

**Jen and Shane  
Mount Sunapee  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015  
10:45am**

*Shane, Owen and Kim standing by the fireplace.*

*Guests seated*

*Kristen walks in, takes place to the right of Kim*

*Guests rise*

*Jen and father walk in, hug/kiss, and father sits down*

*Jen takes place to the right of Kim, between Kristen and Kim*

*Guests seated again*

**Introduction:**

On behalf of Jen and Shane, I would like to welcome you all here and thank you for joining us on this wonderful day. We appreciate all it took for you to get here, whether you are coming from near or far. Your presence here, to be witnesses on this day, shows this couple how much you care about them, and it means a lot to them.

We also remember those loved ones that cannot join us here today, in particular Shane's grandma, Marty. Though not here in body, we know they are here in spirit to celebrate this day.

We are gathered here today to honor and celebrate the coming together of Jen and Shane in the friendship, loyalty, and love of marriage. What you are witnessing today is the declaration of their commitment to each other, and to a lifetime of adventure together.

Marriage symbolizes life and learning, rising to meet new challenges and continuing to grow.

Marriage is celebration of joy and happiness, where one should always remember the following things:

The little things are the big things.

You're never too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say 'I love you' at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other person for granted

It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating a sense of humor.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence is mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

Marriage is the union of two souls, bound in love that requires faith and devotion; patience and understanding.

Marriage is not a ritual or an end. It is a long, intricate, intimate dance together and nothing matters more than your own sense of balance and your choice of partner.

## **Intentions:**

Jen, do you take Shane to be your husband, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful wife?

Do you promise to base your life with Shane on love, caring, and understanding? Do you pledge to speak and to listen, to give and to receive, and to be considerate of his wishes and desires? Do you promise to be by his side in sickness and in health for as long as you both shall live?

**Jen: I will**

Shane, do you take Jen to be your wife, in times of good fortune as well as adversity, forsaking all others to be a kind and faithful husband?

Do you promise to base your life with Jen on love, caring, and understanding? Do you pledge to speak and to listen, to give and to receive, and to be considerate of her wishes and desires? Do you promise to be by her side in sickness and in health for as long as you both shall live?

**Shane: I will.**

And to everyone gathered here today, do you promise to continue to love, support, and respect Jen and Shane in their marriage and in their journey though life?

**Family and Friends respond: WE WILL**

## **Hands Ceremony:**

Jen and Shane, Please face each other and take each other's hands, so that you may see the gift that they are to you.

*(Cloth is draped over hands)*

These are the hands of your best friend, strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day 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 passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that hold you when fear or grief temporarily comes your way.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes, tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These are the hands that tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that hold you tight as you struggle through difficult times.

These are the hands that give you strength when you need it.

These are the hands that give you support and encourage you to chase your dreams. Together, everything you wish for can be realized.

*(Cloth is tied into a knot.)*

May your love find lasting permanence, bound together in the fabric of life.

May the protection of marriage surround you, sustain you and comfort you.

In the binding of this cloth, may you remember the binding of your words:

The vows of fidelity and trust you make today.

Though the cloth has two sides, it is of one piece; so now there are two lives, but bound together in one heart, one home.

May these lives be bound together, never to be torn asunder.

### **Cloth is untied so that they may do the ring exchange**

#### **Reading:**

#### **And now, a reading by Shane's Uncle Joe**

"From I Corinthians 13: 4-8, 13"

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast,

It is not proud. It is not rude,

It is not self-seeking,

It is not easily angered,

It keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil

But rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts,

Always hopes, always preserves.

Love never fails...

And now these three remain:

Faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

## Rings/Vows:

A ceremony is for a day; a marriage is for a lifetime. The rings that you are about to exchange mark the beginning of a long and exciting journey together.

Let your rings be a reminder of the promises that you have given to each other, and of the love that you share. As each ring is unbroken, so will your love for each other be without end

*(Owen-hands ring to Shane)*

**Shane, as you place the ring on Jen's finger please repeat after me**

I give to you my hands  
To tear away your burdens  
I give to you my mind  
To stretch our dreams to the sun  
I give to you my heart  
To stitch the soul that's sundered  
I give to you all that I am  
And all that I ever will be  
Until the end of our days  
And I shall wish for nothing  
As I smile into the winds

Jen I give you this ring as a symbol of our vows.  
Please wear it with love and joy.

*(Kristen - Hands ring to Jen)*

**Jen, as you place the ring on Shane's finger, please repeat after me**

I give to you my hands  
To tear away your burdens  
I give to you my mind  
To stretch our dreams to the sun  
I give to you my heart  
To stitch the soul that's sundered  
I give to you all that I am  
And all that I ever will be  
Until the end of our days  
And I shall wish for nothing  
As I smile into the winds

Shane I give you this ring as a symbol of our vows.  
Please wear it with love and joy.

**Blessing of the Apaches:**

Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other. Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the other.

Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you. May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all the years. May happiness be your companion and your days together be good and long upon the earth.

Today, we are privileged to share with Jen and Shane a moment of supreme joy in the new life they now begin together. In the years ahead, may their wisdom be steadily increased, and may they always apply tenderness and strength to the trials which will

surely face. May they never allow change to dull the sense of loyal love and utter devotion they now hold.

And now, it gives me great pleasure to say, Now, by the power vested in me, by the State of New Hampshire, I am happy to pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride!