

Melissa Haley

Civil Celebrant

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Weddings

Poems

This Marriage

May these vows and this marriage be blessed.
May it be sweet milk,
this marriage, like wine and halvah.
May this marriage offer fruit and shade
like the date palm.
May this marriage be full of laughter,
our every day a day in paradise.
May this marriage be a sign of compassion,
a seal of happiness here and hereafter.
May this marriage have a fair face and a good
name,
an omen as welcomes the moon in a clear blue
sky.
I am out of words to describe
how spirit mingles in this marriage.
BY Rumi
retrieved <https://hellopoetry.com/poem/75711/this-marriage/>

The Wedding Singer

"I want to make you smile whenever you're sad
Carry you around when your arthritis is bad
All I want to do is grow old with you
I'll get your medicine when your tummy aches
Build you a fire if the furnace breaks
Oh it could be so nice, growing old with you
I'll miss you
Kiss you
Give you my coat when you are cold
Need you
Feed you
Even let you hold the remote control
So let me do the dishes in our kitchen sink
Put you to bed if you've had too much to drink
I could be the man who grows old with you
I want to grow old with you."
—Robbie

"If I Should Fall Behind" by Bruce Springsteen

"We said we'd walk together baby come what
may
That come the twilight should we lose our way
If as we're walking a hand should slip free
I'll wait for you
And should I fall behind
Wait for me

We swore we'd travel darlin' side by side
We'd help each other darlin' in stride
But each lover's steps fall so differently
But I'll wait for you
And if I should fall behind
Wait for me

Now everyone dreams of a love lasting and true
But you and I know what this world can do
So let's make our steps clear that the other may
see
And I'll wait for you
If I should fall behind
Wait for me

Now there's a beautiful river in the valley ahead
There 'neath the oak's bough soon we will be
wed
Should we lose each other in the shadow of the
evening trees
I'll wait for you
And should I fall behind
Wait for me
Darlin' I'll wait for you
Should I fall behind, wait for me"

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"In My Life" by John Lennon

"There are places I'll remember
All my life though some have changed
Some forever not for better
Some have gone and some remain
All these places have their moments
With lovers and friends, I still can recall
Some are dead and some are living
In my life, I've loved them all

Though I know I'll never lose affection
For people and things that went before
I know I'll often stop and think about them
In my life, I love you more
In my life, I love you more"

But of all these friends and lovers
There is no one compares with you
And these memories lose their meaning
When I think of love as something new
Though I know I'll never lose affection
For people and things that went before
I know I'll often stop and think about them
In my life, I love you more

Chasing Amy

"I love you. Very simple, very truly. You're the epitome of every attribute and quality I've ever looked for in another person...I can't stand next to you without wanting to hold you. I can't look into your eyes without feeling that longing you only read about in trashy romance novels. I can't talk to you without wanting to express my love for everything you are. I've never felt this before, and I like who I am because of it. There isn't another soul on this planet who's ever made me half the person I am when I'm with you. I'm forever changed because of who you are and what you've meant to me." – Holden

Stardust

"My heart, it feels like my chest can barely contain it. Like it doesn't belong to me anymore. It belongs to you. And if you wanted it, I'd wish for nothing in exchange – no gifts. No goods. No demonstrations of devotion. Nothing but knowing you loved me too. Just your heart, in exchange for mine." –Yvaine

Leap Year

"May you never steal, lie, or cheat, but if you must steal, then steal away my sorrows, and if you must lie, lie with me all the nights of my life, and if you must cheat, then please cheat death because I couldn't live a day without you." –Bride

Twilight

"It's an extraordinary thing to meet someone who you can bare your soul to, and who will accept you for what you are. I've been waiting, what seems like a very long time, to get beyond what I am. And [now] I feel like I can finally begin...No measure of time with you will be long enough. But let's start with forever." –Edward

Sleepless in Seattle

"It was a million tiny little things that, when you added them all up, they meant we were supposed to be together...and I knew it. I knew it the very first time I touched her. It was like coming home,

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only to no home I'd ever known. I was just taking her hand to help her out of a car, and I knew. It was like...magic." –Sam Baldwin

How I Met Your Mother

"But love doesn't make sense. You can't logic your way into or out of it. Love is totally nonsensical. But we have to keep doing it, or else we're lost and love is dead and humanity should just pack it in. Because love is the best thing we do."

