

Robyn Ashley Weddings

NYC WEDDING OFFICIANT

THE OFFICIANT'S CUT

The Traditional *Ceremony Script.*

A complete ceremony to read at the altar: the words, the delivery cues, the two lines the law requires, and what to say if you freeze.

AS SEEN IN

Tamron Hall · Brides · The Knot

FROM ROBYN'S DESK

A ceremony, *start to finish.*

This is a complete traditional ceremony, the words and the timing both, the way I read it at the front of the aisle.

It is set in large type on purpose, so whoever is officiating can read it at arm's length without losing the line. The two moments the law actually requires are flagged. In the margins are the cues I have learned over 300+ ceremonies: where to slow down, where to look up, where to let the room go quiet.

At the back are the two pages most first-time officiants wish someone had handed them. The lines to say if your voice goes, and the swaps for blending in a second style.

Read it once, out loud, in your own voice. Cut anything that does not sound like you. The ceremony is yours.

Robyn

ROBYN ASHLEY WEDDINGS · BROOKLYN ·
NYC



Please *rise*.

— *[Address the seated guests as the processional settles. Wait for the room to go quiet.]*

Family and friends, welcome. Thank you for being here.

Look around for a second. Every person in this room was chosen, by name, by the two people standing in front of me. You are not a crowd today. You are the witnesses.

— *[Pause. Let that settle before you go on.]*

Years from now, when one of them needs to remember what this kind of love looked like, what they will picture is your face in this room. So stay with them today.

ROBYN'S NOTE

The "*chosen, not a crowd*" line gives the guests something to do, and a room with a job pays attention.

What they are *signing up for*.

We are here for [PARTNER 1] and [PARTNER 2], who have decided that out of everyone in the world, this is the person they want the whole of it with.

Marriage is not one promise made on one good day. It is a thousand small ones made over a lifetime: to be patient, to be honest, to keep showing up on the slow Tuesdays and the hard years, and not only on a day like this one.

— *[Turn to the couple. Take a breath. Continue.]*

ROBYN'S NOTE

Name the unglamorous parts out loud, the slow Tuesdays and the hard years. That is what the room is actually living through, and recognition is what makes it feel true.

The first *required* line.

SAY THIS CLOSE TO AS WRITTEN

One of the two moments the law needs to hear. The wording can flex, the consent cannot.

[PARTNER 1], do you take [PARTNER 2] to be your spouse: to have and to hold, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, as long as you both shall live?

I do.

[PARTNER 2], do you take [PARTNER 1] to be your spouse, the same promise, as long as you both shall live?

I do.

— *[Wait for each answer. Do not rush it. The pause is the moment.]*

The part you *wrote yourselves*.

[PARTNER 1] and [PARTNER 2], please face each other and take both hands.

— *[Step half a pace back so the couple has the room. Keep your eyes on whoever is speaking.]*

These vows are the part you wrote yourselves. Whenever you are ready, [PARTNER 1].

— *[Allow the vows in full. Do not fill the silences. If a partner's voice goes, hand them the tissue you brought, then wait.]*

Thank you. [PARTNER 2], whenever you are ready.

ROBYN'S NOTE

Carry tissues even if both swear they will not cry. The hand-holding cue is what keeps a nervous partner from forgetting their own words.

A circle, *no end.*

The rings, please.

— *[Hold them up briefly so the room sees them.]*

A ring is a circle, with no beginning and no end. **[PARTNER 1]**, place it on **[PARTNER 2]**'s hand and repeat after me:

I give you this ring as a sign of every promise I have just made, and I mean to keep them.

— *[Pause for the line. Wait for the ring to go on. Then repeat for the second partner.]*

ROBYN'S NOTE

Hand the ring to the speaker before the line, not during it. One less thing to fumble in front of everyone.

By the power vested *in me.*

THE SECOND REQUIRED LINE

The marriage is not official until you say a version of this out loud.

[PARTNER 1] and [PARTNER 2], by the power vested in me by the State of [STATE], and in front of everyone here who loves you, it is my honor to pronounce you married.

You may kiss.

— *[Step back. Let the kiss happen. Let the applause build before you raise your voice over it.]*

ROBYN'S NOTE

This is the only other line the state needs from you. Requirements vary by state, so check yours before the day.

For the *first time*.

