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Chapter One of One Thousand
By OJ Preston

For two people this dawn brought on a magical day
Now husband and wife they head on their way
As a boat setting sail may their journey begin
With calmest of waters, most helpful of wind
And if they should stumble upon turbulent sea
May it pass them unharming – leave them be.

For here are two people whom love has well bitten
Here opens their book which has yet to be written
As the first page unfolds and their life inks its path
May it write a true story where forever love lasts
Let their journey be happy till death do they part
Of one thousand chapters may this be the start.
Apache Blessing
Author Unknown

May the sun bring you new energy by day,
May the moon softly restore you by night,
May the rain wash away your worries
And the breeze blow new strength into your being,
And all of the days of your life may you walk
Gently through the world and know its beauty.
The Art of Marriage

A good marriage must be created.
In the marriage, the little things are the big things.
It is never being too old to hold hands.
It is remembering to say, “I love you” at least once each day.
It is never going to sleep angry.
It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.
It is standing together and facing the world.
It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.
It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.
It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.
It is a common search for the good and the beautiful.
It is not only marrying the right person.
It is being the right partner.
A Wedding Message
Amanda Bradley

To love is to share life together.
To build special plans just for two.
To work side by side
And then smile with pride
As, one by one, dreams all come true

To love is to help and encourage
With smiles and sincere words of praise
To take time to share
To listen and care
In tender, affectionate ways

To love is to have someone special
On whom you can always depend
To be there through the years
Sharing laughter and tears
As a partner, a lover, a friend

To love is to make special memories
Of moments you love to recall
Of all the good things
That married life brings
Love is the greatest of all.
Us Two

Wherever I am, there’s always Pooh
There’s always Pooh and me
Whatever I do, he wants to do
“Where are you going to-day?” says Pooh;
“Well that’s very odd’ cos I was too.
Let’s go together, “says Pooh, says he.
“Let’s go together,” says Pooh.

“What’s twice eleven?” I said to Pooh,
(“Twice what? “said Pooh to me.)
“I think it ought to be twenty-two.”
“Just what I think myself,” said Pooh.
“It wasn’t an easy sum to do,
But that’s what it is,” said Pooh, said he.
“That’s what it is,” said Pooh.

“Let’s look for dragons,” I said to Pooh.
“Yes let’s,” said Pooh to me
We crossed the river and found a few –”
Yes, those are dragons all right,” said Pooh.
“As soon as I saw their beaks I knew.
That’s what they are,” said Pooh, said he.
“That’s what they are,” said Pooh.

“Let’s frighten the dragons,” I said to Pooh
“That’s right,” said Pooh to me.
“I’m not afraid,” I said to Pooh
And I held his paw and I shouted” Shoo!
Silly old dragons!” – and off they flew.
“I wasn’t afraid,” said Pooh, said he.
“I’m never afraid with you.”

So wherever I am, there’s always Pooh,
There’s always Pooh and me
“What would I do?” I said to Pooh
“If it wasn’t for you,” and Pooh said:
“True it isn’t much fun for One, but Two
can stick together,” says Pooh, says he.
“That’s how it is,” says Pooh
Marriage is love
By Chris Ardis

Marriage is love,
Walking hand in hand together.
It is laughing with each other
about silly little things
with care and tenderness.
In marriage.
Love is trusting each other
when you are apart.
It’s getting over disappointments and hurts
knowing that these are present
in all relationships.
It’s the realisation that
there is no one else in this world
that you’d rather be with
than the one you’re married to.
It’s thinking of new things to do together.
It’s growing old together.
Marriage is being in love for the rest of your life.
These I Can Promise

I cannot promise you a life of sunshine;
I cannot promise riches, wealth or gold;
I cannot promise you an easy pathway that leads away from change or growing old.

But I can promise all my heart’s devotion, a smile to chase away your tears of sorrow, a love that’s ever true and ever growing, a hand to hold in yours through each tomorrow.
On Your Wedding Day
Author unknown

Today is a day you will always remember
The greatest in anyone’s life
You’ll start off the day just two people in love
And end it as husband and wife.

It’s a brand new beginning, the start of a journey
With moments to cherish and treasure
And although there’ll be times when you both disagree
These will surely be outweighed by pleasure.

You’ll have heard many words of advice in the past
When the secrets of marriage were spoken
But you know that the answers lie hidden inside
Where the bond of true love lies unbroken.

