

## **BRADLEY & ELAINE'S WEDDING CEREMONY**

Boys take their places on stage: Brad, Mike, Matt (inside to out). Ted in middle (this will be sign for people to sit and quiet down)

Girls walk in (no music): Heather, Jan, Mad (inside to out)

Me and my dad walk in.

Ted gives the welcome:

Beloved family and friends of Elaine and Bradley: We have gathered together today to witness the marriage of these two lovely young people. They have chosen to commit themselves to each other, to spend their lives together, to love each other, to grow together. You—as their family and friends—are here to serve as witnesses to their vows, and also to support and celebrate their love and commitment. A wedding is, by its very nature, more than just a ceremony for two people. It is a community event; it is a couple's public proclamation of their love and commitment to one another, and in a sense they are making a commitment to us as well. Bradley and Elaine are here today vowing to be a loving couple, a positive influence on their family, friends and community, as well as upon one another. So let us be mindful that this is a celebration for all of us, as we join in celebrating the union of Elaine Beckett and Bradley Tipping.

Brad's mom will now read the "Blessing of the Apaches."

Brad's mom (CHRISTINE):

The Blessing Of The Apaches

Now you will feel no rain, For each of you will be shelter to the other. Now you will feel no cold, For each of you will be warmth to the other. Now there is no more loneliness for you, For each of you will be companion to the other.  
Now you are two bodies, But there is only one life before you.  
Go now to your dwelling place, To enter into the days of your togetherness.  
And may your days be good and long upon the earth.

Ted:

Elaine's mom will read "The Owl and the Pussycat":

Elaine's mom (JILL):

(she will explain this was one of my favorite poems when I was a kid)

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea  
In a beautiful pea green boat,  
They took some honey, and plenty of money,  
Wrapped up in a five pound note.  
The Owl looked up to the stars above,

And sang to a small guitar,  
'O lovely Pussy! O Pussy my love,  
What a beautiful Pussy you are,  
You are,  
You are!  
What a beautiful Pussy you are!'

Pussy said to the Owl, 'You elegant fowl!  
How charmingly sweet you sing!  
O let us be married! too long we have tarried:  
But what shall we do for a ring?'  
They sailed away, for a year and a day,  
To the land where the Bong-tree grows And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood  
With a ring at the end of his nose,  
His nose,  
His nose,  
With a ring at the end of his nose.

'Dear pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling  
Your ring?' Said the Piggy, 'I will.'  
So they took it away, and were married next day  
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.  
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,  
Which they ate with a runcible spoon; And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,  
They danced by the light of the moon,  
The moon,  
The moon,  
They danced by the light of the moon.

Ted:  
Brad's brother will now read "Song"

The Chimney sweepers  
Wash their faces and forget to wash the neck;  
The lighthouse keepers  
Let the lamps go out and leave the ships to wreck;  
The prosperous baker  
Leaves the rolls in hundreds in the oven to burn;  
The undertaker  
Pins a small note on the coffin saying "Wait until I return,  
I've got a date with Love."

And deep sea divers  
Cut off their boots and come bubbling to the top,  
And engine drivers

Bring expresses in the tunnel to stop;  
The Village rector  
Dashes down the side-aisle half-way through a psalm;  
The sanitary inspector  
Runs off with the cover of the cesspool on his arm  
To keep his date with Love.

Ted:

Elaine's sister will now read "Tin Wedding Whistle"

Though you know it anyhow  
Listen to me, darling, now,  
Proving what I need not prove  
How I know I love you, love.  
Near and far, near and far,  
I am happy where you are;  
Likewise I have never larnt  
How to be it where you aren't.  
Far and wide, far and wide,  
I can walk with you beside;  
Furthermore, I tell you what,  
I sit and sulk where you are not.  
Visitors remark my frown  
Where you're upstairs and I am down,  
Yes, and I'm afraid I pout  
When I'm indoors and you are out;  
But how contentedly I view  
Any room containing you.  
In fact I care not where you be,  
Just as long as it's with me.  
In all your absences I glimpse  
Fire and flood and trolls and imps.  
Is your train a minute slothful?  
I goad the stationmaster wrathful.  
When with friends to bridge you drive  
I never know if you're alive,  
And when you linger late in shops  
I long to telephone the cops.  
Yet how worth the waiting for,  
To see you coming through the door.  
Somehow, I can be complacent  
Never but with you adjacent.  
Near and far, near and far,  
I am happy where you are;  
Likewise I have never larnt

How to be it where you aren't.  
Then grudge me not my fond endeavor,  
To hold you in my sight forever;  
Let none, not even you, disparage  
Such a valid reason for a marriage.

Ted:

Elaine and Bradley will now offer their vows to one another:

Vows

I, Bradley Tipping, take you, Elaine Beckett, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and at peace, in doubt and in trust, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, to love and cherish from this day forward, till death do us part.

I, Elaine Beckett, take you, Bradley Tipping, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, in laughter and in tears, in conflict and at peace, in doubt and in trust, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, to love and cherish from this day forward, till death do us part.

Ring exchange (I give heather my bouquet and Mike gets out the rings)

Brad: With this ring I pledge my love and life to you.

Elaine: With this ring I pledge my love and life to you.

(or whatever order it goes in)

Pronouncement – Ted:

It is my supreme honor and pleasure to pronounce you, Bradley and Elaine Tipping, husband and wife!

Recessional:

Brad-Elaine

Mike-Heather

Jan-Matt-Mad

Ted

Will-Jill

Christine-Stu

Receiving line...

Other guests will greet, as per usual

Then we hang around for pictures while the food is all getting set up

Reception at Cardiff house as well.