

CEREMONY SCRIPT

Welcome

Matt: Welcome, family and friends. My name is Matt Sundquist, and I am a friend of John and Morgana's. I am happy and honored to be officiating at today's ceremony. I'd like to begin by asking folks to silence your phone and refrain from taking pictures during the ceremony. We have a professional photographer. At the end of the ceremony, John and Morgana will strike a pose for pictures.

Morgana and John have asked you here today because you have touched their lives in some special way. You are a valued part of who they are as individuals -- and what they will become as a married couple. So on behalf of both John and Morgana, thank you. Thank you for letting their married life start surrounded by the people dearest to them.

Introduction to Marriage

Matt: Morgana, John: Human history reveals the importance of marriage and love. Cicero wrote that "The first bond of society is marriage; next, children; and then the family." Confucius taught that marriage lies at the foundation of government. Alexis de Tocqueville said that "[W]hen the American retires from the turmoil of public life to the bosom of his family, he finds in it the image of order and of peace..." Marriage is a commitment in pursuit of the most noble purpose we humans have discovered: love.

Of course, no ceremony can truly create your marriage; only you can do that -- through love and patience; through dedication and perseverance; through talking and listening, helping and supporting and believing in each other; through tenderness and laughter; through learning to forgive, learning to appreciate your differences, and by learning to

make the important things matter, and to let go of the rest. What this ceremony can do is witness and affirm the choice you make to stand together.

Bios

As you prepare to begin the next phase of your lives together, I think it is only fitting that we reflect on how we arrived at this moment—a story that spans an eventful three years. We'll start at the beginning for both of you, then make our way to the present.

Morgana Catherine Rosenberg's parents Frank and Beatrice raised her in the Bay. Morgana has always valued her family and friends dearly. She is life-long friends with her older brother Anthony, nieces and nephews, cousin Natalie, younger brother Alex, and Alex's girlfriend Hilary, who is basically Morgana's sister.

Morgana was named both for Morgana King--an American jazz singer-- and Queen Morgan le Fay, a slight, powerful character in the legendary tales of King Arthur. Morgana was an apprentice of Merlin, the powerful wizard. He recognized her potential. Similarly, whether it was her soccer coach or high school physics teacher, Morgana's peers and mentors have recognized her potential and been eager and willing to serve as her guide. Our own Morgana exhibits her own brand of magic too: her staunch loyalty, her delightfully contagious laughter, her empathetic sense of intuition.

Morgana and her cousin Mckenna grew up in SF together, rollerskating down Union Street. In sixth grade she became friends with Juliann, with whom she trained dogs to howl. She hated dresses, and enthusiastically donned men's clothing. Her youthful rebelliousness has matured. When she solves everyday problems or matters of

substantial complexity she uses that same audacity. She also combines it with finesse and a mastery of detail.

Morgy attended Palo Alto high school then studied Business Administration at the University of Southern California. There she became friends with Monica. Mon, as Morgana calls her, has seen her through thick and thin. As has Tarryn, with whom she has a high-energy friendship that has led to adventures in Croatia, Israel, and Thailand.

After school she worked in investment banking. If you're interested in being humbled, try negotiating with her about anything. But Morgana isn't merely her intellect, athleticism, or success--though she possesses those in great measure.

What defines Morgana is how kind, loving, perceptive, generous, and thoughtful she is. Morgana and I first became friends when I was having a bit of a time. One day I showed up to have a coffee with her in a public cafe right by her office. I neglected to observe numerous social protocols. She didn't flinch; she hugged me when I cried, got me eating, made me laugh, and then booked me a haircut and hot shave. Over the next few months she pushed, pulled, and dragged me back. She was the most patient, caring, loving, perceptive, and supportive friend anyone could ever ask for. Morgana has been there for so many of us in tough times. She's a fiercely loyal, caring, dedicated friend who loves a lot of people through their tough times.

Now, for her soon-to-be husband *John Thirkield Gelb*. John was born in Houston, TX. He was named "John" after his father. His mother Jan is convinced that the reason she went into labor ---two weeks after his due date--- was sparked by a delicious Mexican food dinner that evening. He took his time coming into the world, but when he was

ready...he was in a hurry. His parents barely had time to check into the hospital before Jan went into labor.

John still takes his time getting started on something, transitioning between activities, or getting out of his car. When he finds an enthralling article, he will casually spend an hour reading in the car, never leaving the car after he has parked. In everything, he is thoughtful, intentional, and deliberate. Once he does something, he is all in with a contagious enthusiasm and unparalleled zeal for life.

John and his older brother Nate both attended Choate, a boarding school in Connecticut. He distinguished himself through his love of sports, gusto in student government, and a still-disputed role in the Republican Club. He started a field day that's still in practice at the school. He took wide-ranging road trips with Austin.

At the University of Virginia, John was active in his fraternity and was, appropriately, the social chair. He became friends with Adam, Ian, and Jack--friends he regularly goes on outdoor adventures with, including one particularly exciting international foray to Peru. John studied Foreign Affairs. He had a habit of starting studying for exams the evening before they were held and then pull an all-nighter. Then he would knock it out, because that's the John way: a magical charm--the Midas touch--seems to always emerge.