Friends, it is my joy to introduce, for the very first time, **[NEW NAME OR HOW THEY WISH TO BE INTRODUCED]**.

— *[Gesture to the couple. Let the recessional music start. Your job is done.]*

ROBYN'S NOTE

Keep it short and let the room take over. The end of the ceremony is the start of the party, and it belongs to them.

If it gets *away from you*.

If you lose your place. Say, "Give me one second here. This part matters and I want to get it right." Then look down, find the line, and go on. The room reads it as care, never as a stumble.

If your own voice goes. Say, "Forgive me, I have known these two a while and this got me." It is true almost every time. Take one breath and carry on.

If they cannot speak through the tears. Say, "Take your time. We are all right here." Then stop talking. The silence belongs to them.

Keep *moving*.

If you skip a section. Keep going. Nobody in the seats has the script, and you are the only person who knows the order. A skipped reading is a private miss, never a public one.

If a ring sticks or drops. Say, "We will get it on at the reception, the promise already counts." Light, warm, and then move.

ROBYN'S NOTE

The difference between a first-timer and a pro is not that the pro never freezes. It is that the pro has a line ready for the freeze, says it warmly, and keeps moving.

Two styles, *one ceremony.*

If your couple wants the traditional spine with a lighter or more spiritual feel, you do not rewrite the script. You swap three or four lines at the seams that take it cleanly.

For a warmer, funnier open. Replace the second welcome line with, "They asked me to keep this short, which, if you know them, is the first promise that gets broken today." Use it only if the couple is genuinely funny.

For a touch of the spiritual. After the welcome, add one line:

"However you each name the thing that is larger than us, we hold a quiet moment of it now." One sentence, a real pause, then continue.

Protect the *two lines*.

For a cultural or family ritual. It belongs between the vows and the rings, never inside the declaration of intent or the pronouncement.

Those two stay clean.

For a second reading. Place it before the vows, framed the way you framed the first. Two readings is the ceiling. A third and the room drifts.

ROBYN'S NOTE

The rule for blending is short: change the connective tissue, protect the two required lines, and keep the whole ceremony under about twenty minutes.

Three things *before you read it aloud.*

This is one ceremony, marked the way I would mark my own. Treat it as a working draft and it starts sounding like you.

i

Read it out loud, all the way through, once.

Whoever is officiating reads it start to finish in their own voice, alone in a room. Mark every line that does not sound like them, then rewrite it or cut it.

ii

Fill every bracket a week out, not on the day.

The couple writes each [BRACKET] in pencil, the officiant types the final and prints two copies on cardstock. The day-of script has no brackets left in it.

iii

Highlight the cues in a second color.

Every italic note here, the pauses, the tissue, the wait for applause, is the part officiants forget under pressure. Mark them so the eye catches them at a glance.

"I was the friend who got asked to officiate and had no idea what I was doing. This kit is the only reason I did not embarrass myself. I have done two more weddings since."

JAMES · OFFICIATED HIS BROTHER'S WEDDING, 2024

IF THIS SCRIPT IS DOING ITS JOB

The whole method, *not just one script.*

This is one ceremony in one tone. The Officiant Kit is how a first-timer gets to pro: the ten-part method for writing a custom ceremony, eight complete scripts in different tones, the questions to ask the couple, the day-of cue sheet I work from, the recovery cards for the awkward moments, and the marriage-license quick reference.

\$150

Open the Officiant Kit →

ONE-TIME PAYMENT · LIFETIME ACCESS · 48-HOUR MONEY-BACK

Where this *came from*.

**PULLED
FROM**

The traditional ceremony I have read aloud at weddings across NYC and the Hudson Valley, marked with the cues I actually use. The structure is field-tested over *more than 300 ceremonies*.

**WHAT IS IN
THE KIT**

The full ten-part method, eight complete scripts, the couple questionnaire, the day-of cue sheet, the recovery cards, and the marriage-license quick reference. All of it in *the Officiant Kit*.

**USE THIS
FREELY**

Print it, mark it up, read it at the rehearsal, hand a copy to whoever is standing up front.

**IF YOU
OFFICIATE
ONE**

Email me. I read every one.
hello@robynashleyweddings.com.

Marked from a working ceremony, with the cues I read from at the front of the aisle.

About this script, and where it has been read.