"When you love someone you just...don't stop. Ever. Even when people roll their eyes or call you crazy. Even then. Especially then. You just you don't give up...If I could just, you know, take the whole world's advice and move on and find someone else, that wouldn't be love. That would be...some other disposable thing that is not worth fighting for. But that is not what this is." –Ted Mosby

Game of Thrones

"As you are the Moon of his life, he shall be your Sun and Stars. Your love shall be as ever present as those two celestial bodies...even though they are sometimes hidden from one another's sight. Your love will be the guiding force that charts the course of your tomorrows, holds your world together in difficult times, and will make life itself shine bolder and brighter than we human beings have a right to dream of." (Khaleesi and Khal Drogo's Wedding Vows)

Songs/Music

Walking down the Aisle:

Marry You - Bruno Mars

Marry me - Train

Shallow - Lady Gaga & Bradley Cooper

A Thousand Years -Christina Perry

Endless Love - Diana Ross & Lionel Ritchie

All of me - John Legend

Truly Madly Deeply - Savage Garden

Amazed - Lonestar

Best Day of My Life - American Authors

Kissing you - Des'ree

Signing the Documents

Say you won't let go - James Arthur

Chasing Cars - Snow Patrol

Your Song - Rita Ora

End of Ceremony Processional

You're my best friend - Queen

All Rounders

Perfect - Ed Sheeran

Just the way you are - Bruno Mars

Rule the World - Take That

Incredible - Timomatic

Everything I do (I do it for You) - Bryan Adams

You're the Inspiration - Chicago

Glory of Love - Peter Cetera

Can't Help Falling In Love - Elvis

Rituals

Wine ceremony

Stone ceremony

Hand fasting

Time capsule

Unity candle

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Vow renewals

Poems	
<p>The One</p> <p>When the one whose hand you're holding is the one who holds your heart, When the one whose eyes you gaze into gives your hopes and dreams their start, When the one you think of first and last is the one who holds you tight, And the things you plan together make the world seem just right, When the one whom you believe in puts their faith and trust in you, You've found the one and only love you'll share your whole life through.</p>	<p>When You Are Old</p> <p>When you are old and grey and full of sleep, And nodding by the fire, take down this book, And slowly read, and dream of the soft look Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep; How many loved your moments of glad grace, And loved your beauty with love false or true, But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you, And loved the sorrows of your changing face; And bending down beside the glowing bars, Murmur, a little sad, "From us fled Love, He paced upon the mountains far above, And hid his face amid a crowd of stars."</p> <p>-W.B. Yeats</p>
<p>The Art of a Good Marriage</p> <p>A good marriage must be created. In the 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 each day. It is never going to sleep angry. It is having a mutual sense of value 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</p> <p>Wilfred Arlan Peterson</p>	<p>I Promise</p> <p>I promise to give you the best of myself and to ask of you no more than you can give. I promise to respect you as your own person and to realise that your interest, 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 I feel inside in the only way I know how - completely and forever.</p> <p>Dorothy R Colgan</p>

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From: Gift from the Sea

When you love someone, you do not love them all the time, in exactly the same way, from moment to moment. It is an impossibility. It is even a lie to pretend to. And yet this is exactly what most of us demand. We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, of relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We are afraid it will never return. We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity - in freedom in the sense that the dancers are free, barely touching as they pass, but partners in the same pattern.

-Anne Morrow Lindbergh

I Love You This Much

I love you this much.

Enough to do anything for you, give my life, my love, my heart and my soul to you and for you.

Enough to willingly give all of my time, efforts, thoughts, talents, trust and prayers to you.

Enough to want to protect you, care for you, guide you, hold you, comfort you, listen to you and cry to you and with you.

