



Milestone Days
CELEBRANT

Readings

Your wedding ceremony is the heart of your day

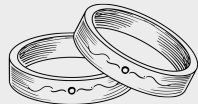
The moment you stand together, surrounded by your favourite people, and promise to love each other forever.

Choosing the right words to mark that moment can feel both exciting and overwhelming.

That's where this collection comes in.

Inside, you'll find a handpicked selection of readings: romantic, heartfelt, light-hearted, and timeless. Whether you're looking for words that make your guests smile, tear up, or nod along knowingly, you'll discover inspiration here.

Think of this as your guidebook of love-filled words, ready to help you shape a ceremony that feels unmistakably you.



These Hands

by Daniel Harris

These are the hands of your best friend,
Young and strong and full of love for you,

That 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 your future.
These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years,
And with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

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 as today, tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children,
The hands that will help you hold your family as one.
These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

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



These I Can Promise

by Mark Twain

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.
I'll keep the vows I've made today
Not because I have to,
but because I choose to.
And in choosing,
I find my freedom and my joy.
For love is not about obligation,
but about the willful, joyful act
of giving oneself,
again and again.
These I can promise —
And these I do.



A Red Red Rose

by Robert Burns

O my Luve's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly played in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry:

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only Luve,
And fare thee weel awhile!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it ware ten thousand mile.



Forever and Always

by Chris Engle

When I'm with you,
eternity is a step away,
My love continues to grow
with each passing day.
This treasure of love,
I cherish within my soul,
How much I love you...
you'll never really know.
You bring a joy to my heart
I've never felt before,
With each touch of your hand
I love you more and more.
Whenever we say good-bye,
whenever we part,
Know I hold you dearly
deep inside my heart.
So these seven words
I pray you hold true,
"Forever And Always
I Will Love You"



Blessings for a Marriage

by James Dillet Freeman

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.

May you want one another, but not out of lack.

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.

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

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



The Invitation

Oriah Mountain Dreamer (excerpt)

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living.

I want to know what you ache for – and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing.

It doesn't interest me how old you are.

I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love,
for your dreams, for the adventure of being alive.

I want to know if you can see beauty even when it's not pretty every day,
and if you can source your life from its presence.

I want to know if you can be alone with yourself,
and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.



Excerpt from The Notebook of Love

by Anonymous

Marriage is mostly about asking each other questions like:

“Did you put the clothes in the dryer?”

“Are we out of milk?”

“Did you see where I left my phone?”

It's about learning that toothpaste is a deeply personal choice.

That there are at least 12 ‘correct’ ways to load a dishwasher.

That ‘We need to talk about the cushions’ can be a real conversation.

Marriage means negotiating very important issues like:

Whose turn it is to get up with the dog

Which streaming series you commit to watching together

Whether or not pineapple belongs on pizza

And yet, somehow, in the middle of all this glorious chaos—

You find your person.

The one who remembers how you take your coffee,

who laughs at your worst jokes,

who texts you a heart emoji when you're 10 feet away.

Marriage is weird. And wonderful.

And if you do it right, you're just two weirdos

who decided to make it official and grow old

while arguing about thermostats.



A Word to Husbands

by Ogden Nash

To keep your marriage brimming,
With love in the loving cup,
Whenever you're wrong, admit it;
Whenever you're right, shut up.



From “Winnie-the-Pooh”

by A.A. Milne

“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 paw.
‘I just wanted to be sure of you.’”
“We’ll be friends forever, won’t we, Pooh?” asked Piglet.
“Even longer,” Pooh answered.



Love is Not

by Marrit Malloy

Love is not
about finding someone to live with—
it's about finding someone
you can't imagine living without.
It is not a grand declaration
spoken in front of crowds,
but a quiet understanding
passed between glances
in the middle of the everyday.
Love is not the fairy tale,
but the hand that reaches for yours
when the story gets hard.
It is morning coffee made just how you like it.
It is forgiveness before being asked.
It's walking the dog in the rain,
or washing dishes you didn't dirty.
Love is showing up—
every day,
in a hundred small ways
that no one sees but you.



From “Les Misérables”

by Victor Hugo

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.

Great happiness in life is the conviction that we are loved;
loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves



Let Me Not to the Marriage of True Minds

by William Shakespeare

(Sonnet 116)

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it 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 bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his 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 be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.



The Notebook (2004) Noah's speech

Adapted from Nicholas Sparks' novel

“So it's not gonna be easy.

It's going to be really hard.

