt and laugh.  
Together they will feel all of life's up and downs.  
They will learn and grow through trial and error.  
The lessons will show them the meaning of true love  
And the difference between a love that lasts  
and one that just gives up.  
These two people will face each failure together and  
discover the strength to go on.  
They will encourage each other's dreams and forgive each other's faults.  
Through a labour of love.  
these two will become as one,  
fighting against the odds and ultimately creating  
a commitment that will grow into an infinite love.

## From A Navajo Wedding Ceremony

Now you have lit a fire and that fire should not go out.  
The two of you now have a fire that represents love,  
understanding and a philosophy of life.  
It will give you heat, food, warmth and happiness.  
The new fire represents a new beginning - a new life and a new family.  
The fire should keep burning; you should stay together.  
You have lit the fire for life, until old age separates you.

You share today the joy of a deep commitment  
And a special trust, and you have given each other  
The most precious gift of love

Treasure it, nurture it and encourage it. With all the honesty you used in  
creating it

You are sharing something rare and beautiful. Always speak the truth and  
listen attentively. So that you may understand each others thoughts and  
intentions

Inspire each other by sharing your accomplishments  
Say I love you often to retain the warmth between you

Laugh a lot too, even when you are angry  
Remember you are each other's best friend

Stand together and for each other always  
May each day be a blessing  
And the fulfillment of your dreams.

## A tapestry of love

Just as two very different threads woven in opposite directions can form  
a beautiful tapestry, so can your two lives merge together to form a  
beautiful marriage.

To make your marriage work will take love.

Love should be the core of your marriage;

love is the reason you are here.

But it will also take trust - to know in your hearts  
you want the best for each other.

It will take dedication – to stay open to one another;

to learn and to grow together even when this is not so easy to do.

It will take faith – to always be willing to go forward to tomorrow, never  
really knowing what tomorrow will bring.

And it will take commitment – to hold true to a journey you both now will  
share together.

## Friendship

It is often said that it is love that makes the world go round. However, without doubt, it is friendship which keeps our spinning existence on an even keel.

True friendship provides so many of the essentials for a happy life – it is the foundation on which to build an enduring relationship, it is the mortar which bonds us together in harmony, and it is the calm, warm protection we sometimes need when the world outside seems cold and chaotic.

True friendship holds a mirror to our foibles and failings, without destroying our sense of worthiness. True friendship nurtures our hopes, supports us in our disappointments, and encourages us to grow to our best potential.

This couple came together as friends, they pledge to each other not only their love but also the strength, warmth and, most importantly, the fun of true friendship.

## Teddy Bear

Getting married means you'll have someone's hand to hold, Even when you're feeling sick, even when you're old.

It means when you sit down to eat, someone will be there, So you won't have to tell your day to an empty chair.

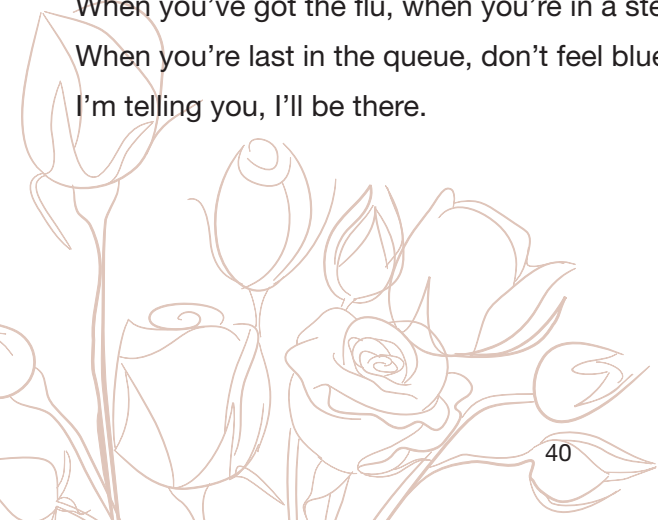
It means that you can have some kids, just like a mom and dad, And play with them all afternoon, except when they are bad.

It means that when you need some help, someone will help out, Someone always near to you, so you won't have to shout.

But best of all is when it's time, to turn out all the lights:  
You won't have to be alone those long and scary nights.  
So even though you don't have toys, you don't have to care:  
Once you're married you can be each other's teddy bear!

