

*Celebrating Times of Change*



The Wedding of  
Amy Goodloe & Cynthia Eckles  
Lionscrest Manor; Lyons, CO  
Sunday, May 22, 2016

5:30 p.m.

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Celebrants: Jennifer and Tim Bailey

Final Draft

## Ceremony Introduction

### **Celebrant Jen:**

Welcome everyone! My name is Jennifer Bailey, Life-Cycle Celebrant. And my name is Tim Bailey, Life-Cycle Celebrant.

We are a married partnership celebrant team; and we are honored to perform this wedding ceremony today for Amy and Cynthia.

Before we begin, let us take a moment to turn off or silence any cell phones and electronic devices, so that the brides remain the focus of the ceremony.

The ceremony... and fun... is about to begin.

## Entrance of the Wedding Party

**Music:** theme song from Japanese animation, *My Neighbor Totoro*

**Dale Goodloe** enters, escorted by **Misao Eckles**, and both take seats on front row

**Catherine Horning** enters, escorted by **Gordy Pealock**, and both stand on either side of celebrants

## Entrance of the Partners

### **Celebrant Tim:**

Please stand to greet both Amy and Cynthia.

**Music:** "Prologue" from the *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* soundtrack

Amy enters along left side of seating area

**Music:** "Always with Me" from *Spirited Away*

Cynthia enters along right side of seating area - joins Amy in front

### **Celebrant Tim:**

Please be seated.

## Welcoming

### **Celebrant Jen:**

Welcome family and friends,  
Whoever you are,  
wherever you're from,  
whatever you believe,  
and *whomever you love*,  
you are welcome here.

Amy and Cynthia have invited you to join them as they celebrate their union and their new journey together as a married couple — a journey that was made possible only recently by the landmark Supreme Court ruling.

To celebrate that ruling, Amy and Cynthia would like to share with you a passage from Justice Kennedy's majority opinion that also sums up their own feelings about marriage:

No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right.

## Honoring of the Parents, family and friends

### **Celebrant Tim:**

It means the world to Amy and Cynthia to share this day with their family and friends, and they would like to share a few words in their honor.

Amy is very grateful that her mother, Dale, is here today and that she has been so supportive of her relationship with Cynthia.

Amy would also like to thank Gordy's wife and kids for allowing him to come all the way from Philadelphia to be Amy's best man. Gordy was Amy's last boyfriend before she came out over 20 years ago, and he was the first of her friends to express support for her new identity as a lesbian.

Cynthia thanks her father, Misao ("*Mee-SOW*"). Even after many years and miles apart, Cynthia still considers him the other half of herself. She is very glad that they have a renewed chance to know each other as people, and she looks forward to future opportunities.

Cynthia also wants to acknowledge her Aunt Sandy and Uncle Tom, who have always held her in their hearts without judgment or expectation. She hopes to remain close with them for the rest of her life.

Cynthia is eternally grateful for the group of lesbians who warmly welcomed her eight years ago. Until she had met Catherine, Elizabeth, Stayce, Linda, Jenif, Christina, and Trish; she had only dreamed of finding a group of such amazing women who accepted her unconditionally into their lives.

## Remembrance

### **Celebrant Tim:**

Let us take this time to honor the family members who cannot be present today, but who abide in our hearts.

Cynthia honors:

Her paternal grandmother, Yoshiko ("*YOSH-i-ko*") Nishihara Eckles, whose generous and loving soul is missed deeply.

Her mother, Midori Yamada Eckles, whose friendship and intelligence formed the core of her being.

And her cousin, Jeral Thomas Eckles, whose bright life was cut short, yet left a huge imprint on everyone he knew.

Amy and Cynthia have always had a special place in their hearts for their beloved fur-babies. They miss their Chihuahua mix, Sassy, who would've loved to be here today as the ring bearer and lap warmer. They also miss Willow and Chloe, two of the sweetest dogs they've ever known.

Thus we honor those we've lost but who are here in mind and in memory. May they be with us today and always.

(Short pause)

## Love Story

### **Celebrant Jen:**

You have gathered here today to become an important part of Amy and Cynthia's new journey into marriage.

