

Good Morning The Argalls,

Here is the more-or-less final version of Liz'n'Mikey's wedding ceremony. Actual content may have varied from the picture on the box, but this should be close.

Thank you again Liz and Mike(y) for asking me to do this small thing for you. I've had a smile on my face since Saturday.

Love,
Andrew

Good afternoon friends and family of Mikey and Liz and welcome to their wedding ceremony. I am Andrew. Mikey and Liz have asked me to be their representative of their friends and family to perform this ceremony. I thank them for this honour, and I also thank you.

[Just waiting for a few minutes for some stragglers...]

Dear friends and family, people of Mikey and Liz. Marriage is a fundamental act in our society. Marriage is the coming together of two people in love, celebrated with their community. It is a joining of destinies and also a joining of people as families and friends come together. And this is what we are here to acknowledge today.

Marriage is an older rite than its incarnations under the Law and Religion. But Liz & Mikey are honouring these as well. Yesterday they were married before the Law. Tomorrow they will ask for the blessing of the Earth (...and they also got the blessing of the Sky today as well!). But today, they ask us as their people to witness their commitment in love, and they ask us to bless their union.

Marriage is a time for all people to come together and regard each other with love.

I have known Liz for many, many years. I have known Mikey for only many years. I have never known anyone like them. And one thing that stuck me about both of them is Liz and Mikey are singular people. I don't know anyone else like them. I don't think there could be anyone else like them.

It was only when I saw them together, after Mikey moved to Canberra from his life in Melbourne, that I had some hint of how these singular people fitted so wonderfully together. They dovetail in temperament and talents. One is passion and fire and the miracle of creativity. The other is expertise, and kind endurance, and a quieter appreciation of the finer things. They are parts of a greater pattern.

Liz and Mikey, I'd like you now, before your people, to contemplate in your hearts this greater pattern, this garden of marriage that you will create together. Reflect on where you have come from to this moment. Celebrate this instant, this ceremony of your love.

And most importantly, consider the joy but also the work that you will put into your garden of marriage. For although the garden is a warm and growing thing, it always needs nurturing to keep it that way. Even the most effortless, natural relationship needs watering with patience and kindness. And sometimes, it will need pruning. Honest reflection and the trust to speak to

your spouse honestly will stop your garden becoming a wilderness. It is the mark of two people who are truly in love that you will trust each other to be open in your dealings with them — to commit your soul into their keeping.

It's not an easy thing to do. Among the many tasks you will face is to accept the irritating with the angelic — for sometimes your spouse is not perfect — sometimes they only manage perfection eight or ten times a day.

And know too that as your marriage passes through the seasons it will change with them, offering new banquets as the flowers fade and bloom. But this is a wondrous thing, and not something to regret, for who would want to eat Thai Green Curry more than four nights a week?

Above all, the adventures you find in your garden, you will have someone to share them with.

[Take Liz & Mikey's hands but turn back to people]

Friends and family, people of Mikey and Liz's: this is their ceremony of marriage, of union. It is thus a time of coming together for their people too.

To this end, please take a moment to introduce yourself to the people on your left and right.

I now ask you to join hands as a single people, the people of Liz and Mikey. As you do this please contemplate your joy in love, your love for these two souls before you, and your best wishes for their future marriage, while Mikey and Liz exchange their vows and rings.

[Turn to Liz]

Liz, I ask you now before your people to make your promises to Mikey, your chosen spouse.

[Turn to Mikey]

Mikey, I ask you now before your people to make your promises to Liz, your chosen spouse.

Liz and Mikey, I ask you now to exchange your rings.

Friends and family, people of Mikey and Liz, know that these rings symbolise three things. The bands represent the endless nature of love between people and remaining open to the needs of your spouse. They hold the promise of the riches to be found in your garden of marriage. And finally, wearing your beloved's ring and feeling its weight upon your finger will ever remind you of the choice you have made to honour and love your beloved above all others.

Please now embrace and be as one.

Friends and family, may I present to you Mikey & Liz — Liz & Mikey — Elizabeth and Michael — TEAM MIKEY & LIZ!

[General wassail, balloons, doves, streamers, Saint-Saens 3rd Symphony, roll credits etc.]