

# Suggested Readings for Weddings and Civil Partnerships

The following is a selection of popular readings that are suitable for a marriage ceremony or civil partnership. If you wish to use a reading not listed here, please supply us with a copy at least 2 months before the day of the wedding. It is important to note that your chosen readings must not be religious or offensive in any way.

You can choose 1 reading for a Wokingham Ceremony Room ceremony, and up to a 3 readings in your ceremony at any other approved venues. These can be read by friends and family or the couple themselves.

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## 201—A Creed To Live By

Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others.  
It is because we are different that each of us is special.

Don't set your goals by what other people deem important.  
Only you know what is best for you.

Don't let your life slip through your fingers  
by living in the past or for the future.

By living your life one day at a time, you live all the days of your life.

Don't give up when you still have something to give.  
Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect.  
It is this fragile thread that binds us to each other.

Don't be afraid to encounter risks.  
It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.

Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find.  
The quickest way to receive love is to give love.

The fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly;  
And the best way to keep love is to give it wings.

Don't dismiss your dreams.  
To be without dreams is to be without hope;  
To be without hope is to be without purpose.

Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been, But also  
where you're going.

Life is not a race, But a journey to be savoured each step of the way,

## 202—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 be-  
yond 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.

## 203—Albert Einstein On Relativity

Gravitation cannot be held responsible for people falling in love.  
How on earth can you explain in terms of chemistry and physics so important  
a biological phenomenon as first love?  
Put your hand on a stove for a minute and it seems like an hour.  
Sit with that special girl/boy/person for an hour and it seems like a minute.  
That's relativity.

## 204—Always Love Each Other

If you can always be as close  
And 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.

## 205—Apache Blessing (1)

May the sun bring you new energy 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 all of the days of your life may you walk  
Gently through the world and know its beauty

## 206—Apache Blessing (2)

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be the shelter for each other.  
Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be the warmth for 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.  
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.  
Treat yourselves and each other with respect,  
And remind yourselves often of what brought you together.  
Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that  
your connection deserves.  
When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship – as they  
threaten all relationships at one time or another –  
Remember to focus on what is right between you, not only the part which  
seems wrong.  
In this way, you can ride out the storms  
When clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives -  
Remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment,  
The sun is still there.  
And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together,  
It will be marked by abundance and delight.

## 207—Because You Share A Special Love

The more you're together  
The more things you share.  
The more you find new ways  
To show that you care....

More hopes come to mind now,  
More plans and dreams too,  
And all seem more likely  
To really come true...

More meaningful moments,  
More talks heart to heart,  
More thinking of each other  
Anytime you're apart.

More love than you've ever  
Been part of before -  
More reasons for you both  
To love each other more.

## 208—Bob Marley On Love

He/she's not perfect—you aren't either,  
and the two of you may never be perfect together—  
but if he/she can make you laugh,  
cause you to think twice,

and admit to being human and making mistakes,  
hold onto him/her and give him/her the most you can.

He/she may not be thinking about you every second of the day,  
but he/she will give you a part of him/her that he/she knows you can  
break—his/her heart.

So don't hurt him/her, don't change him/her, don't analyse and don't  
expect more than he/she can give.

Smile when he/she makes you happy, let him/her know when he/she makes  
you mad, and miss him/her when he/she's not there

## 209—Captain Corelli’s Mandolin

“Love is a temporary madness,  
it erupts like volcanoes then subsides.  
And when it subsides you have to make a decision.

You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together  
that it is inconceivable that you should ever part.  
Because that is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness,  
it is not excitement,  
it is not the proclamation of promises of eternal passion  
... that is just being “in love,” which any fool can do.

Love itself is left over when being in love has burned away,  
and this both an art and a fortunate accident  
... to have roots that grow towards each other underground,  
so that when all the pretty blossom has fallen from your branches  
You find that you are one tree and not two.

## 210—Come Live With Me And Be My Love

Come live with me and be my love,  
We'll lay and watch the skies above.  
I'll take you out upon the sea,  
And show you what it means to me.

