



## **Marriage Ceremony for XXXXX and XXXXX**

**4pm, Sunday 27th August 2017**

Good afternoon everyone, for those of you I haven't yet met, my name is Sarah Valentine. I was thrilled to have been asked by xxxxx and xxxxx to be here today, to officiate their wedding, and to welcome them into their new life as a married couple.

There are several things that have to take place for this marriage to be a legally binding contract. The first is for this couple to freely give themselves to the other, the second is making their vows to each other, and the third is the giving and receiving of rings, and finally the marriage will be legally recognised by the signing of their marriage certificate.

Xxxxx and Xxxxx see their wedding day as a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their relationship with their family and friends, but in particular with their children Xxxxx, Xxxxx, Xxxxx and Xxxxx, whom I believe, are all very excited that today has finally arrived!

those of you here, Xxxxx and Xxxxx would like you to know that each and every one of you has been handpicked to be part of this very intimate occasion. You are here because you are the people who have shared in their history, you remain part of their present, and together they see you being a big part of their future.

They are delighted that some of you have travelled a great distance to be here with them today to witness their two families finally becoming one.



Now...If you are truly lucky, sometimes it seems that out of nowhere, and often under the strangest of circumstances, you meet 'the one' and this person helps you feel alive, more than anyone you ever met before them. And most of us know how intense that feeling of falling in love can be. Xxxxx and Xxxxx are an excellent example of two people who found each other against the odds, but knew the very first time they saw each other, that they'd found that "someone" they hated leaving behind.

They'd found that someone they couldn't get enough of. And that someone who accepted them for who they were, and who never told them they needed to change. They both found that someone that they were able to fall madly in love with.

Xxxxx met Xxxxx through a mutual friend when she was just 21, and already had her son Levi, whom Xxxxx hit it off with straight away. She told me that Xxxxx even looked after Levi for her before the two of them had even had their first date, so she knew fairly quickly from watching how wonderful this handsome man was around her son that he was the one, that she would never find another partner who would make her feel so safe, so happy and so loved.

She's also learnt during their years together just how forgiving Xxxxx can be - particularly when she accidentally jammed his fingers in a door, and kept pushing it shut tighter and tighter thinking it was catching on something other than Xxxxx!

Skipping forward seven years, and three more beautiful children later, it is such a privilege to be a part of the new relationship you two are about to begin, especially given that your love has already stood the test of time, noise and mayhem a young family brings with it.

These two know that Marriage is more than a declaration. The words 'Love' and 'Forever' are often too easily spoken, but the words 'I Do' require the endurance of family politics, raising children, large expenses, a few tears, and the commitment of growing old together. It's the 'definitely' that replaces all of the 'I think so's' deep in your heart.



It's the creation of your new family So Xxxxx and Xxxxx, in the presence of your family and close friends today, you are about to make the most important and special promise to each other – It is therefore as confirmation of this that I ask...

Sarah: Do you FULL LEGAL NAME, take FULL LEGAL NAME to be your wife, and do you promise to love, respect and stand by her in sickness and in health, in good times or bad times, or whatever your lives may bring?

Xxxxx: I do

Sarah: And do you FULL LEGAL NAME i, take FULL LEGAL NAME to be your husband, and do you promise to love, respect and stand by him in sickness and in health, in good times or bad times or whatever your lives may bring?

Xxxxx: I do

Marriage vows are part of an ancient tradition whereby, for thousands of years, across all cultures around the world, couples have made their commitment to each other in the presence of family and friends.

Xxxxx and Xxxxx are affirming their friendship and devotion to each other, and are making their commitment to a union filled with trust, loyalty and respect.



## VOWS

Xxxxx: Xxxxx, I've always loved you. From the moment I met you, I knew you were the girl for me. I've grown so much because of you. I am who I am today thanks to you. I want to thank you for giving me the life and family we have shared together up until today, and I am so excited about the unknown future we have stretched out in front of us. It won't matter to me where our lives lead, as long as we take the journey together. I promise to always put you and our children before anything else because You are my soul mate, and my best friend. I love you.

Sarah: And now you, Xxxxx...

Xxxxx: Xxxxx, you are my 'everything'. Please know that I love you with all of my heart. Since you came into my life, my world became full. I know that you love me...and our children with all your heart, and I want to thank you for everything you do for us, and let you know that I appreciate how you always put us first. I promise to stand by your side, and love you until the end of our days together. I will share my future and my dreams with you. ....And I vow to always think of your feelings, and promise to always look twice for your fingers when shutting doors in the future.

Sarah: Xxxxx, can I ask you to please join hands with Xxxxx.

Xxxxx, these are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, 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 love and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch they comfort you like no other ever could.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind.



These are the hands that will, countless times, wipe the tears from your eyes...tears of sorrow and tears of great joy.

These are the hands that will give you the strength to go on, when you need it.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. And the hands that will help you hold together your family as one.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, giving you the same unspoken tenderness as they do today, with just a simple touch.

### **EXCHANGE OF RINGS**

There is a sense of eternity bound up with the wedding ring – it symbolises unity and eternal love. The ring is a circle that like your love, will have no end.

Your wedding rings will be your visual reminder of this love, and they will always represent the vows you have just made in front of your friends and family today.

Sarah Xxxxx, as you place this ring on Xxxxx's finger as a visible sign of your commitment in marriage, please repeat after me...

Xxxxx (prompted) Xxxxx I give you this ring as a sign that I choose you.... to be my partner and my best friend till the end of our days.... Wear it, think of me and know that I love you.

Sarah: And, Xxxxx, as you place this ring of Xxxxx's finger as a visible sign of your commitment in marriage, please repeat after me...

Xxxxx (prompted) Xxxxx, I give you this ring as a sign that I choose you... to be my partner and my best friend till the end of our days.... Wear it, think of me and know that I love you.



Sarah: Xxxxx and Xxxxx...It is in the spirit of love and of friendship that you have made this life-long commitment to each other; you have made promises to each other, and exchanged rings as a sign of your marriage vows.

So, before you go forth as a married couple today, I would like to read you some Marriage Advice written by Jane Wells, in 1886:

*Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger.*

*Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little, than to break.*

*Believe the best rather than the worst as people have a way of living up or down to your opinion of them.*

*Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.*

*Therefore the person you have just chosen to marry is deserving of the same courtesies and kindnesses you bestow upon your dearest friends.*

\*If you want your marriage to last forever, treat it differently. Shield it and protect it. Never abuse it, and don't expose it to the elements. Don't make it common or ordinary. But, if it ever becomes tarnished, please lovingly polish it, until it once again gleams like new. It becomes special because you make it so, and it grows more beautiful and precious as time goes by.

With all of that that said, I am so excited to be able to now pronounce you husband and wife!

Xxxxx, you may kiss your bride!

\*\*\*\*We now sign the marriage certificate before announcing to guests:

It is with the greatest pleasure that for the very first time I am able to introduce you to the world, your family and your friends here today as Mr and Mrs Xxxxx.