Each of you knows a part of the story that brought Amy and Cynthia to this point, but now you'll have the chance to hear the whole story — the condensed version! — written in their own words.

Amy and Cynthia first met and became involved in 2006. They shared a love of dogs, movies, literature, comics, and geek culture, and they made each other laugh until their bellies ached. But they both had some life lessons they still needed to learn, so they went their separate ways later that same year.

Nearly six years later, Amy came across an online photo of Cynthia standing next to life-size replica of the TARDIS, the iconic blue police box time-machine from Doctor Who. She hadn't seen or spoken to Cynthia since 2006, but as a fellow Doctor Who fan, Amy decided to take the risk of reaching out by leaving a comment on the photo.

To Amy's delight (and relief!), Cynthia responded favorably to the comment, and they began to catch up with each other by email and then in person. Within just a few weeks, it was clear that life had taught them exactly what they each needed to know in order to resume the journey they had started on so many years earlier.

When the moment was just right, Amy asked Cynthia to marry her — and, after pausing to catch her breath, Cynthia said yes.

## Selected Readings

### **Celebrant Tim:**

We would like to invite Susan Maxfield, Beth Watts, and Molly LeClair to share a selection of readings to honor and mark this crossing of the threshold that Amy and Cynthia are about to embark upon.

First, Susan Maxfield will read a poem selected by Cynthia.

Susan moves towards the microphone and is provided with a copy of the reading.

### **"Touched By An Angel," by Maya Angelou**

We, unaccustomed to courage  
exiles from delight  
live coiled in shells of loneliness  
until love leaves its high holy temple  
and comes into our sight  
to liberate us into life.  
Love arrives  
and in its train come ecstasies  
old memories of pleasure  
ancient histories of pain.  
Yet if we are bold,  
love strikes away the chains of fear  
from our souls.  
We are weaned from our timidity  
In the flush of love's light  
we dare be brave  
And suddenly we see  
that love costs all we are  
and will ever be.  
Yet it is only love  
which sets us free.

Susan returns to her seat

## **Celebrant Tim:**

Next, Beth Watts will read a poem chosen by Amber, Holly, and Dulcie (Amy and Cynthia's dogs).

Beth moves towards the microphone and is provided with a copy of the reading

### **"How Falling in Love is like Owning a Dog," by Taylor Mali**

First of all, it's a big responsibility, [...]  
So think long and hard before deciding on love.  
On the other hand, love gives you a sense of security:  
when you're walking down the street late at night  
and you have a leash on love  
ain't no one going to mess with you.  
Because crooks and muggers think love is unpredictable.  
Who knows what love could do in its own defense?

On cold winter nights, love is warm.  
It lies between you and lives and breathes  
and makes funny noises.  
Love wakes you up all hours of the night with its needs.  
It needs to be fed so it will grow and stay healthy.

Love doesn't like being left alone for long.  
But come home and love is always happy to see you.  
It may break a few things accidentally in its passion for life,  
but you can never be mad at love for long.

Is love good all the time? No! No!  
Love can be bad. Bad, love, bad! Very bad love.

Love makes messes.  
Love leaves you little surprises here and there.  
Love needs lots of cleaning up after. [...]  
Sometimes you want to roll up a piece of newspaper  
and swat love on the nose,  
not so much to cause pain,  
just to let love know: Don't you ever do that again!

Sometimes love just wants to go out for a nice long walk.  
Because love loves exercise. It will run you around the block  
and leave you panting, breathless. Pull you in different directions at once,  
or wind itself around and around you  
until you're all wound up and you cannot move.

But love makes you meet people wherever you go.  
People who have nothing in common but love  
stop and talk to each other on the street.

Throw things away and love will bring them back,  
again, and again, and again.  
But most of all, love needs love, lots of it.  
And in return, love loves you and never stops.

Beth returns to her seat

### **Celebrant Tim:**

Finally, Molly LeClair will read a familiar passage from *The Velveteen Rabbit*, which Amy chose because of the way it captures what it feels like to be loved by Cynthia.

Molly moves towards the microphone and is provided with a copy of the reading.