The wind will be calm yet lightly blowing,  
The cabin's warm with oil's glowing.  
Just think of us upon this ocean,  
Sipping tea as a soothing potion. I

'll climb up high into the rig above,  
To share the starry night with you, my love.  
The sails will be full with autumn's breeze,  
Our bow dipping gracefully into the glowing seas.

And as we dig into my coffers' deep,  
You shall behold the things that make women weep.  
Bottles of wine from the finest vineyards,  
And wool from only the most renowned spinners.

These things and more can be fully your own,  
But mostly the beauty that the sea has shown.  
The most graceful porpoises will be swimming by,  
As the sea birds sing with their siren-like cry.

Precious few have answered our ocean's calling,  
Shouting out with eyes bright and bawling.  
So take this proposal and fly like the dove,  
To come with me and be my love.

## 211—Extract From A Victorian Guide To Love

Don't ever both be angry at the same time.

Never let the cares of the world assume such importance that they cause you  
to neglect each other.

Be genuinely sympathetic with each other's trials and tribulations.

Never make a remark calculated to bring ridicule upon the other.

Make any criticism in the most loving and gentle way possible.

Don't be cross with an error which was done with a good motive and the best  
judgement at the time.

Don't boast about the sacrifices you make for each other.

When you part, make time for a loving goodbye.

## 212—Extract From Les Miserables

You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving.  
The great acts of love are done by those who are habitually performing  
small acts of kindness.

We pardon to the extent that we love.

Love is knowing that even when you are alone,  
you will never be lonely again.

And great happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved.

Loved for ourselves. Loved in spite of ourselves.

## 213—Friends

There is no better way to live on this earth than to be friends,  
Friends who will always love and stand by each other 'Till life's end.

Friends, who will share their lives together  
Through good times and bad, and  
and who will bring joy and comfort to each other when times are sad.  
So may your love and your friendship as you begin your life together  
last you for an eternity, and as friends may you both forever be.

## 214—From George Eliot

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 loving hand will take and sift them,  
keep what is worth keeping and then with the breath of kindness blow the  
rest away.

## 215—From Mark Twain

A marriage..... Makes of two fractional lives a whole;  
It gives two purposeless lives a work, and doubles the strength of each to  
perform it;  
it gives to two questioning natures a reason for living, and something to live  
for;  
It will give a new gladness to the sunshine, a new fragrance to the flowers, a  
new beauty to the earth, and a new mystery to life.

## 216—From Shakespeare

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O no! - it is an ever fixed mark,  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken.  
It is the star to every wandering barque,  
Whose worth's unknown, although its height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this is error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

## 217—From Us To You

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 us, but we would ask only this 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 bad in the only way you know how. Completely and forever.

## 218—Getting Married Means You'll Have

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 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.

## 219—How Falling In Love Is Like Owning A Dog

On cold winter nights, love is warm.  
It lies between you and lives and breathes and makes funny noises.  
Love wakes you up all hours of the night with its needs.  
It needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy.

Love doesn't like being left alone for long.  
But come home and love is always happy to see you.  
It may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life, but you can never  
be mad at love for long.

Is love good all the time? No! No!  
Love can be bad. Bad, love, bad! Very bad love.

Love makes messes.  
Love leaves you little surprises here and there.  
Love needs lots of cleaning up after.  
Sometimes you just want to get love fixed.  
Sometimes you want to roll up a piece of newspaper and swat love on the  
nose,  
Not so much to cause pain, just to let love know, "Don't you ever do that  
again!"

Sometimes love just wants to go out for a nice long walk.  
Because love loves exercise.  
It will run you around the block and leave you panting, breathless.  
Pull you in different directions at once, or wind itself around and around you  
until you're all wound up and you cannot move.

But love makes you meet people wherever you go. People who have nothing in common but love stop and talk to each other on the street.

Throw things away and love will bring them back, again, and again, and again. But most of all, love needs love, lots of it. And in return, love loves you and never stops.

