

JULIO AND KRISTA'S WEDDING CEREMONY

WELCOME

Jack (Officiant): Welcome friends and family. We are gathered here today to witness and celebrate the wedding of Julio and Krista. Marriage is the supreme sharing of experience and adventure in the most intimate of human relationships. It is the joyous uniting of a couple whose mutual understandings have flowered into romance. Today, Julio and Krista proclaim their love to the world, and we here rejoice with them and for the new life they now undertake together.

READING

Jack: In Plato's Symposium, written around 385 BC, it's said that humans have never understood the power of love. – For if they had, they would surely have built noble temples and altars and offered solemn sacrifices: But this is not done, and most certainly ought to be done, since love is our best friend, our helper and the healer of the ills which prevent us from being happy.

Each of us when separated, having one side only, is but the indenture of a person and we are always looking for our other half. Those whose original nature lies with the Children of the Sun are men who are drawn to other men, those from the Children of the Earth are women who love other women, and those from the Children of the Moon are men and women drawn to one another. And when one of us meets our other half, we are lost in an amazement of love and friendship and intimacy, and would not be out of the others sight even for a moment. We pass our whole lives together, desiring that we should be melted into one, to spend our lives as one person instead of two, and so that after our death there will be one departed soul instead of two; This is the very expression of our ancient need. And the reason is that human nature was originally one and we were a whole, and the desire and pursuit of the whole is called love.

VOWS

Julio's Vows – As I stand in front of you today, I cannot help but remember how, a very long time ago, you told me that I would always be second to your children, and I told you I would never have it any other way. That means that this day, I am not only joining my life to yours, but I am also having it entwined with the two people who mean the most to you.

Corey: The man. The legend. There are many things that we have in common; our Hyperactive Attention Deficit Disorder, our passion for videogames, our tastes in music, our bohemian natures, our off color, and often inappropriate sense of humor; the kind of humor that takes a kindred spirit to both understand and enjoy. There is another aspect that we also have in common, however, that makes me feel self conscious around you: Our mothers got married. The man my mother chose was, let's say, less than optimal as a parental figure. That is why, many decades ago, I told myself that I would never, ever be that guy, if I was ever in the same position. So, I promise you. I will be your friend, one of your best friends, if you will let me. But I will never overstep that boundary, and I will treat you with the trust and respect you deserve as a grown man.

April: The baby. My princess. I have known you from afar for many years. We have talked to each other. We have played together. We have laughed and shared our time online. I have welcomed you into my home, and through the years, we have come to know each other well. Enough to drive each other nuts, sometimes. But the thing about you that never ceases to amaze me after all these years, is how your beautiful smile can make everything seem brighter, even under broad daylight. So today, I vow to you that, as my princess, I will guard and protect you to the last ounce of strength and blood in my body. But until that is required of me, I will spend my time making sure that smile of yours brightens as many days as possible.

Krista: My queen. My goddess. My love. My own. Mi preciosa. Through distance and longing we have endured. We have shared our lives and grown to know each other better than we know ourselves. Today I take you to be my wife, not despite your flaws and shortcomings, but because of them. Because I love every aspect of your being and the balance it brings to my own. We may not be perfect, but I can say without any hint of doubt, that you are perfect for me. So I promise you, through bright suns, and waning moons, through celebrated victories, and dangerous journeys, through life's fine wines and bitter medicines, I will commit myself to you, to encourage you, to support your dreams, to love you unrelentingly, as long as we both draw breath. Now and always, my heart is ever at your service.

Krista's Vows – Looking back over the time since I met you, I realized all of the ways that you have changed me; changed my life in ways I didn't even dream were possible, and all I can say is thank you. Thank you for taking me as I am, and loving me.

You have restored my hope, and my faith in love. Your patience and your gentleness have given me back my ability to trust. You are irreplaceable in my life.

As we look into the future, I want you to know that I choose you to be my husband; to stand by your side, and sleep in your arms; to be joy to your heart, and food for your soul. I pledge to respect your unique talents and abilities, to lend you strength for all of your dreams. I promise to laugh with you in good times, to struggle with you in bad; to solace you when you are downhearted; to wipe your tears with my hands; to comfort you with my body; to mirror you with my soul; to share with you all my riches and honors; to play with you as much as I can until we grow old; and, I will be at your side as long as I still have breath in my body. With a free and unconstrained soul, I give you all I am, and all I am to become.

RING EXCHANGE

Jack: Julio and Krista have chosen to exchange rings. Rings for brides have been a marriage tradition for centuries and traceable back 5,000 years. Wedding bands for men is more recent and generally traced to WWII when soldiers wore a wedding band to remind them of their loved ones at home.

Julio repeats after Jack – I give you this ring as a token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

Krista repeats after Jack – I give you this ring as a token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love.

WINE CEREMONY

Jack: Throughout the ages wine has been used for celebration. Among many people, wine has signified life, and drinking from a common cup has been the mark of deep sharing. The wine sharing ceremony is a delightful ceremony embracing traditions that began well before the medieval period. Then, a bride and groom would celebrate their pledge to each other by drinking wine from a single cup — one blood, one family and one kin.

Julio and Krista, these two carafes of wine represent your individual spirits, all that you are, all that you have been, and all that you will become. This goblet in the center is your marriage, the place where you are forever blending your lives together. It represents the joining of 2 spirits, 2 lives, 2 souls. Now you will each take your carafe and pour into the center goblet to create a new wine. As you do so, keep in mind the pledge you made to each other today. It is the pledge of the truth and purity of your every breath, the constant friendship of your hearts, the passion of your spirits, and the deepest love your souls have to give. As you share this cup of wine you undertake to share all that the future may bring. May whatever bitterness it contains be less bitter because you share it together. May all the sweetness that it holds for you be the sweeter because you taste it together.

(Krista and Julio take turns drinking from the goblet)

The drinking of the combined wine signifies the commitment you now make to live your lives as one family. May you remember this day of commitment you have sealed with drinking of the new wine joining your lives as one.

WINE BOX CEREMONY

Jack: I'd like to draw your attention to the box in front of Julio and Krista. They have written letters to each other expressing their feelings as they begin their marriage. The letters are sealed in individual envelopes and they have not seen what the other has written. We will include these letters in the box along with their wedding vows, and a bottle of wine representing the newly blended wine they created and drank from today. Together they will seal this box, and on the happy occasion of their anniversary, they will open the box, read the letters, drink the wine, and add new letters to the box. As time passes, they will have a record of the yearly reflection on their relationship, and a living document of the growth and depth of their ever evolving relationship.

Please seal the box together.

(Krista and Julio place a bottle of wine and the letters they have written to each other in the box and seal it)

PRONOUNCEMENT

Jack: Kissing the bride is another marriage tradition that has been traced back to roman times. When few written records were kept, the kiss attested to the marriage of a man and woman.

By virtue of the authority vested in me under the laws of the state of Florida, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now seal your vows and confirm your holy commitment and love for each other with a kiss.

(Julio and Krista kiss each other)

Ladies and gentlemen, I now present to you, Mr. and Mrs. Julio Corona.