### **Selection from *The Velveteen Rabbit*, by Margery Williams**

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day.... "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse.

"It's a thing that happens to you. When [someone] loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.



"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

Molly returns to her seat

## The Asking

### **Celebrant Tim:**

Amy and Cynthia have chosen to take this step, one that has been contemplated over time and approached with sincerity. They are here to exchange dedications and vows in the presence of you all, for they have chosen one another. From this day forward, they will share their journey together, hand in hand.

Amy and Cynthia: Marriage means being fully committed to your continued partnership... as friends, and as physical and emotional lovers.

It means you promise each other:

- \*that you will communicate on matters both serious and lighthearted
- \*that you will nurture your connection so that it continues to grow
- \*that you will make each other laugh and help each other enjoy life to the fullest
- \*and that you will not take for granted the precious gift of another heart that wants to join with your own

Above all, marriage means opening your fragile, imperfect, and gorgeous mortal lives and hearts to each other, unflinchingly and unconditionally.

**Cynthia**, do you promise to always cherish Amy in the way that you see her now:

- for her self-assurance
- for her daily inspiration to live in the present moment
- for her attentive listening
- for her encouragement to be the best version of yourself

And do you declare, in the presence of all who've gathered here today, that you intend to enter into this loving union with Amy, from this day forth?

**Cynthia:** "I do"

**Amy**, do you promise to always cherish Cynthia in the way that you see her now:

- for her emotional bravery
- for her artistic talent and creativity
- for her analytical mind and broad range of interests
- for her infectious enthusiasm and passion for life

And do you declare, in the presence of all who've gathered here today, that you intend to enter into this loving union with Cynthia, from this day forth?

**Amy:** "I do"

## Rings and Vows

### **Celebrant Tim:**

The rings that you are about to exchange symbolize the vows you are taking today, the precious time you have invested in each other, and the commitment you've made to a shared future.

The rings you've chosen, which are based on the design of the TARDIS from Doctor Who, commemorate the photo that ultimately brought you back together and also reflect your shared interests in geek culture. But the rings also symbolize that your love, like the TARDIS, is much larger on the inside than it may appear from the outside.

### **Celebrant Jen (to Cynthia):**

Cynthia, take this ring and place it upon Amy's finger, and read to her your personal vows.

### **Cynthia:**

#### *Cynthia places ring on Amy's finger & reads her vows*

*Amy, you are the cornerstone of my love. You helped me find my center, and my center reminded me that I am kind, loving, helpful and generous. What you've taught me is I am beautiful and worthy of love. I don't need to work for it, earn it, or feel like I deserve it. I only have to be myself.*

*In the moment before you proposed, I confessed every part of me loves every part of you. Those words are as true now as they were then, because like Elizabeth Bennett for Mr. Darcy in Pride & Prejudice, you have "bewitched me, body and soul."*

*From one of our readings, the poet Maya Angelou wrote about the paradox of love, and it sums up precisely how I feel about you: love costs us all we are, and ever will be, yet it's the only thing which sets us free.*

*Today, Amy, I embrace with my full heart the paradox of love. I promise to be there and present with you in all ways known and whatever is to come. I promise to always put our relationship first. I am turning on every part of me (all that is dark and ugly and all that is pretty and precious) to become more of me and, in turn, to love more of you. I offer you all I am and ever will be -- because it is you who set me free.*

*In the words of Sheridan to Delenn before his last Sunday drive, you are the brightest star in my sky, and until I pass beyond the rim, I vow from this day forward, to be by your side for the rest of your life.*

### **Celebrant Tim (to Amy):**

Amy, take this ring and place it upon Cynthia's finger, and read to her your personal vows.