Enough to be completely comfortable with you, act silly around you, never have to hide anything from you and be myself with you.

I love you enough to share all of my sentiments, dreams, goals, fears, hopes and worries, my entire life with you.

Enough to want the best for you, to wish for your successes and to hope for the fulfilment of all your endeavors.

Enough to keep my promises to you and pledge my loyalty and faithfulness to you.

Enough to cherish your friendship, adore your personality, respect your values and see you for who you are.

I love you enough to fight for you, compromise for you and sacrifice myself for you if need be.

Enough to miss you incredibly when we're apart, no matter what length of time.

Enough to believe in our relationship, to stand by it through the worst of times, to have faith in our strength as a couple and to never give up on us.

Enough to spend the rest of my life with you, be there for you when you need or want me and never, ever want to leave you or live without you.

I love you this much.

-author unknown

Foundations of Marriage

Love, trust, and forgiveness are the foundations of marriage. In marriage, many days will bring happiness, while other days may be sad. But together, two hearts can overcome everything...

In marriage, all of the moments won't be exciting or romantic, and sometimes worries and anxiety will be overwhelming. But together, two hearts that accept will find comfort together. Recollections of past joys, pains, and shared feelings will be the glue that holds everything together during even the worst and most insecure moments.

Reaching out to each other as a friend, and becoming the confidant and companion that the other one needs, is the true magic and beauty of any two people together. It's inspiring in each other a dream or a feeling, and having faith in each other and not giving up... even when all the odds say to

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quit. It's allowing each other to be vulnerable, to be himself or herself, even when the opinions or thoughts aren't in total agreement or exactly what you'd like them to be.

It's getting involved and showing interest in each other, really listening and being available, the way any best friend should be. Exactly three things need to be remembered in a marriage if it is to be a mutual bond of sharing, caring, and loving throughout life: love, trust, and forgiveness.

Regina Hill

Songs/Music

Hallelujah - Pentatonix	If Tomorrow Never Comes - Ronan Keating
I can't help myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch) - Jessica Mauboy	Heaven - Bryan Adams
We go together - John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John	Picture of You - Boyzone
Always Remember Us This Way - Lady Gaga	Against All Odds - Phil Collins
Take My Breath Away - Berlin	Open Arms - Journey
Can You Feel The Love Tonight - Elton John	I'm Yours - Jason Mraz

Rituals

Water Ceremony - wash hands to seal renewal vows

Loving Cup

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Funerals

Poems

Funeral Blues By W.H. Auden

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead
Scribbling on the sky the message 'He is Dead'.
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the
public doves,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton
gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last forever: I was
wrong.

The stars are not wanted now; put out every one,
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood;
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

Native American Poem

I give you this one thought to keep.
I am with you still. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on the snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not think of me as gone.
I am with you still in each new dawn.

"Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep" by Mary Elizabeth Frye

Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there. I did not die.

Candle On The Water

I'll be your candle on the water
My love for you will always burn
I know you're lost and drifting
But the clouds are lifting
Don't give up, you have somewhere to turn

I'll be your candle on the water
'Till every wave is warm and bright
My soul is there beside you
Let this candle guide you
Soon you'll see a golden stream of light

A cold and friendless tide has found you
Don't let the stormy darkness pull you down
I'll paint a ray of hope around you
Circling in the air, lighted by a prayer

