

Robyn Ashley Weddings

NYC WEDDING OFFICIANT

THE OFFICIANT'S CUT

The Vow Renewal Ceremony.

A complete renewal to read aloud: the words, the delivery cues, the ring re-blessing, and the swaps that fit your anniversary year.

AS SEEN IN

Tamron Hall · Brides · The Knot

FROM ROBYN'S DESK

A renewal is *a receipt.*

A wedding is a promise to a person you have decided to trust. A renewal is proof you were right.

This is a complete renewal ceremony, the words and the timing both, the way I read it at the front of the room. It is set in large type on purpose, so whoever is leading can read it at arm's length without losing the line.

The one trap to avoid is writing a renewal like a wedding redo. A wedding looks forward. A renewal looks back and names what you actually came through. In the margins are the cues I have learned over 300+ ceremonies: where to slow down, where to let the room go quiet.

At the back are the swaps for your anniversary year and the lines to reach for if your voice goes. Read it once, out loud, in your own voices. Cut anything that does not sound like you.

Robyn

ROBYN ASHLEY WEDDINGS · BROOKLYN · NYC



We did not gather *to start something.*

— *[Whoever is leading faces the couple and the gathered guests. Wait for the room to settle.]*

Friends and family, thank you for being here. We did not gather today to start something. We gathered to honor something that already runs deep.

[NAME] and [NAME] were married [NUMBER] years ago, and in that time they have built a life that most of you have watched up close.

— *[Slow down here. This is the line the room is leaning in for.]*

Today they want to say, out loud and in front of the people they love, that they would choose all of it again.

ROBYN'S NOTE

The whole renewal hinges on one word change. A wedding says *"I will."* A renewal says *"I did, and I would again."* Carry that backward look from the very first line.

In some ways, *braver.*

A first wedding is a leap of faith. You promise a whole future to a person you have only begun to know.

What **[NAME]** and **[NAME]** are doing today is different, and in some ways braver. They know exactly what they are signing up for, because they have already lived it. They have seen each other tired, scared, stubborn, and at their absolute best. And here they still are.

— *[Pause. Look at the couple. Let the room look with you.]*

So before we hear them speak, let's take a breath and notice what **[NUMBER]** years actually looks like. It looks like the two of you, standing right there.

ROBYN'S NOTE

Name the unglamorous years out loud, the tired and the scared and the stubborn. That is what the marriage was actually made of, and recognition is what makes the room go quiet.

A few words *they* chose.

— *[If the couple wants a reading, place it here, before the vows. Gesture to the reader, who steps forward.]*

[READER NAME] is going to share a few words that [NAME] and [NAME] chose.

— *[Reader reads the chosen passage, then returns to their seat. Give a beat of quiet before you go on.]*

ROBYN'S NOTE

Renewals lean warm rather than scriptural, though either works. Couples often reach for the same passages they loved at the wedding, which is a quiet way to thread the years together. Skip this whole page if they want to keep it short.

The first time, *they were predictions.*

[NAME] and [NAME], the first time you made promises to each other, they were predictions. Today they are proof.

— *[Turn to the first partner. Step half a pace back so the couple has the room.]*

[NAME], please speak yours first.

"I married you believing we could build a good life. Now I know it, because we did. I have kept loving you through [SPECIFIC HARD THING YOU CAME THROUGH], and I would do it again without thinking twice. I promise to keep choosing you, on the easy days and the ones that are not. You are still my favorite decision."

ROBYN'S NOTE

The [SPECIFIC HARD THING] line is the one people remember. Do not write "thick and thin." Write the actual thick and the actual thin: the move, the loss, the long stretch you almost did not survive.

Confirming one *you never broke.*

— *[The second partner faces the first. Keep your eyes on whoever is speaking, never on the page.]*

"[NAME], [NUMBER] years ago I did not know how much I did not know. You have shown me. Thank you for [SPECIFIC THING THEY DID OR ARE]. I am not renewing a promise today so much as confirming one I never broke. I choose you again, and I will keep choosing you for as long as I get to."

— *[Let the second vow finish. Do not fill the silence after it. The quiet is doing the work.]*

ROBYN'S NOTE

Carry tissues even if both swear they will not cry. If you are reading these vows for the couple, hand each partner the page only after the other has finished, so nobody reads ahead.

We are not replacing it. *We are blessing it again.*

You have each worn a ring for [NUMBER] years. It has seen everything your marriage has seen. We are not replacing it today. We are blessing it again.

