

## YBD – WEDDING READINGS & POEMS

### A Lovely Love Story by Edward Monkton

The fierce Dinosaur was trapped inside his cage of ice. Although it was cold he was happy in there. It was, after all, his cage.

Then along came the Lovely Other Dinosaur.  
The Lovely Other Dinosaur melted the Dinosaur's cage with kind words and loving thoughts.

I like this Dinosaur thought the Lovely Other Dinosaur.  
Although he is fierce he is also tender and he is funny.  
He is also quite clever though I will not tell him this for now.

I like this Lovely Other Dinosaur, thought the Dinosaur. She is beautiful and she is different and she smells so nice.  
She is also a free spirit which is a quality I much admire in a dinosaur.

But he can be so distant and so peculiar at times, thought the Lovely Other Dinosaur.  
He is also overly fond of things.  
Are all Dinosaurs so overly fond of things?

But her mind skips from here to there so quickly thought the Dinosaur. She is also uncommonly keen on shopping.  
Are all Lovely Other Dinosaurs so uncommonly keen on shopping?

I will forgive his peculiarity and his concern for things, thought the Lovely Other Dinosaur. For they are part of what makes him a richly characterful individual.

I will forgive her skipping mind and her fondness for shopping, thought the Dinosaur. For she fills our life with beautiful thoughts and wonderful surprises. Besides, I am not unkeen on shopping either.

Now the Dinosaur and the Lovely Other Dinosaur are old.  
Look at them.  
Together they stand on the hill telling each other stories and feeling the warmth of the sun on their backs.

And that, my friends, is how it is with love.  
Let us all be Dinosaurs and Lovely Other Dinosaurs together.  
For the sun is warm.  
And the world is a beautiful place.

### **Love is an Adventure by Pierre Tielhart de Chardin**

“Love is an adventure and a conquest. It survives and develops like the universe itself only by perpetual discovery. The only right love is that between couples whose passion leads them both, one through the other, to a higher possession of their being. Put your faith in the spirit which dwells between the two of you. You have each offered yourself to the other as a boundless field of understanding, of enrichment, of mutually increased sensibility. You will meet above all by entering into and constantly sharing one another’s thoughts, affections, and dreams. There alone, as you know, in spirit, which is arrived through flesh, you will find no disappointments, no limits. There alone the skies are ever open for your love; there alone lies the great road ahead.”

### **Blessing of the Hands by Unknown**

These are the hands of your partner, young and strong and full of love, holding your hands as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever. These are the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future. These are the hands that will hold you and comfort you in grief and uncertainty. These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and joy. These are the hands that will hold your family as one. These are the hands that will give you strength. And these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

### **What is Love by Unknown**

Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on valentines and romance in the movies. We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives. For love is the creator of our favorite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams. Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places. And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy, is the greatest treasure of all – one known only by those who love.

### **Excerpt from The Bridge Across Forever by Richard Bach**

A soulmate is someone who has locks that fit our keys, and keys to fit our locks. When we feel safe enough to open the locks, our truest selves step out and we can be completely and honestly who we are; we can be loved for who we are and not for who we’re pretending to be. Each unveils the best part of the other. No matter what else goes wrong around us, with that one person we’re safe in our own paradise. Our soulmate is someone who shares our deepest longings, our sense of direction. When we’re two balloons, and together our direction is up, chances are we’ve found the right person. Our soulmate is the one who makes life come to life.

### **Excerpt from the Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams**

“What is REAL?” asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. “Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?”

CHARLOTTE WINKEL  
← MARRIAGE CELEBRANT →

“Real isn’t how you are made,” said the Skin Horse. “It’s a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but Really loves you, then you become Real.”

“Does it hurt?” asked the Rabbit.

“Sometimes,” said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. “When you are Real you don’t mind being hurt.”

“Does it happen all at once, like being wound up,” he asked, “or bit by bit?”

“It doesn’t happen all at once,” said the Skin Horse. “You become. It takes a long time. That’s why it doesn’t happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get all loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don’t matter at all, because once you are Real you can’t be ugly, except to people who don’t understand.”

**Falling in Love is Like Owning a Dog by Taylor Mali**

On cold winter nights, love is warm.

It lies between you and lives and breathes

and makes funny noises.

Love can wake you up all hours of the night with its needs.

Love can give you a sense of security:

When you’re walking down the street late at night

and you have a leash on love,

ain’t no one gonna mess with you.