So live happy forever as lovers and friends
It’s the dawn of a new life for you
As you stand together with love in your eyes
From the moment you whisper ‘I do’

And with luck, all your hopes, and your dreams can be real
May success find its way to your hearts
Tomorrow can bring you the greatest of joy
But today is the day it all starts.


**Marriage Sample Readings**

**When you Marry**

By Susan Branch

“When you marry her, love her.
After you marry her, study her.
When she is blue, cheer her.
When she is talkative, by all means listen to her.
If she dresses well, compliment her.
When she is cross, humour her.
If she is jealous, cure her.
If she is lonely, comfort her.
When she looks pretty, tell her so.
Let her feel you understand her.
But never let her know she isn’t the boss.

When you marry him, love him.
After your marry him, study him.
If he is secretive, trust him.
If he is sad, cheer him.
When he is talkative, listen to him.
When he is quarrelsome, ignore him.
If he is jealous, cure him.
If he cares nought for pleasure, coax him.
If he favours society, accompany him.
When he deserves it, kiss him.
Let him think you understand him.
But never let him know you manage him.”
A Good Celebration Cake
Author unknown

**4lb of Love**
½ of good looks
1 lb of sweet temper
1 lb of butter of youth
1 lb of blindness of faults
1 lb of pounded wit
1 lb of good humour
2 tbs of sweet argument
1 pint of rippling laughter
1 wine glass of common sense
A dash of modesty

Put the love, good looks and a sweet temper into a well-furnished house. Beat the butter of youth to a cream and mix well together with the blindness of faults. Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter and common sense. Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently for ever.
Soul Mate

Is there truly a soul mate?  
Someone on whom you can always depend?  
Someone who brings sunshine into your life  
More than a lover and always a friend?

When you hear their voice and know they’re safe …  
It is then when a smile lights up your face.  
To know true love, you want to give of yourself.  
Thoughts are of them and no one else.

It matters not if the road to happiness is a bumpy ride.  
As long as your soul mate is by your side.

You can handle the storms for you see sunny weather.  
Life is beautiful when you are together.

Borrow from tomorrow’s sun if there are clouds today.  
Pick flowers and savour them, as you pass along the way.

If you find your soul mate  
And you love them so …. Never forget to let them know.

Love with fervour full of fire.  
Let them know they are your heart’s desire.  
And if they give it all back to you,  
Then you will know that they love you true.

Perhaps it was fate … for you have found your SOUL MATE.
Saga Song

Love me when I’m old and shocking
Peel off my elastic stockings
Swing me from the chandeliers
Let’s be randy bad old dears.

Push around my chromed bath chair
Let me tease your white chest hair
Scaring children, swapping dentures
Let us have some great adventures.

Take me to the dogs and bingo
Teach me how to speak the lingo
Bone my eels and ring me tea
Show me how it’s meant to be.

Take me to your special places
Watching all the puzzled faces
You in shorts and socks and sandals
Me with warts and huge love-handles.

As the need for love enthrals
Wrestle with my damp proof smalls
Make me laugh without constraint
Buy me chocolate body paint.

Hold me safe throughout the night
When my hair has turned to white
Believe me when I say it’s true
I’ve waited all my lives for you.
Maybe

Maybe.. we are supposed to meet the wrong people before meeting the Right one so that, when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift.

Maybe... It is true that we don’t know what we have got until we lose it, but is also true that we don’t know what we have been missing until it arrives

Maybe... the happiest of people don’t necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

Maybe... the best kind of love is the kind you can sit on a sofa together and never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you’ve ever had.

Maybe... you shouldn’t go for looks; they can deceive. Don’t go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile, because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.

Maybe... you should hope for enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, and enough hope to make you happy.

Maybe... love is not about finding the perfect person, it’s about learning to see an imperfect person perfectly.