— *[Each partner takes the other's ring hand and touches the ring.]*

Repeat after me. *"From this day on, I recommit myself to you, and this ring is a symbol of my pledge."*

— *[Each partner says the line in turn. No new ring to slide on, so there is nothing to fumble.]*

ROBYN'S NOTE

Most couples keep the rings they have worn for years, which is why this is a re-blessing and not an exchange. If they do want new bands, this is the page to add the slide-on line.

One more time, *in front of all of us.*

[NAME] and [NAME], you have stood here and chosen each other one more time, in front of all of us. It is our honor to witness it.

May the years ahead be as full as the ones behind you, and may you always remember this exact feeling.

Go on and kiss.

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

ROBYN'S NOTE

A renewal has no license and nothing to sign, so there is no required line to get right. That freedom is the gift. Keep the close warm and short, then hand the day back to them.

Five years, *and ten.*

Every milestone has a traditional material, and that material is a free hook to thread into the welcome or the vows. You do not rewrite the script. You shift the tone at the seams.

Five years. Wood. Lighter, funnier, still close to the wedding. A lot of couples are finally throwing the celebration a clunky few years back never let them have. Five years is no longer too soon. Lean into "we are just getting started."

Ten years. Tin. Old enough for a real story, young enough to stay playful. Tin is about durability, so build the vows around what has held. Name the one thing that surprised you most.

Silver, *and gold.*

Twenty-five years. Silver. This is where it gets emotional. Often there are grown kids in the room, sometimes grandkids. Slow the pacing down and let the welcome breathe. Work the word "silver" into a single line and let it carry.

Fifty years. Gold. Keep it short and let the years do the talking. At fifty you barely need a script. The room already knows. Thread one line of gold imagery into the close and stop there.

ROBYN'S NOTE

The material is not decoration. Working "silver" or "gold" into one sentence of the welcome gives a renewal a custom feel without rewriting a single section of the script.

If you came through *something real.*

Some renewals happen because a marriage nearly ended and did not. If that is the room you are in, do not paper over it. The honesty is the ceremony.

In the welcome. Trade "they would choose all of it again" for "they have chosen, in a year that asked them to mean it, to stay." The guests who know what happened will feel you honoring it.

In the vows. Let the **[SPECIFIC HARD THING]** line name the hard chapter plainly. A room can hold the truth far better than it can hold a pretty dodge of it.

ROBYN'S NOTE

You do not need to spell out the whole story for the seats. One honest sentence does the work, and the couple knows exactly what it means. Say it once, gently, then move the day forward.

If it gets *away from you*.

If your own voice goes. Say, "Forgive me, I have known these two a long time 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.

If you lose your place. Say, "Give me one second. This part matters and I want to get it right." Find the line and go on. The room reads it as care.

ROBYN'S NOTE

The difference between a nervous first-timer and someone who looks calm is one ready line for the freeze. Say it warmly, then keep moving. Nobody in the seats has the script.

Three things *before you read it aloud.*

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

i *Each of you, write down three moments you got through.*

Skip the wedding and the honeymoon. Go straight to the hard middle: the year a parent was sick, the move, the stretch you almost did not survive. Those are the lines that make a room cry.

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

Write each [BRACKET] in pencil first, then type the final and print two copies on cardstock. The day-of script has no brackets left in it, and no tense that says "I will" where it should say "I have."

iii *Highlight the cues in a second color.*

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

"We almost read our old wedding vows again. Then we used the prompts in this kit and wrote what twenty years actually felt like. My husband cried before I got through the first line. Everyone did."

MARIA · RENEWED HER VOWS AT TWENTY YEARS, 2025

IF THIS SCRIPT IS DOING ITS JOB

The script, plus *the words pulled out of you.*

This is one renewal in one tone. The Couple's Ceremony Kit is the full scaffolding: this script plus the ritual modules, the milestone swaps for five through fifty years, the after-hard-times variation, and the prompts that pull your own specific moments onto the page so you are not staring at a blank one the night before.

\$79

Open the Ceremony Kit →

ONE-TIME PAYMENT · YOURS TO KEEP · 48-HOUR MONEY-BACK

Where this *came from*.

PULLED FROM

The renewals I have read aloud for couples married five years and couples married fifty, across NYC and the Hudson Valley. The structure is field-tested over *more than 300 ceremonies*.

WHAT IS IN THE KIT

This script plus the ritual modules, the milestone swaps for five through fifty years, the after-hard-times variation, and the prompts that draw your own words out. All of it in *the Couple's Ceremony Kit*.

USE THIS FREELY

Print it, mark it up, read it at the rehearsal, hand a copy to whoever is standing up front. No officiant, no license, no permission needed.

IF YOU RENEW YOURS

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

*Marked from a working renewal, with the cues I read from
at the front of the room.*

*About this
renewal, and
where it has
been read.*