

The below ceremony is strictly non-religious and very non-traditional. The couple wanted humor and quirkiness involved without many serious moments, and so I provided a ceremony that fit. They selected their own vows and a reading for the moment of exchanging their rings. There are a few more serious words as the groom felt his mother would be more pleased as a result. The review left by the couple was:

"Best experience we could have hoped for!"

Ceremony Script

Andrew & Susan
December 31, 2014 @ 6:00 pm

Processional

Not scripted – to be worked out in the rehearsal.

Susan will be given away by her brother. When he approaches the Officiant will say: “Do you consent to this marriage and give this woman to be married,” to which he will reply, “I consent, and gladly give,” a la Dr. Who.

Opening

Officiant: “In order to set a light-hearted and sweet mood for this ceremony here is a poem.

‘THE DAY THE SAUCERS CAME,’ by Neil Gaiman

‘That day, the saucers landed - hundreds of them, golden, silent, coming down from the sky like great snowflakes. And the people of Earth stood and stared as they descended, waiting, dry-mouthed, to find what waited inside for us.

And none of us knowing if we would be here tomorrow, but you didn't notice it because...

That day, the day the saucers came, by some coincidence, was the day that the graves gave up their dead and the zombies pushed up through soft earth or erupted, shambling and dull-eyed, unstoppable, came towards us, the living, and we screamed and ran.

But you did not notice this because...

On the saucer day, which was the zombie day, it was Ragnarok also, the end of the cosmos according to Norse legend, and the television screens showed us a ship built of dead-men's nails, a serpent, a wolf, all bigger than the mind could hold, and the cameraman could not get far enough away, and then the gods came out.

But you did not see them coming because on the saucer-zombie-battling-gods day the floodgates broke and each of us was engulfed by genies and sprites offering us wishes and wonders and eternities and charm and cleverness and true brave hearts and pots of gold - while giants fee-fo-fummed across the land, and killer bees.

But you had no idea of any of this because that day, the saucer day, the zombie day, the Ragnarok and fairies day, the day the great winds came and snows, and the cities turned to crystal, the day all plants died, plastics dissolved, the day the computers turned, the screens telling us we would obey, the day angels, drunk and muddled, stumbled from the bars, and all the bells of the city were sounded, the day animals spoke to us in Assyrian, the Yeti day, the fluttering capes and arrival of the Time Machine day...

You didn't notice any of this because you were sitting in your room, not doing anything, not even reading, not really, just looking at your telephone, wondering if I was going to call.”

Welcome

Officiant: “Family and friends, we are here today to share something special with the two individuals that are standing before you. The wedding day is such a joyful and momentous occasion that both its happiness and its significance are enhanced when it is shared with those closest to us.

Andrew and Susan have invited you to their ceremony because you mean something to them, and they have expressed very clearly what a significant place their family and friends hold in their lives. So, thank you for being here.”

Personal Words

Officiant: “Andrew and Susan are an interesting couple. Of course, when I say ‘interesting’ do I mean, ‘odd,’ ‘weird,’ or, ‘the type of social phenomenon that researchers might want to study?’” Well, neither of the first two, and probably not the third either, although that’s debatable.

But actually, what I mean is that their *story* is interesting. It all started early in the 21st century when they met on a website for IT / Telecom professionals. The relationship was, as a result, professional in nature. However, through chatting and a lunch meeting they had soon discovered some of their star-crossed characteristics: That they worked just down the street from one another, that they had crossed paths more than once already without realizing it, and, perhaps most notably, that they had both interviewed for the same job.

Susan, by the way, is the one who was awarded that job, but according to them it's not as simple as it sounds. For you see, Andrew, despite having nearly the same qualifications, was at somewhat of a genuine disadvantage.

Unlike most persons arriving late and smelly to an interview, he actually had a real though unusual excuse: by twist of fate, his dogs were somehow tangled up with a skunk – which was the beginning of great fun for him no doubt. And because he arrived at the interview after said incident, possibly emanating a hint of the as of yet unpopular scent, *Eau-du-skunk*, to this day they like to say that Susan got the job because she *smelled better*.

Well, their friendship and fortunate run-ins with one another continued from that first lunch meeting - even after Andrew moved to Valpo, mysteriously living only a few blocks away from Susan. Note to Andrew: All of the amateur stalkers out there could certainly stand to learn a thing or two from your successful story.

But seriously, in late March they began their actual courtship, the experience of the inevitable ups and downs of life together, the perseverance to support one another along with their children, and finally the decision to make the relationship official – which brings us to why we're here with them today.

Andrew says that they are 'compatible incompatibles.' They share many things in common – value of family, a genuine care for their children, a belief in the good in others, a love of dogs, and of course – steadfast love for Dr. Who. At the same time, they have their distinctions. Susan particularly enjoys good wine and chocolate approximately every 28 days, and Andrew, while probably also liking chocolate and wine can of course only appreciate that particular experience vicariously. Andrew, for his part cherished a desire to be a clown, and Susan – well, who knows. Maybe she was scared of clowns?

Anyway, they're not twins, but they are certainly willing to accept one another's personalities. And, even when Susan is not the one who is right (which, of course, happens rarely), Andrew still loves her enough to let her be right. They are the match of the type of independent person who still appreciates a supportive partner and the type of supportive partner who still accepts an independent person.

Today, they step forward together knowing that whatever struggles their individual pasts may have held have been a part of what brought them to their present life together. Their wedding day is exciting for them as an opportunity to fulfill that desire to commit themselves to that special someone and as a way to celebrate their love with those closest to them.”

Vows

Officiant: “So now, beginning with Andrew, please repeat after me your vows to one another -

I pledge my love to you, and everything that I own.
I promise you the first bite of my meal and the first sip from my cup.
I promise to honor you above all others.
Our love is never-ending, and we will remain, forevermore, equals in our marriage.
This is my wedding vow to you.”

Exchange of rings

Officiant: “Please bring the rings forward.”

(As the rings are exchanged the Officiant reads)

Officiant: “There they stand, hand in hand, and exchange wedding bands.
Today is the day of all their dreams and plans.
And their loved ones are here to say,

In good times and bad times, in sickness and health,
May they know that riches aren't needed for wealth.
Help them face problems they'll meet on their way

May they find peace of mind comes to all who are kind,
May the rough times ahead become triumphs in time,
May their children be happy each day

As they go, may they know every love that was shown,
And as life it gets shorter may their feelings grow.
Wherever they travel, wherever they stay,
Blessed be this couple who marry today.”

Declaration of Marriage

Officiant: “And now, by the power vested in me I declare you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.”

Andrew: “I'll make it a good one?”

Susan: “You'd better.”

(First Kiss takes place)

Officiant: “Family and friends, I now present to you the newlyweds (name removed for privacy).”