## 220—How To Look After Your Husband

### Good Housekeeping 1950

Plan ahead. Have a delicious meal ready on time for his return from work. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs.

Prepare yourself. Take 15 minutes to rest so you will be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make-up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh looking.

Listen to him. You may have a dozen important things to tell him but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first.

Remember his topics of conversation are more interesting than yours.

Don't greet him with complaints and problems. Don't complain if he's late home for dinner, or even if he stays out all night. Count this as minor compared to what he might have gone through that day.

Don't ask him questions about his actions or question his judgement. Remember, he is the master of the house and as such will always exercise his will with fairness and truthfulness. A good wife always knows her place

## 221—How To Look After Your Husband

### 2019

Have the takeaway pamphlet opened to the correct page on his return home from work. Tell him that it takes too long to have something delivered and beg him to go out in the freezing cold to pick something up for dinner. On his return, hug and kiss him passionately before sending him out again to pick up something to drink.

Prepare yourself for his arrival. Hide any evidence of Next shopping bags or shoe boxes at the back of your cupboard or in the boot of your car, and place all brand new perfumes, make up, shampoo and conditioners in the airing cupboard next to the toilet paper (which he never changes).

Minimise the noise by turning down the volume of The Only Way is Essex and inviting him to talk to you during the commercials.

Don't greet him with complaints. Rather wait until he is eating and his mouth is full. That way, you will have more time to talk while he finishes chewing.

Make him comfortable. Fetch the foot lotion and place it next to his chair so that he does not have to get up before he massages your feet.

Always make your husband feel as if he wears the pants in the family. Never remind him that you bought those pants for him in the first place.

## 222—How To Stay Together One More Day

Laugh at yourself and at each other.

Practise unselfishness. Show your love.

Talk to, not at, each other.

Respond lovingly to this.

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.

## 223—I Love You

'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.

## 224—I Love You Because

I love you because you understand, dear,  
Every single thing I try to do  
You're always there to lend a helping hand, dear.  
I love you most of all because you're you  
No matter what the world may say about me  
I know your love will always see me through.  
I love you for the way you never doubt me  
But most of all I love you 'cause you're you  
I love you because my heart is lighter  
Every time I'm walking by your side  
I love you because the future's brighter.  
The door to happiness you opened wide  
No matter what the world may say about me  
I know your love will always see me through  
I love you for a hundred thousand reasons  
But most of all I love you 'cause you're you.

## 225— I Promise

I promise to give you the best of myself  
and to ask 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 window  
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.

## 226—I Wanna Be Yours

I wanna be your vacuum cleaner

Breathing in your dust

I wanna be your Ford Cortina

I will never rust

If you like your coffee hot

Let me be your coffee pot

You call the shots

I wanna be yours

I wanna be your raincoat

For those frequent rainy days

I wanna be your dreamboat

When you want to sail away

Let me be your teddy bear

Take me with you anywhere

I don't care

I wanna be yours

I wanna be your electric meter

I will not run out

I wanna be the electric heater

You'll get cold without

I wanna be your setting lotion

Hold your hair in deep devotion

Deep as the deep Atlantic Ocean

That's how deep is my devotion.

## 227—I Will Be Here

If in the morning when you wake, 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 awake, 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.

## 228—If You Can Always Be

If you can always be as close and 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 support the goals and dreams that each of you have planned

If you can dare to always to your separate ways together  
Then all the wonders of today will stay with you forever.

## 229—If You Live To Be A Hundred

“If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day so  
I never have to live without you. ”

Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind. “Pooh?” he whispered. “Yes, Piglet?”

“Nothing,” said Piglet, taking Pooh’s hand.

“I just wanted to be sure of you. ”

“We’ll be Friends Forever, won’t we, Pooh?” asked Piglet.

