

# Juliet & Lise's Marriage Ceremony, 12/24/2020

## Intro, Music & Poetry - all outside on back porch

- 1) As Lise & Juliet process out through the living room to the back patio, Phil and Joyce (our neighbours and Lise's bandmates in "[Red Currant Jam](#)") play "[The Westphalia Waltz](#)" (after our beloved Westy VW Camper of yore, named "Twinkie.") Mic in yard, speaker and mums in living room.
- 2) Juliet reads a poem, "[Love at First Sight](#)" by Wislawa Szymborska
- 3) Lise sings "[Our Love is Here to Stay](#)" with Phil & Joyce accompanying on accordion & uke.
- 4) Juliet reads a poem, "[Wedding](#)" by Alice Oswald

## Ceremony - Marie, our ceremony officiant, introduces herself

[Marie] We are gathered here today to celebrate the marriage of Juliet and Lise, as they come before us to make a lifelong commitment to one another. We are here in Lise and Juliet's home in Roberts Creek, on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Sishalh and Squamish Nations. A small number of close family and friends are here with us tonight, and many more are joining us through Zoom. We welcome them, and know their good wishes are with us. We all celebrate the loving relationship between Juliet and Lise, and offer our support to their union.

[Lise] Christmas Eve is the traditional Danish family gathering time, with real candles lighting the Christmas tree. Christmas Eve falls just after the solstice, as the light begins to return, promising renewal. This Christmas Eve, in the pandemic, we celebrate this wedding and light candles in the darkness, in hope for all our futures.

[Marie] We are here to witness and affirm the choice you, Juliet and Lise, make to stand together as partners, to celebrate both your affinities and your differences, and to place each other first in your thoughts and actions. We witness your promise to love each other with whole and faithful hearts -through expression, listening, compassion, forgiveness, and trust.

Your love and support for each other are the foundation of your marriage. From this day forward you shall be each other's home, solace, and refuge. May you be filled with thankfulness and wonder, patience and hope, humour and joy. May you grow in wisdom and grace, and may you find inspiration in your life together.

### Therefore:

I will now ask you that, if either of you know of any reason why you may not be married, you now declare it. Juliet, repeat after me:

**I solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, Juliet Mary O'Keefe, may not be joined in matrimony to Lisa Elli Kreps.**

Lise repeat after me:

**I solemnly declare that I do not know of any lawful impediment why I, Lisa Elli Kreps, may not be joined in matrimony to Juliet Mary O'Keefe.**

I will now ask that you confirm your intention to be married today. Do you, Juliet, promise to give Lise your love and devotion, your patience and understanding, to provide the comfort of your companionship, to support and believe in her, and to share your life fully with her? [Juliet]: I do

Do you, Lise, promise to give Juliet your love and devotion, your patience and understanding, to provide the comfort of your companionship, to support and believe in her, and to share your life fully with her? [Lise]: I do

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Let the couple join hands. Juliet, repeat after me.

**I call on those present to witness, that I, Juliet Mary O'Keefe, take Lisa Elli Kreps to be my lawful wedded wife.** To have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish as long as we both shall live.

Lise, repeat after me:

**I call on those present to witness, that I, Lisa Elli Kreps, take Juliet Mary O'Keefe to be my lawful wedded wife.** To have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish as long as we both shall live.

## **The Rings - Miranda hands rings to Juliet and Lise**

[Juliet]: These wedding rings are cast in gold from cedar fronds by an artist on Cortes Island, where we love to go in the summer. To the Coastal First Nations, the cedar was a sacred "tree of life," symbolizing strength and revitalization. Lise and I love the cedar tree as an emblem of the West Coast, and the rainforest we have both loved since childhood.

[Lise]: From our home in the cedar forest, we can hear the sound of the creek. We are just downstream from four waterfalls, and just upstream from the sea. On a bright winter's day, we can glimpse the glimmer of the ocean. The circle of the ring is an ancient symbol of wholeness, balance, cycles, and timelessness.

[Marie] Juliet, you may place the ring on Lise's hand, repeating after me:

With this ring, I entrust to you my heart. Let it be, for both of us, a symbol of our love and devotion. Wear it with joy, signifying the life we are creating together.

Lise, you may place the ring on Juliet's hand, repeating after me:

With this ring, I entrust to you my heart. Let it be for both of us a symbol of our love and devotion. Wear it with joy, signifying the life we are creating together.

Join your ring hands. We, your friends, family, and community who are here today, give you our blessings. We will remember this day, and support your unique selves and your marriage in the time to come.

Juliet and Lise will now sign the wedding papers in the back yard, with their marriage commissioner Vicki, and their witnesses, Sarah, who is Lise's daughter, and Miranda, who is Juliet's friend since childhood. While they sign, their neighbours Phil and Joyce will play the traditional Danish bridal waltz, which was played at Lise's grandmother Inger's wedding in 1935. Inger is now 105 years old.

**Signing Ceremony with Vicki our Marriage Commissioner, while Phil & Joyce play "[Brudevalse](#)."** **Lise signs first then plays flute with them**

## **The Declaration**

Juliet and Lise, as the two of you enter into this marriage, and as you this day affirm your faith in and love for one another, we your family and friends affirm our love for each of you and our encouragement for you in your marriage. Gladly we send you forth on your journey together.

It is now my great pleasure to pronounce you, Juliet and Lise, as duly married. You may kiss the bride!

[Lise] Hello to everyone gathered on Zoom with us. Now we have time for toasts and hellos. We want to begin with our two dear friends, Marie & Miranda.

Miranda reads poem [The Master Speed](#) by Robert Frost.

Marie reads poem "How to Be Married" from Barbara Kingsolver's 2020 book, "[How to Fly](#)"