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	<p>I'll be your candle on the water This flame inside of me will grow Keep holding on, you'll make it Here's my hand, so take it Look for me reaching out to show As sure as rivers flow I'll never let you go</p>
<p>An extract from No Matter What "Does love wear out" said Small, "does it break or bend? Can you fix it, stick it, does it mend?" "Oh help," said Large "I'm not that clever. I just know I'll love you forever". Small said: "But what about when you're dead and gone - would you love me then, does love go on?" Large held Small snug as they looked out at the night, at the moon in the dark and the stars shining bright. "Small, look at the stars - how they shine and glow. Yet some of those stars died a long time ago. Still they shine in the evening skies... love, like starlight, never dies".</p>	<p>An extract from Fahrenheit 451 Everyone must leave something behind when he dies, my grandfather said. A child or a book or a painting or a house or a wall built or a pair of shoes made. Or a garden planted. Something your hand touched some way so your soul has somewhere to go when you die, and when people look at that tree or that flower you planted, you're there. It doesn't matter what you do, he said, so as long as you change something from the way it was before you touched it into something that's like you after you take your hands away.</p>
<p>Remember Me" by Margaret Mead Remember Me:To the living, I am gone.To the sorrowful, I will never return.To the angry, I was cheated,But to the happy, I am at peace,And to the faithful, I have never left.I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.So as you stand upon a shore, gazing at a beautiful sea – remember me.As you look in awe at a mighty forest and its grand majesty – remember me.As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity – remember me.Remember me in your heart, your thoughts, your memories of the times we loved,the times we cried, the times we fought, the times we laughed.For if you always think of me, I will never be gone</p>	

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Songs/Music

One last song - Sam Smith	See You Again - Carrie Underwood
Small Bump - Ed Sheeran	Hurt - Christina Aguilera
Photograph - Ed Sheeran	There you'll be - Faith Hill
Tears In Heaven - Eric Clapton	My Heart Will Go On - Celine Dion
One Sweet Day - Mariah Carey & Boys to Men	This Is Your Song - Ronan Keating
All Out of Love - Air Supply	

Rituals

Balloon release lantern release
Light a candle
Tree planting
Memory table
Memorial book

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Baby Naming

Poems

A Child's Blessing

may your life be blessed
with joy and love

may angels guide you
from above

may your heart be kind
your spirit strong

to see the good
and right some wrong

may the world
be a better place

because you came
and shared some space

A Child learns what he lives

If a child lives with criticism
he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility
he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule
he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame
he learns to feel guilt.

BUT,

If a child lives with tolerance
he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement
he learns confidence.

If a child lives with fairness
he learns justice.

If a child lives with security
he learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval
he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
he learns to find love in the world.

Celtic Blessing

May the strength of the wind and the light of the
sun,

The softness of the rain and the mystery of the
moon

Reach you and fill you.

May beauty delight you and happiness uplift you,

May wonder fulfil you and love surround you.

May your step be steady and your arm be strong,

May your heart be peaceful and your word be
true.

May you seek to learn, may you learn to live,

May you live to love, and may you love - always

You are the Poem - Author unknown

You are the poem

I dreamed of writing,

The masterpiece

I longed to paint.

You are the shining star

I reached for in my ever-hopeful quest

For life fulfilled...

You are my child.

Now with all things

I am blessed.

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I loved you from the very start,

You stole my breath, embraced my heart.
Our life together has just begun
You're part of me my little one.
As mother with child, each day I grew,
My mind was filled with thoughts of you.

I'd daydream of the things we'd share,
Like late-night bottles and Teddy bears.
Like first steps and skinned knees,
Like bedtime stories and ABC's.
I thought of things you'd want to know,
Like how birds fly and flowers grow.

I thought of lessons I'd need to share,
Like standing tall and playing fair.
When I first saw your precious face,
I prayed your life be touched with grace.
I thanked the angels from above,
And promised you unending love.

Each night I lay you down to sleep,
I gently kiss your head and cheek.
I count your little fingers and toes;
I memorize your eyes and nose.
I linger at your nursery door,
Awed each day I love you more.

Through misty eyes, I dim the light,
I whisper, "I love you" every night.
I loved you from the very start,
You stole my breath, embraced my heart.
As mother and child our journeys begin,
My heart's yours forever little one.

Songs/Music

Smile - Uncle Kracker	The Climb - Hannah Montana (Miley Cyrus)
Ray of Sunshine -	Love my life - Robbie Williams
How far I'll go - Alessia Cara	Circle of life - Elton John
Let it Grow - Ester Dean	Greatest Love - Whitney Houston

Rituals

Sand ceremony
Wishing cards
Signature bear
Treasure box
Video recording time capsule
Prayer flags