Love needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy.

Love does not like being left alone for long.

But come home and love is always happy to see you.

Love may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life,

but you can never be mad at love for long.

Love leaves you little surprises here and there.

Love makes messes.

Sometimes you just want to get love fixed.

Sometimes you want to roll up a piece of newspaper

and swat love on the nose,

But then love gives you big kisses,

And you laugh at the little things.

Sometimes love just wants to play.

Running you around the block, leaving you panting.

It pulls you in several different directions at once,

or winds around and around you,

until you're all wound up and can't move.

And love brings you together.

People who have nothing in common but love

stop and talk and greet each other on the street.

Most importantly, love needs love, and lots of it.

And in return, love loves you and loves you and never stops.

### **Delirium by Lauren Oliver**

"Love: a single word, a wispy thing, a word no bigger or longer than an edge. That's what it is: an edge; a razor. It draws up through the center of your life, cutting everything in two. Before and after. The rest of the world falls away on either side."

### **Wild Awake by Hilary T. Smith**

"People are like cities: We all have alleys and gardens and secret rooftops and places where daisies sprout between the sidewalk cracks, but most of the time all we let each other see is a postcard glimpse of a skyline or a polished square. Love lets you find those hidden places in another person, even the ones they didn't know were there, even the ones they wouldn't have thought to call beautiful themselves."

# CHARLOTTE WINKEL

← MARRIAGE CELEBRANT →

## Allegiant by Veronica Roth

"I fell in love with him. But I don't just stay with him by default as if there's no one else available to me. I stay with him because I choose to, every day that I wake up, every day that we fight or lie to each other or disappoint each other. I choose him over and over again, and he chooses me."

## The Amber Spyglass by Phillip Pullman

"I will love you forever; whatever happens. Till I die and after I die, and when I find my way out of the land of the dead, I'll drift about forever, all my atoms, till I find you again... I'll be looking for you, every moment, every single moment. And when we do find each other again, we'll cling together so tight that nothing and no one'll ever tear us apart. Every atom of me and every atom of you... We'll live in birds and flowers and dragonflies and pine trees and in clouds and in those little specks of light you see floating in sunbeams... And when they use our atoms to make new lives, they won't just be able to take one, they'll have to take two, one of you and one of me."

## Dr Seuss inspired wedding ceremony by Charlotte Winkel

### **Celebrant:**

To get you married is my task,  
But first some questions I must ask.  
And you must answer and be true,  
Will you answer, both of you?

### **Together:**

Yes, we'll answer, yes we will  
Through these vows our hearts will spill

### **Celebrant:**

Will you love him when he's got the cash?  
And when he doesn't, will you dash?

### **Bride:**

I will love him without a cent  
I will love him one hundred percent

### **Celebrant:**

Will you love her when she's in the money?  
And when she's not, will you find it funny?

### **Groom:**

I will love her without a dime  
I will love her 'cause she's all mine.

### **Celebrant:**

Will you love him if he's sick?

# CHARLOTTE WINKEL

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What about when he's being a d.... difficult?

**Bride:**

I will love him sick or healthy  
I will love him poor or wealthy

**Celebrant:**

Will you love her when she's ill?  
And wrap her up to stop the chill?

**Groom:**

I will love her every day  
I will love her and never stray

**Celebrant:**

Will you love him when you're happy?  
And what about when you're feeling crappy?

**Bride:**

I will love him on good days and bad  
I will not want to see him sad

**Celebrant:**

Will you love her on the happiest day?  
And will you love her when the skies are grey?

**Groom:**

I will love her happy or sad  
I will show her it's not that bad

**Celebrant:**

Will you take him as your man?

**Bride:**

Yes I will, I'm his biggest fan!

**Celebrant:**

Will you take her as your girl?

**Groom:**

Yes I will, let's give it a whirl!

**Celebrant:**

And now my task is almost complete  
We'll soon sip bubbles and have something to eat  
But one last question for both of you  
Will you be wed?

**Together:**

Yes we do!

