



A sample Wedding by Kari....

(note, real names have been substituted for story names)

OPENING

Kari, the celebrant, welcomes guests to the botanic gardens and offers refreshments. She gathers the guests in the garden setting and rehearses all family and guests to say

“We, your family and friends, now pronounce you married.”

ARRIVAL OF MAYA AND RENE

Maya and Rene arrive in a wooden canoe across the lake, with their son, Sam, to oohs and aahs of the waiting crowd. They walk up the lake embankment to the awaiting guests.

PLANTING THE TREES

Maya and Rene plant two trees in the gardens, to represent the growth their relationship will experience as time flows slowly by.

OPENING THE DOOR CEREMONY

Maya and Rene stand in different grassy glades of the garden, and ask families and guests to choose which party to support for the game. The children are requested to relay messages back and forth between the two parties. Questions, comments, jokes bounce between two communities and families, until both parties agree that it is a great idea to be married. This ceremony is fun and light hearted, and gives the kids a good “run”! They are happy to stand still later.

PROCESSIONAL

A musician pipes the two groups together and into a stone circle.

INTRODUCING OUR FAMILIES

Celebrant: I'd like to introduce myself, Kari and the bride, Maya,
.....who introduces her family (her son, Sam, Mum, Dad, brothers & wives & children, and Aunties)

Celebrant: And I'd like to introduce Rene,
.....who introduces his family (Mum, Dad, brothers & wives & children, grandmothers and Aunties)

A LOVE STORY

Celebrant:

Friends, we are here today to celebrate the marriage and the intertwining of the destinies of Rene and Maya. Through being ruthlessly and wonderfully themselves, they have fallen in love and chosen to get married, to begin the journey and ride the waves of life together.

Two years ago Rene and Maya met in a local park at a working bee. They spoke briefly about native plants and art....and then I believe Maya ran away due to the intensity of the attraction! Rene uncharacteristically called out to her as she left. "Are you going already? But what's your name?" You may be able to persuade them to fill in the rest of the story later.

From that moment they have been making informal promises and agreements, until this day when they have chosen to acknowledge and celebrate their union in this native garden amongst those they love.

ASKING OUR PARENTS

Celebrant:

Dad and Mum#1, you stood together in a church many years ago and made a commitment to each other while wondering in your hearts what would become of your life together. Part of that answer stands here

in your Sam Rene. We see the pride you take in him and the love and respect you have for him he also feels for you. Part of the reason Sam Maya chooses him for her life's partner is because of all that you have given to him out of your lives.

Dad and Mum #1:

“ Maya, on behalf of our family, we welcome you and support your marriage”... they also said, “and as well as gaining a daughter we also gain a grandson. We welcome you too Sam”

Celebrant:

Dad and Mum #2, you stood together in a church many years ago and made a commitment to each other while wondering in your hearts what would become of your life together. Part of that answer stands here in your daughter Maya. We see the pride you take in her and the love and respect you have for her, she also feels for you. Part of the reason Sam Rene chooses her for his life's partner is because of all that you have given to her out of your lives.

Dad and Mum #2:

“Rene, on behalf of our family, we welcome you and support your marriage”

Celebrant:

Friends, you have been invited to share this occasion because of your friendship and special relationship to the Maya and Rene. I ask if you support this union and give them your warm wishes?

Guests: “WE DO!”

ASKING EACH OTHER

Celebrant:

Rene, do you happily choose to embrace the adventure that is your future with Maya. Will you respect her, be understanding and support her as the partner of your life and undertake the promises of marriage?

Rene: “I certainly do”

Celebrant:

Maya, do you happily choose to embrace the adventure that is your future with Rene. Will you respect him, be understanding and support him as the partner of your life and undertake the promises of marriage?

Maya: “I certainly and surely do”

THE VOWS

Celebrant:

Hold hands now and make your vows to each other

Rene:

“My Darling Maya, you have been my friend, my lover, my partner, and today I embrace you as my wife.

*From this day, I choose to share with you all I have to offer
my affection, loyalty and devotion,
dreams, hopes and thoughts
possessions, resources and skills.*

I vow to be your loyal friend, your affectionate lover, your devoted partner.

Maya, I will love being your husband.

Maya:

“From this day on I choose you, darling Rene, to be my life's partner;

to live, love and dance with you
to stand by your side and sleep in your arms
 to laugh with you in the good times
 to try my best with you in difficult times
 to share with you all that I have
 and play with you as much as I can
I vow to dig the fertile earth of our marriage
to feed, water, and nurture our relationship
and feel joy in its growth
 Rene, I want to grow old with you, hand in hand, wife and husband”

THE RINGS

Celebrant:

Who brings the rings?

Sam “ Me”

Rene: “I offer this ring as a symbol of my love”

Maya: “I offer this ring as a symbol of my love. Sam, thanks for bringing our rings, we love you too

Rene “Thank you for welcoming me into your family”

DRINK AND FOOD

Celebrant:

Rene and Maya wished to bring a symbolic meal and drink, as a reminder that as their bodies need nurturing so does their love. They wanted to bring whatever is bread and water to them; their daily bread.

Maya asked that Rene make one of his omelettes, as he did for their first breakfast. This omelette is made with eggs from their own loved chooks, with herbs and greens grown by Rene. Feed each other now a piece of this omelette.

Maya brings a pot of tea brewed from the rainwater that fell in their garden. In the teapot made by Rene is a mixture of herbs from their garden, peppermint given by a dear friend, chillies for the warmth of their relationship, cinnamon for the spice and liquorice for the sweetness they experience with each other. Drink to each other.

TYING THE KNOT

Celebrant: Pass the green cord to Rene, the red one to Maya, and say as they tie:

And finally you can tie the knot.

The lovers knot is a knot of two lines, that symbolise two lives tied in the middle of their journey's path; individual and separate yet inextricably linked.

WE NOW PRONOUNCE BIT

Celebrant:

*Maya and Rene you are now entwined, entangled, en-knotted. I ask all those here to join in saying.....
“We, your family and friends, now pronounce you married.”*