

Maren & Teo

Saturday, May 22, 2027 · Fernhollow Barn, Asheville, NC

Officiant: Priya Castellane

Say their names

Maren — MAIR-en

Teo — TAY-oh

How to read this script

Large type is what you say.

► **Gray lines** are cues for you. Don't read them aloud.

→ **Name repeats** means that partner says your line back after you.

Shaded boxes hold the customary wording for the two moments every ceremony needs.

Timing

About 21¾ min from your welcome to the walk out, at an easy speaking pace. Each section shows when it starts, counted from the processional, so you can tell at a glance if you are running long.

1 Welcome

starts 4:33 PM · about 1½ min

- Wait until Maren has reached the front and the music has faded. Look at Maren and Teo first, then out at the guests.

Good afternoon, everyone. Please be seated.

- Pause while the guests sit down.

Welcome to Fernhollow Barn. My name is Priya, and I was Maren's college roommate. That means I have watched Maren plan everything, for a long time, and I can promise you that she planned today too. What she could not plan is the man standing next to her, who improvises everything and somehow always arrives on time.

- Pause for laughter.

We are here because Maren and Teo are getting married, and because they wanted the people who know them best to see it happen. Whether you have known them all their lives or for a few months, you are here because you matter to them, and they are so glad you came.

2 Remembrance

starts 4:35 PM · about 1 min

Before we go on, Maren and Teo want to remember someone who is not here today. Teo's grandfather, Ansel Brightwater, is very much with us in our hearts today.

Let's take a quiet moment to hold him close.

- Pause for about ten seconds. Look up and smile at Teo before you go on.

Thank you.

So, how did we get here? It started, as the best stories in Asheville do, in a community garden.

▸ Look at Teo.

Maren had a plot there, with very neat rows of beans. Teo had a tomato cage that was not as well anchored as he believed. One afternoon that tomato cage rolled straight into Maren's bean rows.

▸ Pause for laughter.

Now, a different person might have said sorry and gone home. Teo spent the rest of the afternoon rebuilding Maren's trellis. And the next Saturday, he came back. And the Saturday after that. And every Saturday after that.

Maren, as you all know, plans everything. So when someone keeps showing up, week after week, she notices. She noticed.

▸ Look at Maren.

Four years later, Teo brought Maren back to the same garden plot. He had tied a ring to a bean stake. And Maren, after four years of Saturdays in that garden, thought he was asking her to help with the weeding.

▸ Pause for laughter. This is the biggest laugh of the day.

She almost said no. Luckily for all of us, she figured it out.

Here is what their friends love about these two. Maren plans everything. Teo improvises everything. And somehow, together, they always arrive on time.

That is not a small thing. It means each of them trusts the other to fill in what they cannot. Maren makes the plan. Teo makes the plan work when the day has other ideas. They are two very different people on the

same team, and they know it.

And they have built something around that. On the first Sunday of every month, Maren and Teo make soup and open their door. Anyone can come. Their friends tell me that nobody has ever been turned away.

I think that tells you most of what you need to know about this marriage. It is a home with the door open and a pot on the stove.

And of course there is Radish, who walked down this aisle before either of them did today.

There is also the argument. Some couples argue about money, or whose turn it is to do the dishes. Maren and Teo have a long-running argument about whether a hot dog is a sandwich.

▸ Pause for laughter.

I will not settle it today. That is well above my pay grade. But I will say this: a couple who can disagree about something for that long and still laugh about it is going to be just fine.

▸ Look at both of them before you go on.

4 First reading

starts 4:40 PM · about 1½ min

Reading: Sonnet 116, William Shakespeare · read by Calla Ruiz

▸ Step slightly to the side so Calla Ruiz can stand at the front.

Calla Ruiz, the maid of honor, is going to share a reading. It is Sonnet 116, by William Shakespeare, about a love that holds steady when everything around it changes.

▸ Calla reads. Stay still and look at Calla, not at your script.

Thank you, Calla.