## I'll Be There For You by Louise Cuddon

I'll be there my darling, through thick and through thin  
When your mind's in a mess and your head's in a spin  
When your plane's been delayed, and you've missed the last train.  
When life is just threatening to drive you insane  
When your thrilling whodunit has lost its last page  
When somebody tells you, you're looking your age  
When your coffee's too cool, and your wine is too warm  
When the forecast said "Fine", but you're out in a storm  
When your quick break hotel, turns into a slum  
And your holiday photos show only your thumb  
When you park for five minutes in a resident's bay  
And return to discover you've been towed away  
When the jeans that you bought in hope or in haste  
Just stick on your hips and don't reach round your waist  
When the food you most like brings you out in red rashes  
When as soon as you boot up the bloody thing crashes  
So my darling, my sweetheart, my dear...  
When you break a rule, when you act the fool  
When you've got the flu, when you're in a stew  
When you're last in the queue, don't feel blue 'cause  
I'm telling you, I'll be there.





He never leaves the seat up, or wet towels upon the floor.  
The toothpaste has the lid on, and he always shuts the door!

She's very clean and tidy, though she may sometimes delude.  
Leave your things out at your peril, in a second they'll have moved!

He's a very active person, as are all his next of kin  
Where as she likes lazy days, he'll still drag her to the gym!

He romances her and dines her, home cooked dinners and the like  
He even knows her favourite food, and spoils her day and night!

She's thoughtful when he looks at her, a smile upon his face  
Will he look that good in 50 years, when his dentures aren't in place?!

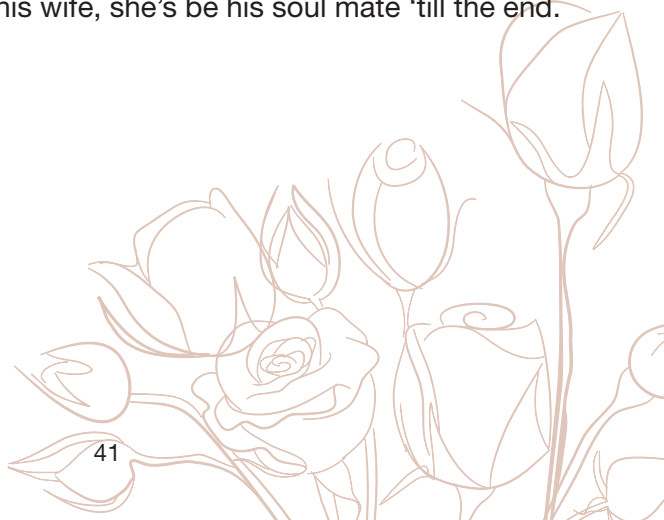
He says he loves her figure, and her mental prowess too  
But when gravity takes her over, will she charm with her IQ?

She says she loves his kindness, and his patience is a must  
And of course she thinks he's handsome, which in her eyes is a plus!

They're both not wholly perfect, but who are we to judge  
He can be pig headed, where as she won't even budge!

All that said and done, they love the time they spent together  
And I hope as I'm sure you do, that this fine day will last forever.

He'll be more than just her husband, he'll also be her friend  
And she'll be more than just his wife, she's be his soul mate 'till the end.



# The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams Bianco

‘What is REAL?’ asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender<sup>1</sup>, before Nana<sup>2</sup> came to tidy the room. ‘Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?’

‘Real isn’t how you are made,’ said the Skin Horse. ‘It’s a thing that happens to you. When someone 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.’

‘I suppose you are real?’ said the Rabbit. And then he wished he had not said it, for he thought the Skin Horse might be sensitive. But the Skin Horse only smiled.

‘Someone special made me Real,’ he said. ‘That was a great many years ago; but once you are Real you can’t become unreal again. It lasts for always.’



# The Owl and the Pussycat by Edward Lear

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea  
In a beautiful pea green boat,  
They took some honey, and plenty of money,  
Wrapped up in a five pound note.

The Owl looked up to the stars above,  
And sang to a small guitar,  
'O lovely Pussy! O Pussy my love,  
What a beautiful Pussy you are,  
You are, You are!  
What a beautiful Pussy you are!

Pussy said to the Owl, 'You elegant fowl!  
How charmingly sweet you sing!  
O let us be married! too long we have tarried:  
But what shall we do for a ring?'

They sailed away, for a year and a day,  
To the land where the Bong-tree grows  
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood  
With a ring at the end of his nose,  
His nose, His nose,  
With a ring at the end of his nose.

'Dear pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling  
Your ring?' Said the Piggy, 'I will.'  
So they took it away, and were married next day  
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.

They dined on mince, and slices of quince,  
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;  
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,  
They danced by the light of the moon,  
The moon, The moon,  
They danced by the light of the moon.

## Untitled by Bee Rawlinson

Love me when I'm old and shocking  
Peel off my elastic stockings  
Swing me from the chandeliers  
Let's be randy bad old dears.  
Push around my chromed Bath Chair  
Let me tease your white chest hair  
Scaring children, swapping dentures  
Let us have some great adventures  
Take me to the Dogs and Bingo  
Teach me how to speak the lingo  
Bone my eels and bring me tea  
Show me how it's meant to be  
Take me to your special places  
Watching all the puzzled faces  
You in shorts and socks and sandals  
Me with warts and huge love-handles  
As the need for love enthralls  
Wrestle with my damp proof smalls  
Make me laugh without constraint  
Buy me chocolate body paint  
Hold me safe throughout the night  
When my hair has turned to white  
Believe me when I say it's true  
I've waited all my life for you



## Vow by Roger McGough

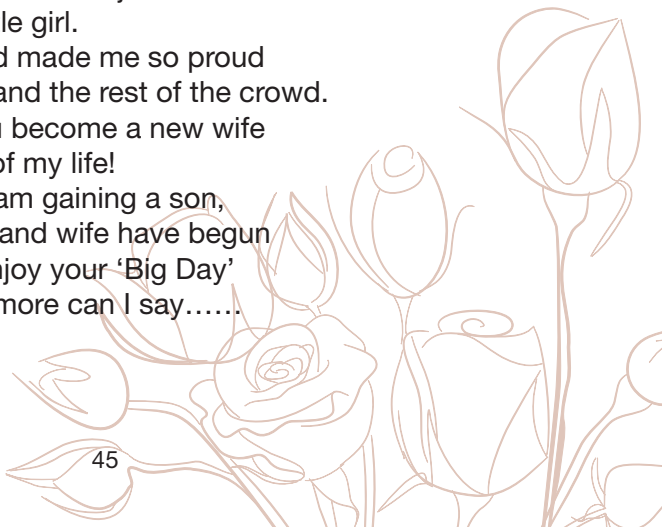
I vow to honour the commitment made this day  
Which, unlike the flowers and the cake,  
Will not wither or decay. A promise, not to obey  
But to respond joyfully, to forgive and to console,  
For once incomplete, we now are whole.

I vow to bear in mind that if, at times  
Things seem to go from bad to worse,  
They also go from bad to better.  
The lost purse is handed in, the letter  
Contains wonderful news. Trains run on time,  
Hurricanes run out of breath, floods subside,  
And toast lands jam-side up.

And with this ring, my final vow:  
To recall, whatever the future may bring,  
The love I feel for you now.



Today, dear daughter, as you walk down the aisle  
You'll see all the faces wearing a smile.  
But as I remember those tender young years  
My smile will conceal a few hidden tears.  
It isn't through sadness, my emotions just whirl  
As I think back to my dear little girl.  
And now you have grown and made me so proud  
As you smile for the camera and the rest of the crowd.  
Remember dear ..... As you become a new wife  
You're still very much a part of my life!  
I am not losing a daughter; I am gaining a son,  
You're new lives as husband and wife have begun  
So be blissfully happy and enjoy your 'Big Day'  
Have a wonderful time what more can I say.....



## Blessing of the Hands

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 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 of 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 together 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.



## Foxtrot From a Play

The soldier loves his rifle, the scholar love his books,  
The farmer loves his horses, the film star loves her looks.  
There's love the whole world over, wherever you may ne,  
Some lose their rest for gay Mae West, but you're my cup of tea.

Some talk of Alexander, and some of Fred Astaire,  
Some like their heros hairy, some like them debonair.  
Some prefer a curate, and some an A.D.C.,  
Some like a though to treat'em rough, but you're my cup of tea.

Some are mad on Airedales, and some like Pekinese,  
On tabby cats or parrots, or guinea pigs or geese.  
There are patients in asylums, who think that they're a tree,  
I had an aunt who loved a plant, but you're my cup of tea.

Some have sagging waistlines, and some a bulbous nose,  
And some a floating kidney, and some have hammer toes.  
Some have tennis elbow, and some have housemaid's knee,  
And some I know have got B.O., but you're my cup of tea.

The blackbird loves the earthworm, the adder loves the sun,  
The polar bear an iceberg, the elephant a bun.  
The trout enjoys the rive, the whale enjoys the sea,  
And dogs love most an old lamp-post, but you're my cup of tea.



## When You Marry

When you marry her, love her.  
After you marry her, study her.  
When she is blue, cheer her.  
When she is talkative, by all means listen to her.  
If she dresses well, compliment her.  
When she is cross, humour her.  
If she is jealous, cure her.  
If she is lonely, comfort her.  
When she looks pretty, tell her so.  
Let her feel you understand her.  
But never let her know she isn't the boss.

When you marry him, love him.  
After you marry him, study him.  
When he is secretive, trust him.  
If he is sad, cheer him.  
When he is talkative, listen to him.  
When he is quarrelsome, ignore him.  
If he is jealous, cure him.  
If he cares nought for pleasure, coax him.  
If he favours society, accompany him.  
When he deserves it, kiss him.  
Let him think you understand him.  
But never let him know you manage him.