“Even longer,” Pooh answered. “If ever there is tomorrow when we’re not  
together .... There is something you must always remember. You are braver  
than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.  
But the most important thing is, even if we’re apart .... I’ll always be with  
you. ”

## 230—I’ll Be There For You

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 the beer’s gone flat, when the bread’s gone stale,  
When the chef drops out curry and the waiter turns pale,  
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 suitcase won’t shut, when we’ve missed the last bus,  
When the menu’s in Greek and it’s all a big fuss,  
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’re last in the queue, please stop feeling so blue  
‘cause I’m telling you, my love, I’ll be right there with you.  
We’ll order more chips, pour the wine, and agree—  
Life taste it’s best when it’s you and me.

## 231—I'll Still Be Loving You

I'll Still Be Loving You  
When your hair has turned to winter  
And your teeth are in a plate  
When your getter up and go  
Has gone to stop and wait  
I'll still be loving you

When your attributes have shifted  
Beyond the bounds of grace  
I'll count your many blessings  
Not the wrinkles in your face  
I'll still be loving you

When the crackle in your voice  
Matches that within your knee  
And the times are getting frequent  
That you don't remember me  
I'll still be loving you

Growing old is not a sin  
It's something we all do  
I hope you'll always understand  
I'll still be loving you

## 232—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

### **233—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.

### **234—Like A Teddy Bear**

Learn to listen like a teddy bear -  
with ears open and mouth closed tight.  
Learn to forgive like a teddy bear -  
with heart open, not caring who is right.  
Learn to love like a teddy bear -  
with arms open, and imperfect eyesight.

### **235—Look For The Sun**

Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your partnership deserves.

When frustration, difficulty and fear assail your relationship – as they threaten all relationships at one time or another – remember to focus on what is right between you, not just on the part which seems wrong. In this way you will ride out the storms of life, when clouds hide the face of the sun in your lives – remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the sun is still there.

And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.

## 236—Love As We Know it

Love, it can be said, has many guises.

It will shine in a Mother's smile,  
And be hidden in a Father's warm embrace -  
Or felt in a child's velvet kisses.

Love may even hide in sibling squabbles.

Love is presented by lovers in little unexpected gifts.  
It is pronounced to the world by hand-holding elderly couples.  
And found in listening to a friend's tears in the wee small hours.

Love is enduring and unjudging.

It is safety and sanctuary from a world of vexation.

Love, when nurtured, grows and blossoms like Honeysuckle -  
Spreading and encompassing all within its reach.

Love has an incalculable value, far beyond worldly currency,  
For it cannot be bought or sold.

That Love which isn't given freely, is not Love at all.

Love joins together, but does not create constraints or shackle -  
rather it is a safe mooring, from which each may journey and return,

Assured of a warm homecoming.

Now may each of you be more acutely aware  
Of that Love which your heart gives and receives  
For such treasure should be highly prized.

## 237—Love Is Friendship Caught Fire

Love is friendship caught fire; it is quiet, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection, and makes allowances for human weaknesses. Love is content with the present, hopes for the future, and does not brood over the past.

It is the day-in and day-out chronicles of irritations, problems, compromises, small disappointments, big victories, and working toward common goals. If you have love in your life, it can make up for a great many things you lack. If you do not have it, no matter what else there is, it is not enough.

## 238—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 .

## 239—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.

## 240—Marriage Is More

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

## 241—Marriage Is A Commitment

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 its love, marriage encompasses all of life's most important relationships. A wife and a husband are each other's 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.

## 242—May You...

May your marriage bring you all the exquisite excitements a marriage should bring, and may life grant you also patience, tolerance and understanding.

May you always need one another - not so much to fill your emptiness as to help you know your fullness. A mountain needs a valley to be complete; the valley does not make the mountain less, but more; and the valley is more a valley because it has a mountain towering over it.

So let it be with each of you.

May you need one another, but not out of weakness.

May you entice one another, but not compel one another.

May you embrace one another, but not out encircle one another.

May you succeed in all important ways with one another, and not fail in the little graces.

May you look for things to praise,

often say 'I love you!' and take no notice of small faults.

If you have quarrels that push you apart, may both of you have good sense enough to take the first step back.

May you enter into the mystery which is the awareness of one another's presence - warm and near when you are side by side, and warm and near when you are in separate rooms or even distant cities.