To me what defines Johnny is his splendid optimism; relentless, contagious enthusiasm; appreciation for life; and curiosity that extends to all the subtleties of life. One thing that I find special about John is his intense yearning for knowledge and passion for sharing important information. When John tells you something, it is not because he wants to hear himself speak. John tells people about things because he believes they are important, hilarious, enlightening, valuable, or curious.

The meeting

This brings us to 2011, when Morgana and John met. John moved across the country to start working at a marketing startup. Morgana showed John around the city. She rode her bike while he rollerbladed with her. They flirted, dated, sometimes argued, and slowly, painfully advanced through various gradations, and linguistically wrought levels of intimacy.

They started showing up at parties and bars on roller blades together. They went Marty McFlying off the back of buses with Sam. They spread a contagious enthusiasm and unbounded love for life, cycling, and nature. They organized adventurous hikes with Connie, friends, and family, and one another. Around this time I realized that both John and Morgana are tremendous athletes. They love to challenge others, themselves, and one another to do crazy, spontaneous, outdoorsy things in the early morning hours of the weekend.

Dr. Seuss wrote that: “We are all a little weird, and life's a little weird, and when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them in mutual weirdness and call it love.” That's a pretty apt description for John and Morgana: their shared curiosity, weirdness, and love obviously just plain worked.

The proposal

Their passion for travel led to a world adventure. They rafted the Grand Canyon, hiked in Colombia, and travelled in Bolivia and Argentina. They went on a yoga retreat and 20-day trek in Nepal. They went romping around in Chile in a beautiful, scenic national

park. There, flanked by rock peaks, snow caps, and crystal clear lakes John got down on not one but two knees. He asked Morgana the question. She said yes.

How appropriate it is that once more today we're surrounded by the beauty and transcendence of nature. Nature suggests, alludes to, and hints at the divine fabric of the universe. Of all the possible combinations of particles over all time in all places, we get to have a consciousness. We can experience this particular alignment and moment. You both are improbably lucky enough to be part of this one, together.

Myriad myriads of lives go teeming forth, to quote Coleridge. Our mere existence is improbable if not miraculous; and perhaps that means love is divine. This moment is nuanced and transcendent. Nuanced because it's deliberate and rehearsed, with precise words and specific actions developed through a lengthy institutional history. Indeed, words are good at naming things and places, or discussing something tangible or quantifiable. But words cannot do justice to the true beauty and symbolism of this moment.

And yet, in a way that we can sense in the fringes of our souls, this moment is transcendent. It's beautiful and wonderful and confusing. For creatures as small as humans, the universe's vastness is bearable and worthwhile only through love. Yours is the most special, complete, and comprehensive love I could ever imagine.

I suggest we take a moment of silence. Look into someone's eyes. Look around and ponder the divine. Let's all take a deep breath.

John, Morgana: I know I speak on behalf of everyone here when I say that we're all here tonight, many of us from thousands of miles away, because we're so happy for you, and because we want to be part of this important and joyous celebration. Today we launch

what I am sure will be one of the greatest collaborations of all time. Watch out Jay-Z and Beyonce, Bonnie and Clyde, and Jobs and Wozniak. Here come Morgana and John.

Justice Kennedy wrote that “Marriage responds to the universal fear that a lonely person might call out only to find no one there. It offers the hope of companionship and understanding and assurance that while both still live there will be someone to care for the other.” I know you both will always be a light that continues to shine brightly. When in doubt, just keep adding photons and love to your problems.

VOWS

Matt: We come now to the words Morgana and John want to hear the most today...the words that take them across the threshold from being engaged to being married.

Marriage is a full and voluntary commitment. Before you declare your vows to one another, I will ask you to confirm that it is your intention to be married today.

John, do you take Morgana to be your wife, to live with her in marriage, to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, as long as you both shall live?

John: I do.

Matt: Morgana, do you take John to be your husband, to live with him in marriage, to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, for as long as you both shall live?

Morgana: I do.

EXCHANGE OF WEDDING RINGS

Matt: May I have the rings? Morgana and John, please face each other and hold hands.

For thousands of years husbands and wives have exchanged rings as a token of their vows. These simple bands are not of great value in themselves, but are made precious by what they represent.

Wedding rings are a symbol of commitment and love. For the student of symbolism, there is much to be appreciated here. Rings represent what has been and what will always be. They are made of solid, sturdy material that is meant to survive years and years of hand-holding, washing dishes, swimming, painting, wood-working, rock climbing, highfiving, biking, and fist bumping. Couples wear their wedding rings every day as a symbol of their love.

May these rings forever serve as a visible reminder of the promises you make today.

John, please place the ring on Morgana's hand, and repeat after me: "With this ring, I thee wed."

John: With this ring, I thee wed.

Matt: Morgana, please place the ring on John's hand, and repeat after me: "With this ring, I thee wed."

Morgana: With this ring, I thee wed.

Matt: John, Morgana: I'll close with some words borrowed from Robert Frost:

Two such as you with such a master speed

Cannot be parted nor be swept away

From one another once you are agreed

That life is only life forevermore

Together wing to wing and oar to oar.

Matt: By the power vested in me by the Republic of California, and with the best wishes of the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia and State of Colorado, I now pronounce you husband and wife. John :).

And now, I present for the first time as a married couple: John and Morgana.