We're going to have to work at this every day, but I want to do that—because I want you.

I want all of you, forever, you and me, every day.

You do something to me that I can't really explain.

I'd rather be with you—even when we're fighting, even when the world is against us—than with anyone else, even if it's easier.

And yeah, there will be times we drive each other crazy.

But there's no one else I'd rather be crazy with.

You're my best friend and my greatest challenge.

You make me laugh and you make me think.

You remind me that life is messy and beautiful, and you make me want to be better—just by being around you.

I love you. Not just the easy parts. I love the difficult parts, too.

I love the mornings when you don't want to get out of bed, and the nights when the day's worn us out.

I love who you are now and who you'll grow to be.

I want to grow alongside you.

So no, it won't be perfect.

But it will be ours.

And I wouldn't want it any other way.”



When Harry Met Sally (1989) – Harry’s NYE speech

by Nora Ephron

“I came here tonight because when you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible. I love that you get cold when it’s 71 degrees out. I love that it takes you an hour and a half to order a sandwich. I love that you get a little crinkle above your nose when you’re looking at me like I’m nuts. I love that after I spend the day with you, I can still smell your perfume on my clothes. And I love that you are the last person I want to talk to before I go to sleep at night. It’s not just that I love you. It’s that I like you. I like talking with you. I like arguing with you. I like not needing to talk at all. I like knowing that no matter what kind of day I’ve had, you’ll be there at the end of it, making it all make sense somehow. That’s not just love—it’s home.”



Touched by an Angel

by Maya Angelou

We, unaccustomed to courage
exiles from delight
live coiled in shells of loneliness
until love leaves its high holy temple
and comes into our sight
to liberate us into life.

Love arrives
and in its train come ecstasies
old memories of pleasure
ancient histories of pain.

Yet if we are bold,
love strikes away the chains of fear
from our souls.

We are weaned from our timidity
In the flush of love's light
we dare be brave

And suddenly we see
that love costs all we are
and will ever be.

Yet it is only love
which sets us free.



Love Actually – Mark’s cue cards scene

by Richard Curtis

“Without hope or agenda, I just want to say:
At weddings, we often talk about love.
But love isn't perfect.
It doesn't always arrive dressed in the right words or the right moment.
Sometimes it's quiet.
Sometimes it's awkward.
Sometimes it sneaks up on you holding cue cards in the snow.
But it's love all the same.
Love is knowing someone's flaws and choosing them anyway.
It's standing silently beside them when you don't have the words.
It's showing up, even when it's hard.
Love is messy and complicated and not at all like the movies.
Except maybe this one.
Because in the end, love actually is all around.
It's in your daily coffee, your shared silence, your goofiest laugh,
and in the hand you hold when everything else falls away.
So if there's anything worth saying today, it's this:
To me, you are perfect.
And I hope, by some miracle, you know it.”



Love's Philosophy

by Percy Bysshe Shelley

The fountains mingle with the river
And the rivers with the ocean,
The winds of heaven mix forever
With a sweet emotion;
Nothing in the world is single,
All things by a law divine
In one another's being mingle—
Why not I with thine?
See the mountains kiss high heaven
And the waves clasp one another;
No sister-flower would be forgiven
If it disdained its brother;
And the sunlight clasps the earth,
And the moonbeams kiss the sea—
What is all this sweet work worth
If thou kiss not me?



A History of Everything, Including You

by Jenny Hollowell

They lived and they laughed, and they built things, and they found things, and they made things.

And they loved each other so much, and sometimes they didn't, and sometimes they loved other people.

And then they found their way back.

They told stories. They shared food.

They moved. They made plans. They broke plans. They made new ones.

They danced in kitchens.

They held each other when the worst things happened.

And they held each other when the best things happened.

They forgave.

They stayed.

And they grew old.

Together.



Doctor Who – The 11th Doctor: “The Rings of Akhaten”

by Neil Cross

"We're all stories in the end.
Just make it a good one, eh?
Because every moment we live, every decision we make –
it matters.
You are full of stories. Every year you've lived.
Every place you've gone.
Every time your heart was broken and every time you loved again.
And somehow, through all of that,
you two found each other.
You found someone whose story you want to read,
over and over again.
And more than that –
you've decided to write a story together.
Not just the big chapters:
the vows, the anniversaries, the milestones.
But the quiet ones too:
Making coffee.
Folding laundry.
Laughing at the same inside joke for the fiftieth time.
This is the magic of love.
That someone says,
'I see all of you, and I want more."

