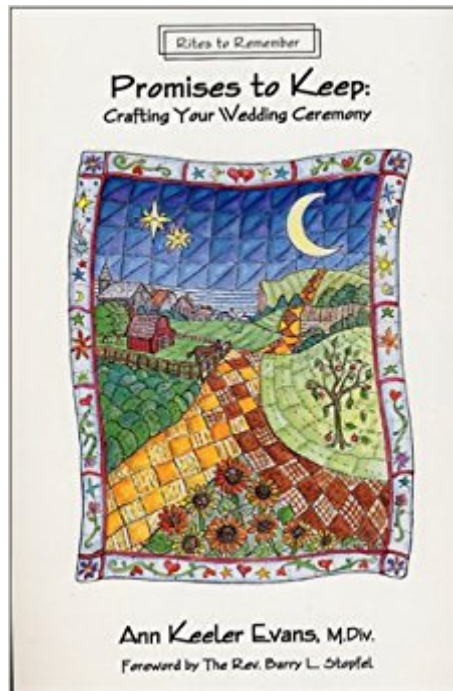


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# Promises To Keep : Crafting Your Wedding Ceremony (Rites To Remember Series)



## Synopsis

The reason for the whole day is the CEREMONY! So how do you write a GREAT CEREMONY?

This unique guide gives you a format for any type of ceremony. It has worksheets to help you think through your words, then it helps you write your vows and promises to say what you really mean. It suggests where to include heart-felt rituals, when to use music or dance. It shows how to enlist your community's support of your marriage, and has a worksheet for your parents. It helps you anticipate problems and shows you how to defuse them. It suggests ways to include your children. INCLUDES CEREMONIES FOR Traditional and Non-Traditional Weddings, Second Marriages, Handfastings, Committment Ceremonies for Lesbians and Gays, and Renewals of Vows.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I must have purchased at least three books before I found Ann's and none of them came even close to helping us create a very personal wedding. I would recommend this to anyone who, like me, wants a unique and special wedding. After reading this book (which is eloquently written but also very easy to read) we realized how important it was to have a ceremony that reflected exactly how we feel. And now that we have done just that, we also realize that we created a solid foundation of words that represent our commitment--we will always have those words to look back on. Also, working through her worksheet in the back was a kind of positive and reaffirming endeavor that made us reflect on why and how we got to the point of marriage. Thanks Ann!!

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My mother recommended this book for my fiance and me, and it was the best thing she could have done for us. So many people (including us, until we read this book) get lost in all of the trivialized rituals and plans of the upcoming wedding, and unfortunately lose focus on what is really key - the vows you will be exchanging to each other, the words you say to the public to pledge your undying love for another, the true meaning of sharing a life with someone you love forever. Ann Evans brings you back to the reality of the fundamentals, and she addresses such important issues that are often overlooked in a wedding ceremony because of rote ritual....You MUST read this book if you're getting married, or even considering getting married!

Last fall, my son and my now daughter-in-law asked me to marry them. Ann Evans' book provided the three of us with all that we needed to plan and conduct the ceremony. It was a wonderfully meaningful event for the entire family. Since I am neither a minister nor the captain of a ship, I needed to be licensed by the County to conduct the ceremony. With guidance from this book, we designed the day, including writing the ceremony. It was quite an adventure! Thanks, Ann Evans!

Although my husband and I had been confident about our ability to express our most intimate thoughts as vows, we lacked a structure in which to fit them so that both we and our guests felt secure. With 10 days to go before our wedding, our life with 5 pre-teens/ teens was leaving us little time to prepare these most precious words. Discovering Promises to Keep on the web was a godsend. Unfortunately unavailable in Canada, the book was sent at lightning speed from the U.S. We felt immediately at ease: the book's accessible ideas, size, layout, and even font size gave us peace and the direction we needed. Our own ideas now made sense within a framework. The rituals we crafted were unique to us and our setting (a remote lake). Our vows and rituals reached out to our guests (our "community" from whom we asked support) who not only felt included and

comfortable, but who felt blessed to have been part of our ceremony. A couple who do marriage counselling (and advise other counsellors) had never experienced such a meaningful exchange of vows or rituals involving guests. They and others felt compelled to tell us repeatedly how different and wonderful our ceremony was. Even our kids thought it was great! Note: We did not find an exaggerated emphasis in the book on same-sex unions. Although there are references to these alternative lifestyles, we were easily able to accept or look past them based on the quality of the idea rather than their orientation. Along with our vows, we will keep the book to refer back to in years to come.

We have all been to weddings, heard the words and seen the images.... The big white dress, flowers, an expectant groom and strains of music floating through the air. However the reality is that so often the actual words and meaning of the ceremony is distilled, in memory, to he did, she did, they did. Ann Evans should bill herself, in addition to minister, as an architect. Her book is a blueprint for crafting the structure, and building the foundation for a permanent place for love to grow and develop. "Promises to Keep" will help couples looking to sculpt and craft their individual ceremonies. Evans lays out the basic structure of the wedding ceremony, from greeting to invocation to ring exchange and blessing. If she has an opinion, or an anecdote to help convey her meaning - she thoughtfully includes it. Then the two of you are encouraged to flesh it out and make it personal. The best thing I can say about "Promises to Keep" is this: My husband-to-be and I liked the book and the direction that it gave us so much we asked Ann Evans to marry us!

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