### **Amy:**

#### *Amy places ring on Cynthia's finger & reads her vows*

*For many couples, it was the day they met that changed their lives forever. For me, it was the moment you worked up the courage to let me back into your heart.*

*I had broken your heart six years earlier, and we had only just begun to reconnect. All through dinner and a movie, I could think of nothing I wanted more than to kiss you, but you had made it clear you were interested only in renewing our friendship, and I respected your wishes.*

*But then, after we'd said our goodnights and I was getting into my car, you worked up the courage to tell me you wanted to kiss me. I turned right around and rushed back to you, as you stood under the parking lot lights. You kissed me, and I kissed you. And the universe breathed a heavy sigh of relief, as we were finally on the right path -- together.*

*You have loved me for a long time and in ways I never knew were possible, and it's your love that makes me feel Real, the way the Skin Horse describes to the Velveteen Rabbit.*

*I love you in ways I never knew were possible, and you are the first and only person to whom I've wanted to join myself in marriage.*

*You haven't yet seen this episode of Buffy, but I'd like to borrow Spike's words:*

*When I say I love you, it's not because I want you, or because I can't have you — it has nothing to do with me. I love what you are, what you do, how you try... I've seen your kindness, and your strength. I've seen the best and the worst of you -- and I understand, with perfect clarity, exactly what you are. You're a hell of a woman. You're the one, [Cynthia].*

*From this day forward, I promise:*

- *to love you for exactly what you are*
- *to find new ways to make you laugh*
- *to share my cookies, even if they're still warm and gooey*
- *to kiss you until you're weak in the knees*
- *to surprise you (but not in the way the dogs like to surprise us)*
- *to help you become your best self*
- *and most importantly of all, to accompany you to Disney World whenever possible, even when we're old and grey*

## Sharing of Tea and Sweets Ceremony

Amy and Cynthia move towards the tea ceremony table

**Music:** "Merry Go Round of Life," from the Japanese animation, *Howl's Moving Castle*

### **Celebrant Jen:**

To reflect the joining of their lives together, Amy and Cynthia have decided to perform their own version of a tea ceremony. The sharing of tea is an ancient tradition within Cynthia's Japanese culture as well as in Amy's combined Scottish, Welsh, and English backgrounds.

To the Japanese, preparing tea for a loved one requires the server to pay careful attention to each movement, infusing the process with love and devotion. To the British, there is no drink more symbolic of the warmth and comfort of being among loved ones than tea.

By sharing a cup of tea and a homemade scone, Amy and Cynthia are combining both aspects of these cultural meanings. But the ceremony also represents their promise to continue nurturing each other in body and heart.

*Amy and Cynthia pour each other cups of tea and share bites from the scone.*

Always remember this sharing of tea and sweets together, combining your cultural backgrounds and serving as a reminder of the nourishing power of love.

## Declaration of Marriage

### **Celebrant Tim:**

Amy and Cynthia: your journey together has brought you to this place, surrounded by the beauty of nature and the well wishes of friends and family. You have shared promises with each other, symbolized your commitment to each other through the exchanging of rings, and honored the merging of your life stories through the exchanging of tea. And now you stand ready to declare your intention to be recognized as lifelong partners in marriage.

May you strive for the rest of your lives to meet this commitment to each other with the same love, respect, and devotion that you possess here today.

With pleasure, I now call upon all gathered here to witness, that according to the laws of the State of Colorado: you are now Equal Married Partners, bound together in life, love, and time.

### The Kiss

**Celebrant Tim:**

You may now seal this ceremony with a kiss.

Amy and Cynthia kiss

### Introduction of the Couple

Amy and Cynthia face towards the guests holding hands

**Celebrant Tim:**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Humans and Time Lords, I hereby announce to you – Amy and Cynthia, married partners for life.

### Recessional

**MUSIC:** “Try Everything,” from the Disney animation, Zootopia

Amy and Cynthia walk up the aisle together.

Gordy escorts Catherine up the aisle.

Misao escorts Dale up the aisle.

### Announcement

**Celebrant Tim:**

Thank you for attending this beautiful ceremony of love. Amy and Cynthia would like to get a group photo. You will see the photographer behind you. May we have everyone stand up and move in towards the aisle and turn around to face the photographer?

Group photo is taken

Next up: cocktail hour! While Amy and Cynthia are getting photographs taken, they invite you to enjoy drinks, appetizers, and games in the bar area. Please walk around the side of the building and up the stairs. Dinner will be served around 7pm.

**6:00pm** - Ceremony ends

*~ Here Ends the Ceremony & Here Begins a Wonderful Married Life ~*



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