

Tailored Ceremonies

Custom-designed, non-denominational weddings

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Emily and Charles: A Longer Ceremony Without Traditions

This ceremony took place in a full-bloom outdoor garden on a warm September afternoon before 150 guests to witness the ceremony.

OFFICIANT:

We come together today to celebrate the love Emily and Charles share with each other, and which they have invited us to share with them. They have you asked you to whom they are closest to share in this moment as they join their lives together before us today. Charles and Emily have found joy and laughter in the companionship of each other. This is a celebration of that joy.

Playwright August Wilson once wrote, “All you need in the world is love and laughter. That’s all anybody needs. To have love in one hand and laughter in the other.”

Charles and Emily share both as they join their lives together.

But a good marriage means using laughter to stay together. Shared moments that bring a smile when recalled help keep you close. A light-hearted comment at the right moment can avert a confrontation. An amusing story about your day can keep you connected to each other’s daily lives at work. Humor can dispel a bad mood or comfort grief or pain.

I would remind you to keep the laughter in your lives, and be sure to include patience, spontaneity, warmth, kindness, sensitivity, and nurturing. Be strong for each other, and look upon each other with love. Keep your relationship growing and changing.

Promise not to take each other for granted, but instead remind yourselves often of what has drawn you together. Take the time to play together, to listen, to share, to negotiate, to talk about fears and disappointments, hopes and dreams. A strong marriage takes commitment and understanding as much as love.

To those gathered here to witness this celebration, will each of you promise to support them, their commitment, and their marriage?

WITNESSES:

We will.

OFFICIANT:

Paul Chase will now read from St. Exupery’s “The Little Prince.”

READER #1:

"Come and play with me," proposed the little prince. "I am so unhappy."

"I cannot play with you," the fox said. "I am not your friend."

"What does that mean, friend?"

The fox said, "Well, to me, you are still nothing more than a little boy who is just like a hundred thousand other little boys. And I have no need of you. And you, on your part, have no need of me. To you, I am nothing more than a fox like a hundred thousand other foxes. But if you befriend me, then we shall need each other. To me, you will be unique in all the world. To you, I shall be unique in all the world..."

"I'm beginning to understand," said the Little Prince, "There is a rose ... I think she is my friend."

"If you befriend me, it will be as if the sun came to shine on my life. I shall know the sound of a step that will be different from all the others. Other steps send me hurrying back underneath the ground. Yours will call me, like music, out of my burrow... [I am a fox, I eat chickens, not bread...] Wheat is of no use to me. And that is sad. But you have hair that is the color of gold! The grain, which is also golden, will bring me back to the thought of you, and I shall love to listen to the wind in the wheat ... Think how wonderful that will be when you are my friend!"

Later, the little prince saw a garden of roses. "You are not at all like my rose," he said. "As yet you are nothing. No one has befriended you, and you are no one's friend. You are like my fox when I first knew him. He was only a fox like a hundred thousand other foxes. But I have made him my friend, and now he is unique in all the world..."

He went on. "To be sure, an ordinary passerby would think that my rose looked just like you. But in herself alone she is more important than all the hundreds of you other roses: because it is she that I have watered, because it is she that I have listened to, because she is my rose."

And he went back to meet the fox.

The fox told him, "And now here is my secret, a very simple secret: it is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye... it is the time you have spent with your rose that makes your rose so important."

EMILY:

Charles, you bring laughter and spontaneity to my life. With you around, I have someone to encourage me and to join me in new adventures.

CHARLES:

Emily, you make me smile. You have shown me how to slow down and really see my surroundings. With you, my world is a bigger place.

OFFICIANT:

Cathy Henry will now read a poem entitled "Dancing into Bethlehem" by Billy Collins.

READER #2:

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OFFICIANT:

Now, as Charles and Emily prepare to exchange their vows, I ask all of you present to use this moment to remember your *own* promises, and to re-commit yourselves to the pledges you have made.

CHARLES:

I, Charles, promise you, Emily, that I will be your husband, From this day forward, To love and respect you, To support and to hold you, To make you laugh And to comfort you in times of grief, And to be your companion and your friend, On this journey that we will now make together.

EMILY:

I, Emily, promise you, Charles, that I will be your wife, From this day forward, To love and respect you, To support and to hold you, To make you laugh And to comfort you in times of grief, And to be your companion and your friend, On this journey that we will now make together.

CHARLES:

I, Charles, give you this ring as a show of our promise to each other here today and as a constant symbol of our love, even when we may be apart.

EMILY:

I, Emily, give you this ring as a show of our promise to each other here today and as a constant symbol of our love, even when we may be apart.

OFFICIANT:

Mark Twain said, "Loves seems the swiftest, but it is the slowest of all growths. No man or woman really knows what perfect love is until they have been married a quarter of a century."

May you find perfect love in a long and happy marriage.

Charles and Emily, you have formalized in our presence your commitment to each other, vowing to be devoted and loving to each other. We celebrate the love that has brought

you to this moment. May your joy deepen with each passing year. From this moment on, venture together, remembering to be each other's best friend. May your lives be filled with joy and your home be a place of peace and fulfillment.

I call on all of you to witness that Charles and Emily have exchanged their vows.

By the authority vested in me by the state of New Jersey, I now pronounce you husband and wife.

You may kiss the bride.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I present for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. Jonson!

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