May you have happiness, and may you find it making one another happy.

May you have love, and may you find it loving one another!

## 243—Maybe

Maybe we are supposed to meet the wrong people before we meet the right one so when they finally arrive we are truly grateful for the gift we have been given.

Maybe its true that we don't know what we have lost until we lose it but it is also true that we don't know what we're missing until it arrives.

Maybe the happiest of people don't have the best of everything, but make the best of everything that comes their way.

Maybe the best kind of love is the kind where you sit on the sofa together, not saying a word, and walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you ever had.

Maybe once in a lifetime you find someone who not only touches your heart but also your soul, someone who loves you for who you are and not what you could be.

Maybe the art of true love is not about finding the perfect person, but about seeing an imperfect person perfectly.

## 244—My Advice

Mum and Dad Get married Today,  
I'd Like to help them on their way.  
So here's some special advice from me,  
To help them with our family.

Keep our house filled with laughter  
Let's have fun forever after.  
Keep the drawer filled up with sweets,  
And give us children lots of treats.

Make sure you spend time together,  
To keep your happiness forever.  
Make sure you spend lots on us,  
And then us kids won't make a fuss.

But the most important thing for you,  
Is to show your love in all you do.  
A caring word, a kiss, a touch,  
And those family cuddles that mean so much.

## 245—New Beginnings

You stand here before us, soon husband and wife,  
Together you're pledging the rest of your life.  
This is a brand new beginning for you,  
It's what you have hoped for, a dream coming true.

Together you're facing both pleasure and pain,  
Good times and bad times, sunshine and rain.  
But with each day that passes much more you will know,  
And the bond that's between you much stronger will grow.

Be kind to each other, be faithful and true,  
Be thoughtful and patient in all that you do.  
Remember the reasons you stand here today,  
And you'll still be happy, don't throw it away.

May you know laughter, good fortune and wealth,  
Peace and contentment, good luck and good health.  
May all your tomorrows find love in your hearts,  
But today, here together, is the day that it starts.

## 246—No Longer Alone

You each have found the love of your life,  
The wonderful one you adore,  
The one who will share all your dreams and desires,  
Your plans, your adventures and more.

Each of you now has a very best friend,  
A comforter when things go wrong.  
Someone who'll encourage, cheer and support you,  
Help change all your 'weak' to your 'strong'.

Set out today, new partners in life,  
Hearts filled, overflowing with pride,  
Knowing that now as you face each new day,  
There'll be someone you love by your side.

## 247—No More Loneliness

May the sun bring you new strength by day;  
May the moon softly restore you by night.  
May rain wash away your fears  
And the breeze invigorate your being.  
May you, all the days of your life,  
Walk gently through the world and know its beauty.

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter to 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 you, for each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two bodies but there is only one life before you.  
Go now to your dwelling-place to enter into the days of your  
togetherness.  
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

## 248—On Your Wedding Day (1)

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 that 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 its way to your hearts.  
Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joys  
But today is the day it all starts.

## 249—On Your Wedding Day (2)

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.

## 250—Once In A Lifetime

Once in a lifetime you find someone  
Who touches not only your heart, but also your soul.  
Once in a lifetime you discover someone who  
Stands beside you, not over you.  
You find someone who loves you for who you are  
And not for who you could be.  
Once in a lifetime, you find someone.....  
As you/we have found each other.

## 251—Our Love

Our love is something we have built  
from passions, hopes and dreams.  
It's safe from any passing moods,  
secure from all extremes.  
It's something real and special,  
something solid, something pure.  
It's something we can always count on,  
ringing sound and sure.  
It's something grounded in the heart,  
emitting confidence.  
It lives in our emotions,  
it is something we can sense.  
Our love remains a binding force,  
resistant to all strife.  
Amidst the outer pressures,  
it's our anchor throughout life.

## 252—Poem

We are not meant to go through life alone. We need a partner who will forever remain by our side - someone to lean on at times, remembering, as well, that we will be leaned on too; someone to share our joy and hold us in sorrow.

