

Robyn and Will – November 5, 2016

Pre-Processional

Welcome, friends and family! Wherever you're from and whomever you love, you are welcome here. Robyn & Will would like to ask everyone to now be present in this moment with them and to please put all cell phones away. They hired a professional to take photos so that you could sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

Welcome:

Today we celebrate the best of what it means to be human. Today we celebrate love. We are here to witness and to support Will & Robyn, as they reach this important chapter in their lives. This is not the beginning of their story, but it is a pretty big plot point! Will & Robyn, today we celebrate your commitment to share a lifetime together, but you already share a great many things: mutual respect, a gentle spirit, and a love for science fiction, sea turtles, cartoons, craft beer, pizza, wine and the most enlightened of all creatures: dogs.

In the early days of planning this wedding, Will & Robyn wanted their dog Ripley to act as the ring bearer. With a black coat, white chest and paws, they figured she already had the tuxedo! Unfortunately, at 100 pounds of slobbery love, Ripley fell outside of the restrictions set forth by this fine establishment. But they wanted you all to know that she is a vital member of their little family and she is present in their hearts as they make this commitment today.

Robyn & Will would like to thank each of you for being with them here in this moment. They know that making the journey took considerable effort and for this they are deeply grateful. A marriage needs the help of a community, of friends and family who will be there to stand by the couple during hard times and during happy times. Each and every person here today will witness the words that they will speak to one another and the vows that they will make. May you always do all within your power to support the union that will be made here today and to nurture the bond between these two people whom you love... just like Ripley does.

Marriage Address:

Will & Robyn, you fell in love by chance, but you're here today because you're making a choice. Each of you is choosing the other. You've chosen to be with someone who enhances you, who makes you think, makes you smile, and makes every day brighter. You're about to make promises to each other that you intend to keep. You're going to vow to take care of each other, to stand up for each other, and find happiness in each other. There's a simple premise to each of these promises: you're vowing to *be there*. You're teaming up and saying to the other, "For every experience I am going to have, I want you to be a part of it."

Reading #1

Robyn & Will now invite Julian and Amy to share with us "For the Dancing and the Dreaming" by Shane MacGowan, from one of their favourite films.

I'll swim and sail on savage seas
with never a fear of drowning
and gladly ride the waves of life
if you will marry me

No scorching sun nor freezing cold
will stop me on my journey
if you will promise me your heart
and love me for eternity

My dearest one, my darling dear
your mighty words astound me
but I've no need for mighty deeds
when I feel your arms around me

But I would bring you rings of gold
I'd even sing you poetry
and I would keep you from all harm
if you would stay beside me

I have no use for rings of gold
I care not for your poetry
I only want your hand to hold
I only want you near me

To love and kiss, to sweetly hold
for the dancing and the dreaming
through all life's sorrows and delights
I'll keep your love inside me

I'll swim and sail on savage seas
with never a fear of drowning
I'd gladly ride the waves so white
if you will marry me

Declaration of Intent and Consent:

Robyn & Will, please take each other's hands.

Will, in Robyn you have found a true partner. Do you promise to love & trust her, respect & inspire her, laugh & cry with her, and always hold her up, until death or the apocalypse - zombie or otherwise - parts you? (*I do*)

Robyn, in Will you have found a true partner. Do you promise to love & trust him, respect & inspire him, laugh & cry with him, and always hold him up, until death or the apocalypse - zombie or otherwise - parts you? (*I do*)

Exchange of Vows:

Will & Robyn, 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. Before this moment you have been many things to one another – co-worker, friend, lover, partner and even teacher, for you have learned much from one another in these last few years. Now you'll 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'll say to the world: this is my husband, this is my wife.

[Robyn says her vows.]

[Will says his vows.]

Exchange of Rings:

May we have the pair of rings to rule them all?

Wedding bands are visible, tangible symbols of a couple's commitment and of their emotional and spiritual connection. Many people talk about rings as being a perfect circle, having no beginning and no end. But we all know that these rings have a beginning. Rock is dug up from the earth. Metals are liquefied in a furnace at a thousand degrees. The hot metal is forged, cooled, and polished. Something beautiful is made from raw elements. Love is like that. It comes from humble beginnings, made by imperfect beings. It is the process of making something beautiful where there was once nothing at all.

Will, please take Robyn's hand and repeat these words:

Robyn, I give you this ring/ as a symbol of my love / Let it warm your hand/ as you warm my heart / May you always carry my heart with you.

[Will places the ring on her finger]

Robyn, please take Will's hand and repeat these words:

Will, I give you this ring/ as a symbol of my love / Let it warm your hand/ as you warm my heart / May you always carry my heart with you.

[Robyn places the ring on his finger]

Unity/Handfasting Ceremony:

Will & Robyn will now be bound in a ritual of unity called a Handfasting, as a nod to their shared Scottish heritage. Anna will guide them through this symbol of their commitment.

Anna steps forward and begins to wrap our hands in ribbons. Anna winds the ribbon around our hands once for every line.

These are the hands of your best friend. They are 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 you build a future together.

These are the hands that will wipe the tears from your eyes - tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will lift you up and offer strength when you need it.

These are the hands that, when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours.

May these hands continue to build a loving relationship that lasts a lifetime. May they always protect, heal and guide.

Now you may remove the ribbons, but remember the knot as a lasting symbol of your binding and commitment to always reach out to one another with love, gentleness and respect.

Declaration of Marriage:

Robyn & Will, we are here to hope with you, to be proud of you, and to remind you that love is not one moment — not even this moment. It's every moment. Big ones like saying "I love you," moving in together, getting married — but mostly a million little ones in between. Making dinner together, playing with the dog, falling asleep next to one another after binge-watching Netflix... These everyday moments fuse together into one big, wonderful story. A story which now officially includes marriage!

It is my honour to now pronounce you husband and wife. You may seal your vows with a kiss.

Signing of the Register:

Will & Robyn will now take a moment to sign the register, together with their witnesses, Julian, Will's brother, and Maggie, Robyn's "best bro".

Announcements

Following the ceremony the bridal party will be taking pictures. Everyone is invited to enjoy the grounds of the inn and the surrounding area until 5pm when cocktail hour will begin in the Regent Room (just outside of Upper Canada Ballroom). There is a lounge downstairs with a cash bar if you wish to simply sit, visit and enjoy a relaxing afternoon here in the inn.

Introduction of Couple

It is my pleasure to be the first to introduce you to Mr. & Mrs. Will and Robyn Brown!

[Recessional begins]