**A Blessing for The Journey by Sensei Egyoku Nakao (Buddhist Prayer)**

Let us vow to bear witness to the wholeness of life,  
realizing the completeness of each and every thing.  
Embracing our differences,  
I shall know myself as you,  
and you as myself.  
May we serve each other  
for all our days,  
here, there, and everywhere.  
Let us vow to open ourselves to the abundance of life.  
Freely giving and receiving, I shall care for you,  
for the trees and stars,  
as treasures of my very own.  
May we be grateful  
for all our days,  
here, there, and everywhere.  
Let us vow to forgive all hurt,  
caused by ourselves and others,  
and to never condone hurtful ways.  
Being responsible for my actions,  
I shall free myself and you.  
Will you free me, too?  
May we be kind  
for all our days,  
here, there, and everywhere.  
Let us vow to remember that all that appears will disappear.  
In the midst of uncertainty,  
I shall sow love.  
Here. Now. I call to you.  
Let us together live  
The Great Peace that we are.  
May we give no fear  
for all our days,  
here, there, and everywhere.

**From Overlap by Ani DiFranco**

Search your profile  
For a translation  
I study the conversation  
Like a map  
'cause I know there is strength

# CHARLOTTE WINKEL

← MARRIAGE CELEBRANT →

In the differences between us  
And I know there is comfort  
Where we overlap

## **From Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne**

Piglet: "How do you spell love?"  
Pooh: "You don't spell it, you feel it"

"We will be friends until forever, just you wait and see"

## **I Wanna Be Yours by John Cooper Clarke**

I wanna be your vacuum cleaner  
breathing in your dust  
I wanna be your Ford Cortina  
I will never rust  
If you like your coffee hot  
let me be your coffee pot  
You call the shots  
I wanna be yours

I wanna be your raincoat  
for those frequent rainy days  
I wanna be your dreamboat  
when you want to sail away  
Let me be your teddy bear  
take me with you anywhere  
I don't care  
I wanna be yours

I wanna be your electric meter  
I will not run out  
I wanna be the electric heater  
you'll get cold without  
I wanna be your setting lotion  
hold your hair in deep devotion  
Deep as the deep Atlantic ocean  
that's how deep is my devotion

## **Why Marriage? By Dena Acolatse**

Because of the depths of me, I long to love one person,  
With all my heart, my soul, my mind, my body.....



# CHARLOTTE WINKEL

← MARRIAGE CELEBRANT →

Because I need a forever friend to trust with the intimacies of me,  
Who won't hold them against me,  
Who loves me when I'm unlikable,  
Who sees the small child in me, and  
Who looks for the divine potential of me.....

Because I need to cuddle in the warmth of the night,  
With someone who is thankful for me,  
With someone I feel blessed to hold.....

Because marriage means opportunity  
To grow in love in friendship.....

Because marriage is a discipline  
To be added to a list of achievements.....

Because marriages do not fail, people fail  
When they enter into marriage  
Expecting another to make them whole.....

Because, knowing this,  
I promise myself to take full responsibility  
For my spiritual, mental and physical wholeness  
I create me,  
I take half of the responsibility for my marriage  
Together we create our marriage.....

Because with this understanding  
The possibilities are limitless  
and our love will last forever.....

## **I Will Be Here by Steven Curtis Chapman**

Tomorrow morning if you wake up,  
And the sun does not appear  
I, I will be here

CHARLOTTE WINKEL  
← MARRIAGE CELEBRANT →

If in the dark we lose sight of love,  
Hold my hand, and have no fear  
Cause I, I will be here

I will be here when you feel like being quiet  
When you need to speak your mind,  
I will listen and  
I will be here when the laughter turns to cryin'  
Through the winning, losing and tryin'  
We'll be together 'cause I will be here

Tomorrow morning if you wake up,  
And the future is unclear  
I, I will be here  
As sure as seasons are made for change,  
Our lifetimes are made for years  
So I, I will be here

I will be here and you can cry on my shoulder,  
When the mirror tells us we're older,  
I will hold you and  
I will be here to watch you grow in beauty  
And tell you all the things you are to me  
I will be here

I will be true to the promise I have made  
To you and to the One who gave you to me

I, I will be here

And just as sure as seasons are made for change  
Our lifetimes are made for years  
So I, I will be here we'll be together

I will be here

**Other resources:**

- <http://www.bridalguide.com/planning/the-details/ceremony/wedding-readings-from-books>
- <http://offbeatbride.com/silly-wedding-readings/>
- <http://www.panmacmillan.com/blogs/the-window-seat/wedding-readings-short-funny-unique-romantic>
- <http://www.youandyourwedding.co.uk/planning/readings-speeches/best-disney-quotes-and-words-for-your-wedding-ceremony-reading/21421.html>