

Welcome ! Thank you for being here to celebrate the magic of Groom and Bride's love. They have chosen this day as their wedding day and today would be far less delightful if they did not have you here to share it with!

Every so often in life, love brings us a fairy tale. When we were children it was easy to see magic in the world *as we get older it becomes harder to see..*

Today let us allow the inner child within each all to transcend us to the enchanting land of love, where unicorns, dragons and cats sprinkle us all with handfuls of love- take a moment, begin to feel the loveliness of love surrounding you, the magic within to begin to stir after a deep sleep, as we open to a fuller experience and expression of the great vast miracle of love. Let us celebrate the magic of new beginnings!

Because There are times in life when the heart should follow the mind and then there are those times when the heart should tell the mind to mind its own business and stop interfering. And so it is how extraordinary stories of the journeys (*or adventures?*) of love begin.

When with the magical soul of a cat, we close our eyes and jump. Enjoying the freefall. Choosing exhilaration over comfort --magic over predictability. Having the keen sight of the dragon to see the hidden treasure held in our beloved's heart. Having the faith of the Unicorn to believe in the power of the unseen and the strength of the unknown. To take chances, to bet on yourself, to live your life with passionate fire, to be kind to yourself and never take a single day for granted. Experience. Dream. Risk.
For that is how extraordinary stories of the adventures of love begin.

Reading : A Lovely Love Story written 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 melted 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 he 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 charactered 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.

Look at them.

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

All of us here today have our own love stories. Some are short, others are long. Some are yet unwritten, while others are just getting to the good part. There are chapters in all of our stories that are sad or disappointing – and others that are exciting and full of adventure.

Bride and Groom (your personal story) Sample: Name and Name were both new in Portland when they decided to go to a \$1 taco night. Bride thought it was to meet other people who were new in town, Groom however, was there with a singles group.

Once Bride discovered it was actually a dating event, she couldn't wait to leave, but there was this clean-cut guy on the other side of the table who said he'd been in the (Army, Navy, Marines, National Guard, Coast Guard) or said he did (certain kind of job or was studying etc).

He liked that she (and what he likes about her) So they chatted. 3 hours later Groom told her he had a motorcycle and she was so impressed that they rode together to a pirate festival the following weekend. They both trusted that that the way a person feels about cats (dogs, etc) and the way

cats (dogs, etc.) feel about him or her in return - is usually an excellent gauge by which to measure a person's character.

They knew that it was time to start something new to trust new beginnings. And that new beginning brings us to this new beginning! Cats (dogs, etc) **are** a good people gauge!

During these past three years they have discovered that they are good at doing things together, in fact they enjoy doing things together! that their personal dreams and goals are more meaningful through their combined power and efforts with the mutual support provided in their love for each other and so they have decided to live together as husband and wife- hoping eventually to acquire at least one unicorn.

Bride and Groom You fell in love by chance, but you're here today because you're making a choice. You are both choosing each other. You've chosen to be with someone who enhances you, who makes you think, makes you smile and makes every day brighter. Just like cheese and salami, neither knowing their true self until they found each other.

Your marriage ceremony today is not the beginning of what will be, but rather a celebration of what already is! No single act defines the spirit, the personality of your union, only you can do this together through many acts of love and honesty, patience and

support and believing in each other's abilities to play any and all board games fairly.

Today, Groom and Bride have chosen a braid ceremony to symbolizing the personality, the spirit of the union they wish to create.

One cord symbolizing Groom and his life, one Bride and her life and the third cord representing the qualities they wish the personality of their marriage to have. So that they and others may experience and enjoy the unique synergy of the combined energies of these characteristics.

Please now weave in (characteristics couple wishes woven into their ceremony) love, laughter, fun, ridiculousness, honesty, support, openness, kindness, awesomeness, snuggling, quirkiness, appreciation, teamwork, adventurousness, patience, fair game playing.

May love always be the core of your marriage, happiness, fun, magic its spirit.

Bride and Groom your wedding ceremony is but a brief moment in time and even though the vows that you will share will only take minutes however they will cross all inner and outer planes of time, each plane infinite in extent....understanding the seriousness of these promises and their responsibilities and obligations:

Will you be each other's partners from this day forward? Will you bring out the best in one another, share your happiest moment together and love each other absolutely? Will you laugh with each other, go on adventures together, support each other through life's tough moments, be proud of each other and find new reasons to love each other every day? Most importantly to you vow to annoy each other in a lifetime of random misadventures? If so please say we will.

