

*Robyn Ashley Weddings*

NYC WEDDING OFFICIANT

THE OFFICIANT'S CUT

# The Ring Warming Ceremony.

*The full ritual to read at the altar: the words that turn your guests into part of the rings, the one-ribbon setup that makes a lost ring impossible, and the cues that keep it moving while the ceremony goes on.*

AS SEEN IN

*Tamron Hall · Brides · The Knot*

FROM ROBYN'S DESK

# The ritual the *whole room* does.

The first ring warming I ran, a guest in the third row held the rings, teared up, and forgot to pass them. The whole left side of the room watched a stranger have a moment with two gold bands.

It was lovely and it was a small disaster, because the rings then had to find their way back before the exchange and we were improvising. I have run dozens since, and almost everything that goes sideways traces back to the same two things: nobody secured the rings, and nobody was told when to bring them forward.

So this is the ring warming ceremony with the setup on the same page as the script, the way I run it now. The words are set in large type, so whoever is reading can do it at arm's length. In the margins are the cues I have learned over 300+ ceremonies.

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

*Robyn*

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# What you'll *actually need.*

***A ribbon or cord, and both rings on it.*** Thread both rings onto one length of ribbon and tie it so they cannot slide off. This is the whole trick. Loose rings get dropped or pocketed, a ribbon does not.

***A guest count and a route.*** Ring warming fits weddings under about 30 people. Decide in advance whether the rings go to every guest or only the front rows and the wedding party, and which row they start in.

***A designated "last hands."*** Pick one trusted person at the end of the route, a parent or the best person, who brings the rings forward on a cue, not whenever they happen to arrive.

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## ROBYN'S NOTE

The ribbon is the single setup choice that decides whether you spend the ceremony relaxed or watching your rings travel a room full of strangers. Tie it the night before and test that nothing slips. Buy for *the calm version of the day.*

# Start it *early*.

*Where it goes.* Introduce the ritual right after the welcome, near the top of the ceremony. The rings travel through the guests while the readings and vows go on, so they have time to make the full route and come back.

*How the timing works.* The exchange still happens at its usual place, late in the ceremony. By then the rings have made it back to the front. Nothing pauses while they travel. The ceremony carries on around them.

— *[Officiant, hold the ribbon up so the room sees the rings before they start moving. Then hand it to the first guest and return to the ceremony.]*

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## ROBYN'S NOTE

The mistake is starting the pass too late and then stalling the vows while you wait for the rings. Start early and the room never feels the gap. The rings just quietly appear when you need them.

# Bring the *room in.*

— *[Officiant, early in the ceremony, just after the welcome. The ribbon-tied rings are in your hand.]*

Before we go any further, **[PARTNER 1]** and **[PARTNER 2]** would like to include all of you in their marriage, not only as witnesses, but as part of it.

— *[Hold up the ribbon so everyone can see both rings tied to it.]*

These are their wedding rings. In a moment they are going to come to you, one row at a time.

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## ROBYN'S NOTE

Most guests have never done this, so name it plainly before you start the pass. A confused room passes the rings too fast and the moment never builds.

# Hold them, *wish, pass.*

As the rings reach you, hold them for just a moment, and silently wish this couple well. Wish them health, patience, a long and happy life.

Anything you would want for two people you love.

— *[Hand the ribbon to the first guest. Then step back and let the ceremony continue around it.]*

Then pass them gently to the person beside you. By the time these rings come back to the front, they will carry every good wish in this room.

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## ROBYN'S NOTE

Say "silently" out loud. Without it, one warm guest starts narrating their wish and the rest of the room follows, and you lose the quiet part that gives the moment its weight. The silence is the ritual.

# The rings *come home.*

— *[At the exchange, your "last hands" walks the ribbon forward on your cue. Untie the rings before the next line.]*

These rings have now passed through the hands of everyone who loves you.

— *[Hand each partner the other's ring. Slow down. The room knows what these rings have just been through.]*

Take them, warmed by this whole room, and give them to each other.

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## ROBYN'S NOTE

Untie the ribbon while you say the first line, so your hands are busy at the right beat and the rings are free the instant you need them. Fumbling a knot at the altar kills the moment you just built.

# If your room *is different.*

*If you have more than 30 guests.* Skip the full pass. Warm the rings through the front rows, the wedding party, or immediate family only, and let the rest of the room witness it. The meaning holds with fewer hands.

*If you want children involved.* Give a steady older child the job of "last hands," walking the ribbon up the aisle on your cue. It gives a nervous kid one clear thing to do.

*If you'd like a blessing instead of a wish.* Ask guests to offer a silent prayer or a word of faith as they hold the rings. The structure is the same. Only the words in their heads change.

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## ROBYN'S NOTE

Whatever the size of the room, the read is the same: every hand that holds these rings sends something good into them. Pick the version that fits your guest list honestly and the room can tell it was made for them.

## If it goes *sideways*.

*If the rings are not back by the exchange.* Stay calm and say, "They are making their way home to us." Give the cue to your "last hands" and let the line carry the wait.

*If a guest holds on too long.* Catch their eye, smile, and let it be. A long, tender hold reads as love, not as a problem. The ribbon means the rings are safe either way.

*If a ring slips on the ribbon.* It cannot fall, because you tied it. Retie it quietly after the ritual. Nothing about the moment needs to stop.

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### ROBYN'S NOTE

The difference between a first-timer and a pro is not that the pro never waits on the rings. It is that the pro has a warm line ready, says it, and lets the ceremony keep breathing while the rings come home.

# Three things *before the rings travel.*

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

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## *i Tie both rings to one ribbon, and test it.*

Thread both rings onto a single ribbon or cord the night before. Tug it, turn it over, make sure nothing slides off. A secured ribbon is what turns the lost-ring fear into a non-issue.

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## *ii Pick your route and your "last hands."*

Decide whether the rings reach everyone or just the front rows, and which row they start in. Brief one trusted person to walk them forward on your cue, not whenever they arrive.

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## *iii Read it aloud once, and fill every bracket a week out.*

Whoever is reading runs it start to finish in their own voice. Fill each [BRACKET] in advance, print a clean copy on cardstock, and decide the start cue with your officiant before the day.

*"We loved the idea of the rings going around the room but had no clue where it fit or when to start it. The kit had the whole arc, with the ring warming already slotted in. We dropped our words in and it sounded like us."*

PRIYA & SAM · MARRIED IN BROOKLYN, 2025

IF THIS RITUAL IS DOING ITS JOB

## The whole ceremony, *not just one ritual.*

Ring warming is one ritual. A ceremony is the architecture around it: the processional, the welcome, the readings, the vows, the unity moment, the exchange, the pronouncement, all timed so the rings start early and come home at the right beat instead of feeling bolted on. The Couple's Ceremony Kit is the full word-for-word framework I use, with scripts for ring warming and fifteen other rituals, written so you can drop your own words in.

# \$79

Open the Couple's Ceremony Kit →

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

# Where this *came from*.

## PULLED FROM

The ring warmings I have run at small NYC and Hudson Valley weddings, with the ribbon trick and the cues I now give every couple up front. The structure is field-tested over *more than 300 ceremonies*.

## WHAT IS IN THE KIT

The full word-for-word ceremony framework, with scripts for ring warming and every other unity ritual, written so you can drop your own words in. All of it in *the Couple's Ceremony Kit*.

## USE THIS FREELY

Print it, mark it up, hand a copy to whoever is reading at the altar, run it at the rehearsal.

## IF YOU DO ONE

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

*Marked from a working ritual, with the setup notes and cues I use at the front of the aisle.*

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*About this ritual, and the rooms it has traveled.*