5 Second reading

starts 4:42 PM · about 1½ min

Reading: "Love Is Not All" by Edna St. Vincent Millay · read by Owen Holloway

▸ Owen Holloway comes up to read.

Next, Owen Holloway will read Love Is Not All, by Edna St. Vincent Millay.

▸ Owen reads.

Thank you, Owen.

6 What marriage looks like for them

starts 4:43 PM · about 1½ min

Marriage gets described in a lot of big words. Maren and Teo's version is smaller, and I think better. It looks like someone showing up every Saturday. It looks like a plan, and someone who can make the plan work when the day goes sideways. It looks like a pot of soup and an open door.

None of that happens once. It happens again and again, on ordinary days, and that is exactly where a marriage is made.

7 Your promise to them

starts 4:45 PM · about 1 min

Maren and Teo are making promises to each other today, but they are not doing this alone. So I am going to ask all of you a question, and I would like a loud answer.

▸ Turn to the guests.

Will you love and support Maren and Teo, show up for them on the easy days and the hard ones, and keep their door busy on the first Sunday of the month? If so, please say: We will.

GUESTS

We will!

- Turn back to the couple.

8 Declaration of intent

starts 4:46 PM · about ½ min

Customary wording. It includes both partners saying "I do" and you declaring them married.

Maren, do you take Teo to be your husband, to love and to cherish, from this day forward?

MAREN

I do.

Teo, do you take Maren to be your wife, to love and to cherish, from this day forward?

TEO

I do.

9 Vows

starts 4:46 PM · about 3½ min

Maren and Teo have each written vows for this moment.

- Ask Maren and Teo to face each other and hold hands. If there is a microphone, hold it toward whoever is speaking.

Maren, whenever you are ready.

- Maren reads her vows. When she finishes, take a breath before you go on.

Teo.

- Teo reads his vows.

And now a promise you will both make. Maren, please repeat after me.

Teo, I choose you, → Maren repeats

on the Saturdays and the Sundays, → Maren repeats

when the plan holds and when it doesn't. → Maren repeats

I will keep our door open with you, for as long as we live. → Maren repeats

▸ Turn to Teo.

Teo, please repeat after me.

Maren, I choose you, → Teo repeats

on the Saturdays and the Sundays, → Teo repeats

when the plan holds and when it doesn't. → Teo repeats

I will keep our door open with you, for as long as we live. → Teo repeats

10 Rings

starts 4:50 PM · about 1½ min

▸ Owen Holloway brings the rings to the front.

A ring is a circle, with no beginning and no end. Maren and Teo, these rings will remind you, on ordinary days, of the promises you made today.

Maren, place the ring on Teo's finger and repeat after me.

Teo, I give you this ring → Maren repeats

as a sign of my love, → Maren repeats

and of every promise I made to you today. → Maren repeats

Teo, place the ring on Maren's finger and repeat after me.

Maren, I give you this ring → Teo repeats

as a sign of my love, → Teo repeats

and of every promise I made to you today. → Teo repeats

11 Planting a tree

starts 4:51 PM · about 2½ min

Maren and Teo met in a garden, so it seemed right to finish with something they can grow. They are going to plant a tree together.

- Step aside so the couple can reach the tree.
- Maren adds the first scoop of soil. Teo adds the second. Then they water it together.

This tree will need what their marriage will need: steady care, a little patience, and someone who shows up every Saturday.

- Wait until they finish watering, then bring them back to the center.

12 Pronouncement

starts 4:54 PM · about ½ min

Customary wording. It includes both partners saying "I do" and you declaring them married.

Maren and Teo, by the promises you have made today, I now pronounce you married.

13 The kiss

starts 4:54 PM · about ¼ min

Maren and Teo, you may kiss.

14 Recessional

starts 4:54 PM · about ½ min

Everyone, it is my joy to present, for the first time as a married couple, Maren and Teo!

- Step aside and signal the musicians. Maren and Teo walk out first, then the wedding party.

End of ceremony