

Jeremy and Dara
Top of Loon Ski Area
September 13th, 2015

Processional

Jeremy, Lee at platform with Schroeder as people walk in.
Jessica walks down the aisle
Nathan walks down the aisle, carrying rings
Flower Girls (Kaitlyn and Bridgette) walk down aisle.
Dara comes in last, accompanied by dad

Giving the Bride Away

Dad kisses Dara on cheek, gives Jeremy a hug. Dara hugs Mom. Parents sit.

Introduction

On behalf of Dara and Jeremy, I would like to welcome you all here and thank you for joining us on this magnificent day in the White Mountains. For many of you, it was not easy to get here – we realize New Hampshire is quite a trek for many of you – and the bride and groom want to thank all of their friends and family who could make the journey. 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 know you're just all relieved they didn't make you hike all the way up here.

Marriage symbolizes the intimate sharing of two lives. This sharing does not diminish the individuality of each partner; it enhances it. A marriage that lasts is one which is continually developing and in which each person continues to grow as an individual.

Deep knowledge of another person is not something that can be achieved in a short time, and real understanding of another's feelings

can only develop with years of intimacy. This grows out of caring for the other so much that one wants to understand what the other is feeling – or as much as is possible. Marriage is about sharing not only the joys and successes, but the burdens of sorrows and failures as well. To be known in this way is a priceless thing.

To quote the writer, Amy Bloom:

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.

Dara and Jeremy have started a beautiful journey in the years they have been together. In the years I have known them, I've watched them learn and grow as individuals, and as a partnership. I'm sure I'm not alone in my happiness to see them united, with the bond of marriage.

Readings

Schroeder introduces Courtney, Jeremy's sister

Courtney is Jeremy's sister. When asked to perform a reading at this ceremony, she couldn't find anything that truly expressed how she felt about Dara and Jeremy. So she chose to write a poem herself.

Courtney reads "Oh What a Beautiful Place This Is"

Schroeder introduces David Betka

David is a friend of Jeremy and Dara's from their time at Philmont. He has known them from before they began dating and has watched their relationship grow from its beginning.

David reads his piece

Intentions

Story of the True-Lover's Knot:

Around the turn of the nineteenth century, an art form arose from the ranks of deep-water sailors. That art form was KNOTTING. Sailors used rope to create knots that were anywhere from simple to elaborate. Some knots were purely for use, some knots were created for decorative use. Some knots were used to signify meaning. One knot that arose during this time period that was heavily laden with meaning was the TRUE-LOVERS' KNOT.

The true lover's knot is a simple and clear knot, implying its forthright goal. It is made up of two overhand knots, linked together, much like the "true-lovers" are in their hearts. A deep-water sailor would tie the knot loosely, and send it to his intended back home. Upon receiving it, the woman could a) untie it, meaning the sailor shouldn't show his face around the next time he was in port, or b) she could send it back, leaving it loose, the way she received it, meaning the sailor would be welcomed home, but he better be on his best behavior, or c) she could tighten the knot before returning it, meaning the sailor should hurry his way to the homestead.

Jeremy, since you are asking Dara to marry her, will you take this cord, which represents the bond between you, and tie the knot which signifies your intentions for your gathered friends and family to see.

Jeremy ties the knot and hands the rope to Dara.

Dara, do you accept this proposal from Jeremy? If so, will you tighten the knot to represent how you will hold his heart tight to yours.

Dara tightens knot and hands rope to Schroeder. Schroeder holds knot up for all to see.

I see by this knot before me that you both share the same intentions concerning this relationship, that you will hold each other's heart tight, and form a strong bond from here to forever.

Schroeder hands rope to Lee.

Vows

Jeremy and Dara have chosen to write their own vows. Dara will read hers first.

(Dara reads her vows – probably with help of cheat-sheet.)

Jeremy will now read his vows.

(Jeremy reads his vows – probably with help of cheat-sheet.)

Ring Ceremony

The rings that you are about to exchange mark the continuation of your long journey together, a journey that began over seven years ago. These rings are a symbol of infinity, of time without end. Let your rings be a reminder of your union, and the love you share. As a ring is unbroken, so will your love for each other be without end.

Schroeder asks Jeremy to repeat after her as he prepares to put the ring on Dara's finger.

Dara, the words I say to you, now
Are the ones I have waited a lifetime to speak

Ones I say in love and in confidence
I see you as my best friend, my partner
The other half of my heart
The person with whom I wish to share my life
I offer you all the days before me
No matter what may come our way
I freely take you as my wife
Please accept this ring as a permanent symbol of my commitment

Schroeder asks Dara to repeat after her as she prepares to put the ring on Jeremy's finger.

Jeremy, the words I say to you, now
Are the ones I have waited a lifetime to speak
Ones I say in love and in confidence
I see you as my best friend, my partner
The other half of my heart
The person with whom I wish to share my life
I offer you all the days before me
No matter what may come our way
I freely take you as my husband
Please accept this ring as a permanent symbol of my commitment

Closing:

Today, we are privileged to share with Dara and Jeremy 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, 'By the power vested in me, by the State of New Hampshire, I now pronounce you Husband and Wife. You may now kiss the bride.'

Recessional

Thank you all for attending. Please enjoy your gondola ride down to gather in the Octagon Lodge.

Dara and Jeremy walk up aisle to top of the amphitheater, followed by Jess and Lee, then all guests rise and exit amphitheater. Dara and Jeremy will receive people at the top of the amphitheater.