Understand that there will be difficult times and doubt may cloud your lives. It is then you must trust each other the most and believe that love will sustain you. Do not give up easily; fight for what is precious - your marriage. Help it survive by nurturing it every single day.

Never hesitate to say "I love you" or to be the first one to say "I'm sorry." Give a lot, overlook even more, and always expect as much in return. Never look back or lose yourself, but celebrate the special privilege of being a couple. Never lose sight of what brought you here in the first place: your special love for each other. Cherish that always. You have my best wishes as you take this giant step forward. I wish you nothing but happiness as you enter this wonderful new world of marriage.

## 253—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.

## 254—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.

## 255—Sooner Or Later

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 the 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

## 256—That Still And Settled Place

In that still and settled place  
There's nobody but you  
You're where I breathe my oxygen  
You're where I see my view  
And when the world feels full of noise  
My heart knows what to do.  
It finds that still and settled place  
And dances there with you

## 257—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 remembering 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.

## 258—The Bridge Across Forever

A soul mate is someone who has locks that fit our keys, and keys to fit our locks. When we feel safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly who we are; we can be loved for who we are and not for who we're pretending to be. Each unveils the best part of the other. No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that one person we're safe in our own paradise. Our soul mate is someone who shares our deepest longings, our sense of direction. When we're two balloons, and together our direction is up, chances are we've found the right person. Our soul mate is the one who makes life come to life.

## 259—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....

## 260—The Giraffe And The Monkey

Wherever we go

Whatever we do

Whenever there's me

I hope that there's you.

Now Money is Funny, it can make people odd.  
You forget to be happy, and you live for your job  
And fashion, is a passion, beset with a flaw  
You can dress to excess, but you'll always need more  
And a muscle toned body, may sound like a dream  
But no body is better, than chocolate ice cream  
What I'm trying to say, is that happiness grows  
Not through your wages, or body or clothes  
But in laughter and love, and in sharing your life.  
In the arms of another as husband and wife.

So when you find someone who's weird just like you  
Who laughs when you're stupid and who makes you laugh too.

When you sit on the sofa, not hiding your flaws.  
As imperfectly perfect, as the hand that holds yours.  
When the fortune of kings, or purse of a beggar.  
Won't change how it feels, just being together.  
When a cuddle and cuppa is all that you need....

Well then...

you've found something quite special indeed.

Wherever we go

Whatever we do

Whenever there's me

I hope that there's you.

## 261—The Ideal Expression Of Love

The most ideal expression of love is the joining in marriage of two people whose hearts are one.

Love is a word that promises so many happy tomorrows, that gives meaning to everyday moments of sharing, that strengthens and supports in difficult times, that makes a commitment that never ends.

Today is the beginning of a whole new life together, a life of special moments shared in love. Today is the beginning of countless bright tomorrows, filled with all the special dreams you're dreaming of.

As you join your lives together, heart to heart and hand in hand, may you face as loving partners, the bright future you have planned. May you honour one another and show love in everything. For a marriage rich in caring is the best that life can bring.

## 262—The Union

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment.

At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes, to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making promises and agreements in an informal way.

All those conversations that were held riding in a car or over a meal or during long walks – all those sentences that began with 'when we're married' and continued with 'I will and you will and we will' – those late night talks that included 'some day' and 'somehow' and 'maybe' – and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart- all these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding.

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, 'you know all those things we've promised and hoped and dreamed – well, I meant it all, every word.'

Look at one another and remember this moment in time.

Before this moment you have been many things to one another – acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years.

Now you shall say a few words that take you across a threshold of life and things will never quite be the same between you.

For after these vows, you shall say to the world – 'this is my husband', 'this is my wife'.

## 263—The Velveteen Rabbit

“What is REAL?” asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana 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 a child 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 all 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.”

## 264—The Wedding Poem

They say that sometimes  
love starts with a spark.  
And that might be true,  
but if I were to wish you a love,  
I wouldn't wish fire for you.  
You see, fire is powerful.  
It burns bright and then it's gone.  
It's beautiful and warm,  
but it doesn't last long.

So instead of wishing you a love that burns,  
I wish you a love like a river twists and turns.  
It changes and it flows,  
It is powerful and free.

But it consistently finds its way back to the sea.  
And so like the water,  
I hope your love is ever growing, ever changing.  
I hope your love is powerful and free,  
And may you always find each other,  
Like a river finds the sea.

## 265—These I Can Promise

I cannot promise you a life of sunshine I cannot promise riches, wealth or gold I cannot promise you an easy pathway That leads away from change or growing old. But I can promise all my heart's devotion A smile to chase away your tears of sorrow A love that's ever true and ever growing A hand to hold in yours through each tomorrow

## 266—To Love Is Not To Possess

To love is not to possess,  
To own or imprison,  
Nor to lose one's self in another.

Love is to join and separate,  
To walk alone and together,  
To find a laughing freedom  
That lonely isolation does not permit.

It is finally to be able  
To be who we really are  
No longer clinging in childish dependency  
Nor docilely living separate lives in silence,  
It is to be perfectly one's self  
And perfectly joined in permanent commitment  
To another - and to one's inner self.

Love only endures when it moves like waves,  
Receding and returning gently or passionately,  
Or moving lovingly like the tide  
In the moon's own predictable harmony,  
Because finally, despite a child's scars  
Or an adult's deepest wounds,  
They are openly free to be  
Who they really are - and always secretly were,  
In the very core of their being  
Where true and lasting love can alone abide.

## 267—Today

It's such a joyous occasion there's surely no doubt  
But that's not entirely what this is about  
Of course there'll be moments of wonderful laughter  
With memories to cherish for many years after  
The speeches, the banter, the drink and the food  
All serve to enhance to jovial mood  
The music, the dancing, the folks in the room  
All wishing the best for the bride and groom  
And being surrounded by family and friends  
You'll both make a wish – that this day never ends  
But sadly the lights and the music will fade  
And you'll be alone with the vows that you made  
For this is the moment your new life begins  
It's a great situation where everyone wins.

Together you've started a wonderful thing  
As a husband and wife, all the joy that it will bring  
The future is yours, and tomorrow it seems  
Will bring you all the answers to all of your dreams  
The road can be rocky, some stumble and fall  
But you have a love that can conquer it all  
You have started a journey, who knows where it ends  
As partners, as lovers, and most of all – friends.  
Remember to smile when problems arise  
Make every day special, enjoy each surprise  
Be honest and fair, understanding and kind  
Try to always look forward and never behind  
Because now you'll discover what living is for  
As a husband and wife – you can ask for no more

## 268—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 its 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.

## 269—True Love

True love is brilliant flame  
that burns in constancy  
and none can dim its special glow  
or change its destiny.  
True love speaks in tender tones  
and hears with gentle ears.  
True love gives with open heart  
and true love conquers fear.  
True love makes no harsh demands,  
it neither roars nor binds.  
And true love holds with gentle hands  
the heart that it entwines

## 270—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 that you met.

## 272—You Are The Bubbles

Together, you are the bubbles in one another's champagne  
The morning sun through a window  
The breaking of a smile.

Together, you are the one doughnut in the bag with more jam than all the others.

That photo where everybody looks great.  
The know-all-the-words, sing-out-of-tune chorus of your favourite song.

Together, you are the beginnings of a big idea.  
The twinkly bits that hang in the sky after the firework goes bang.  
The cold, thin air at the top of a mountain.  
The only two people in a crowded room.

Together, you are that unforgettable day of the holiday.  
An accidental adventure.  
Chocolate chip.  
The last two pages of your favourite book.  
A BBQ with friends.  
The spray of the sea.  
The nose of the cheese.  
A kiss.  
A hug.  
A hold-my-hand.

A decision which, looking back, will seem to be the most excellent one you've ever made.

Together you are bubbles.  
The unburstable bubbles of the very best things in life.  
The only things any of us ever really need.

## 271—Yes, I'll Marry You My Dear

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 to 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 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!