Maybe... it’s not just about finding the right person, it is about being the right partner.
Yes, I'll Marry You, My Dear
By Pam Ayres

Yes, I'll marry you, my dear and here's the reason why
So I can push you out of bed when the baby starts to cry
And if we hear a knocking and it's creepy and it's late,
I'll hand you the torch you see, and you can investigate
Yes I'll marry you, my dear you may not apprehend it,
But when the tumble-drier goes it's you that has to mend it,
You have to face the neighbour, should our Labrador attack him
And if a drunkard fondles me, it's you that has to whack him.
Yes, I'll marry you, you're virile and you're lean,
My house is like a pigsty, you can help to keep it clean,
That sexy little dinner which you served by candlelight,
As I do chipolatas, you can cook it every night!
It's you who has to work the drill and put up curtain track,
And when I've got P.M.T. it's you who gets the flak,
I do see great advantages, but none of them for you,
And so before you see the light -I DO, I DO, I DO!!!
My Daughter’s Wedding Day

It’s here at last, your wedding day.
You make a stunning bride.
You’ll leave here Mrs__________
With you husband by your side.
Just reminiscing, looking back
as I stand and look at you.
The time has flown so quickly –
Where have the years gone to?

I turned to see my little girl
Come walking up the aisle,
Leaning on her father’s arm
Her face a beaming smile.
Her eyes are filled with tenderness,
And mine are filled with tears,
As I look back on childhood days,
And then to teenage years.

We’ve had so many lovely times,
We’ve shared so many things –
Thoughts, ambitions, dreams, desires
And hopes that soared on wings.
But now I have to let you go,
My thoughts are in a whirl -
This lovely radiant woman
Is still my little girl.
A Walled Garden

‘Your marriage,’ he said ‘should have within it, a secret and protected place open to you alone.
Imagine it to be a walled garden, entered by a door to which you only hold the key.
Within this garden you will cease to be a mother, father, employee, homemaker or any other of the roles which you fulfil in daily life.
‘Here you are yourselves – two people, who love each other.
‘Here you can concentrate on one another’s needs.

And so we made our walled garden.
Time that was kept for us alone.
At first we went there often, enjoying each other’s company, sharing secrets, growing closer.
But now our days are packed with plans and people.
Conversation has become a message scribbled on a pad.
The door into our garden is almost hidden by rank weeds of busy-ness.
We claim we have no time because we have forgotten.
Forgotten that love grows if it is tended, and if neglected dies.

But we can always make time for what is the most important in our lives.
So take my hand and let us go back to our garden.
The time we spend together is not wasted but invested.
Invested in the future and the nature of our love.
The Wedding Vow

“You are not the air that I breathe,
You are the sweet scent that drifts upon it.
You are not the sounds that I hear,
You are the music of my life.
You are not the food that I need,
You are the nourishment of my soul.
You are not my will to survive
You are my reason for living.
It is with you I experience the wonders of the world.
It is with you that I triumph over the challenges in my path.
It is your partnership that will lead me to the fulfillment of my dreams.
It is your friendship that guides me as I learn and grow.
It is your patience and wisdom that calms my restless nature.
It is through you that I know my true self.
I do not take you for granted - I cherish you.
I do not need you – I choose you.
I choose you today in witness of all people who love us.
I choose you tomorrow in the privacy of our hearts.
I choose you in strength and weakness.
I choose you in health and in sickness.
I choose you in joy and sorrow.
I choose you over all others everyday for all the days of my life.”
Marriage Sample Readings
Love is a temporary madness. It erupts like a volcano and then it subsides. And when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathless, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion, it is not the desire to mate every second minute of the day. No, don’t blush, I am telling you some truths. That is just being ‘in love’ which any fool can do. Love itself is what is left over when being ‘in love’ has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident.

Your mother and I had it. We had the roots that grew towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossom had fallen from our branches we found that we were one tree and not two. But sometimes the petals fall away and the roots have not entwined. Imagine giving up your home and your people, only to discover after six months, a year, three years that the trees have had no roots and have fallen over. Imagine the desolation. Imagine the imprisonment.
Promise

I promise to give to you the best of myself
And to ask no more of you than you can give.

I promise to respect you for the person you are and
To realise that your interests, desires and needs
Are no less important than my own.

I promise to share with you my time and attention
And to bring you joy, comfort and strength.

I promise to keep myself open to you so that you
May see through the window of my world into my
Innermost feelings, secrets and dreams.

I promise to grow along with you and be ready to
Face the changes and challenges as they come into our lives.

And I promise to love you through the good times and bad
With all I have to give and all I feel inside in the only way I know
How, completely and forever.
The Life that I have
Leo Marks

The life that I have, is all that I have
The life that I have, is yours

The love that I have, of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and yours.

A sleep I shall have, a rest I shall have
Yet death will be but a pause

For the peace of my years, in the long green grass
Will be yours and yours and yours.