

# Libby and Andrew's Wedding

Bill Venners, Officiant

## Processional

~ Introductory music ~

## Welcome Statement

Welcome friends, families, and honored guests. We are here today to celebrate love. All of you are present today because you, in one way or another, have been part of Libby's or Andrew's life, and more recently for many of you, Libby and Andrew's life together. On behalf of the bride and groom, I want to welcome all of you and thank you being here today. Many of you traveled long distances to be here. Josephina came from Chile, Gila from Germany. Karen and Brigitte flew in from London. One of you didn't travel at all, Natalie (also known as Gran), who lives here and opened her home to all of us so that Libby could be married in this beautiful place that is filled with so many happy memories for her. Thank you Gran for that.

Today I would like to tell you all a love story. By being here today, you are a part of that story, but let me first go back to the beginning.

I met Libby and Andrew the week they met each other, and we ended up all becoming friends. My wife and I watched their relationship grow over the years. We were very happy to hear they were engaged to be married. And I'm honored to officiate today.

It all started in a setting that for some reason doesn't often show up in romantic fairy tales: Libby and Andrew met in 2011 in Boston at a meetup for the Scala programming language. There were about forty people in the audience, but Andrew noticed one person in particular, a woman hovering over her laptop feverishly typing. He looked across the room at Libby and thought, hmm. After the meetup when many of us were walking to a pub, Andrew struck up a conversation with Libby. They had served pizza at the meet up several hours earlier, but for some reason Libby was still carrying a pizza box she had used as a makeshift plate. Andrew said, "You probably don't need to take that with you." That was the first thing he said to her. And because that started their first conversation, pizza and pizza boxes became a motif for their relationship. When Andrew proposed on an anniversary of that night they met, the engagement ring arrived in a pizza box.

Andrew didn't think to ask her for contact info that night, so he did some internet detective work and tracked down an email address for her. Two days later she checked that email address, she found two emails from Andrew, who had been regularly checking his inbox for two days. She sent him back a long reply and they decided to meet. When they met the second time, Libby explained she was heading up to visit her grandparents in Maine the next day, and spontaneously blurted out, "You should come." Andrew said, "Sure." So the next day, they came here together.

Five and a half years later, they are back here once again, to be married in the presence of family and friends.

In fairy tales, the love story usually ends at the wedding. The last page just says, and they lived happily ever after. But marriage is the beginning of a new story. While there's no fail safe

algorithm for happily ever after, I would like to offer a few thoughts on this new phase of your love story.

Marriage is a gift. You have been together for several years, but once you are married you'll find it does feel different, in a good way.

In marriage your life becomes part of a whole. Together you become a unit.

Because every day, you are thinking of that person,

You worry about that person,

When they are sick, you help nurse that person back to health.

You take care of that person, and they take care of you.

Modern life is very busy.

Be sure you take the time to truly listen to that person,

Listen to their stories from the day.

Try and hear what they are really saying.

Be sure you are there when they need you.

Try not to get upset about little things.

Inevitably, there will be little idiosyncrasies about that person that bug you.

Try to accept those as little things that don't matter.

And not just accepting the little idiosyncrasies,

But finding it in your heart to realize that those idiosyncrasies,

are actually kind of cute.

Accept that person as they are.

When it comes to happiness, big things matter surely,

But I think a key ingredient in happiness

Is that you find joy in the little things, in the ordinary moments.

Do little kindnesses to each other every day.

I've heard stories of romantic gestures you've made to each other.

Keep doing that. Romance shouldn't end after the honeymoon.

Invent rituals that you do every day.

A kiss first thing in the morning.

A hug whenever you leave each other.

It is important to say "I love you" every day.

But it is even more important to show your love every day.

It probably will not always be easy.

But remember that ultimately what matters is that you are together.

You spend your days together.

Go through the joys and challenges of life together.

Laugh together.

Grow old together.

No one wants to grow old, but the best way to do that, is with someone you love.

Lastly, remember that every day is precious.

Today is precious. Tomorrow is precious.

So laugh a lot.

Love a lot.

And make the most of each day, together.

These are all fairly simple, ordinary things. The art of being happily married is to compose ordinary things in such way as to make your love, and now your marriage, extraordinary.

### **Exchange of Vows**

Minister: Libby and Andrew, I would now invite you to publicly speak your commitment to each other. Libby, would you like to begin?

Libby: Andrew, today I take you to be my husband; — I join my life with yours. — I promise to love and respect you; — to be honest, caring, faithful, and truthful; — I vow to love you as you are; — to share in joy and sorrow; — and to grow old by your side as your love and best friend. — I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, — from this day forward.

Minister: Andrew, your turn.

Andrew: Libby, today I take you to be my wife; — I join my life with yours. — I promise to love and to respect you; — to be honest, caring, faithful, and truthful; — I vow to love you as you are; — to share in joy and sorrow; — and to grow old by your side as your love and best friend. — I give you my hand, my heart, and my love, — from this day forward.

### **Declaration of Intent**

Minister: Libby and Andrew please join hands.

Libby, do you take Andrew to be your lawfully wedded husband? To honor, cherish, and love him, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, for all of your days?

Libby: I do.

Minister: Andrew, do you take Libby to be your lawfully wedded wife? To honor, cherish, and love her, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, for all of your days?

Andrew: I do.

## **Exchange of Rings**

The wedding ring is a symbol, in visible form, of the unbroken circle of your love, so that wherever you go, you may always return to your shared life together. Let these rings remind you always of that love, and of the promises you've made here on this day.

Please repeat after me:

I, Libby, give you Andrew — this ring as a symbol of my love. — As I place it on your finger, — I commit the whole of my heart and soul to you. — I promise to cherish you for the rest of my days. — I give you all that I am, and accept all that you are.

I, Andrew, give you Libby — this ring as a symbol of my love. — As I place it on your finger, — I commit the whole of my heart and soul to you. — I promise to cherish you for the rest of my days. — I give you all that I am, and accept all that you are.

## **Pronouncement**

Minister: By the power vested in me by the state of Maine and the Universal Life Church, I am pleased to pronounce you husband and wife.

## **Kiss**



Minister: Andrew, you may kiss the bride.

### **Presentation**

Minister: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to present to you, for the very first time, Mr. and Mrs. Libby Kent and Andrew Phillips!

### **Recessional**

~ Exit Music ~

### **Announcements**

We're going to exit one row at a time, the ushers will nod at you when it is your row's turn.

There's a receiving line at the back where you can greet the bride and groom and their parents.

There's a bar back there, some finger food, and around 4:30 or so dinner will be served under the tent.