Groom, Will you Groom keep Bride as your favorite person? Will you love, respect, cherish and admire her for being the free and beautiful and wonderful human being she is, and during those times when she is really

annoying to be present to and for her? To hear her, to love her, to give her recognition for being who she is? To protect her from any and all spiders (thunder storms, etc)? Most importantly to you vow to annoy her in a lifetime of random misadventures?

Bride, Will you Bride keep Groom as your favorite person ? Will you love, respect, cherish and admire him for being the free and beautiful and wonderful human being he is. and during those times when he is really annoying to be present to and for her? To hear him, to love him, to give him recognition for being who he is? Be patient with his bad puns (clothes on the floor, working on his car, etc) ? Most importantly do you vow to annoy him in a lifetime of random misadventures? If so please say I will.

the rings please.

Bride and Groom, You've chosen to wear rings as a reminder of these promises.

People often say that wedding bands are a perfect circle with no beginning and no end.

But these rings did have a beginning.

They began long ago deep in the earth.

The silver and gold were dug out of the earth and then liquefied in a furnace at over a thousand degrees – then molded, cooled, and painstakingly hand-polished.

Beautiful things were made from these rough elements.

You know, Love is kind of like that. As you look at these rings over the years, I hope you will remember that love has taken two rough

disconnected and created something beautiful where there was once nothing at all.

Please join left hands.

Groom please repeat after me as you place Bride's ring upon her finger.

*Bride I'll swim and sail on Savage seas
And gladly ride the waves of life
I bring you a ring of silver and gold,
And I would keep you from all harm
If you will stay beside me.
To love and kiss to sweetly hold.*

Bride please repeat after me,

*My darling dear, I've no need for mighty deeds
when I feel your arms around me
I only want your hand to hold,
I only want you near me.*

To love and kiss, to sweetly hold,

Groom and Bride you both thought you were normal in your own way, until you met each other. You then realized that you each were beautifully uniquely weird and that the weird you are together would be pretty awesome. That is what you like about each other and your relationship.

You decided you that when you got old that you wanted to sit on a hilltop in the warm sun telling stories, because all the weird stuff you do now will be super cute when you are older, and everyone will be like "awww, look at that old couple chasing ducks and throwing bread everywhere. That is super cute."

You have come to realize that you can never stay mad at each other because you have so much to say to share with each other. That you don't like it when one of you is not around, because all the fun seems to go away, and fun is one of your favorite things about being together, that you would both individually and together be a lot happier if neither of you ever left.

Love is unpredictable, there really is not a way to predict or control when it may happen.

Much like how atoms can combine through the process of fusion.

That when the nucleus of one atom and the nucleus of another atom come together, they make a bigger atom with all of the electrons going around it.

And, When fusion happens, it creates a lot of energy much like love.

Love and fusion both are uncommon reactions and difficult to control or to predict.

On the table there are two (containers of sand)

One filled with (color) sand representing you Bride, all that you are, all that you were, all that you will ever be and one with (color) sand representing you Groom all that you are, all that you were, all that you will ever be.

Each is beautiful and unique and can stand on its own.

Please now pour your separate containers into the common container. As through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand into one container symbolizing making of a bigger, stronger, greater whole that cannot be re-separated. Sand pouring song:

Groom and Bride, it is in your hands that is held the fate of your union, like a unicorn be forever loyal in spirit, and selfless in love, giving the highest priority to the tenderness gentleness, kindness you each deserve.

The things you learn to appreciate and love about one another today will be different 10 years from now.

But you will remember this day and remember the vows you have made to each other this day, and you will re-learn and re-appreciate each other all over again, as often as you need.

And when you are old, chase ducks, throw bread, find the weird and the fun, kiss in the rain, love and grow, find yourselves often standing on the hill, telling each other stories feeling the warmth of the sun on your backs, never forget your unicorns.

One last thing before we go, Bride and Groom would like us all to know...Love is the greatest thing.

Write it in the sky, write it in the land, write it in the heart. Enjoy a life of misadventures. For the sun is warm. For the world is a beautiful place.

With the best wishes of all of us here, by the laws of the enchanting land of love, and by the laws of the State of Oregon I now pronounce you married! Groom, with a high five, and a fa la la la please kiss your because you did it!!

