



*West Lothian
Registration Services*

Bathgate Registration Office


*Bathgate Partnership Centre
South Bridge Street, Bathgate
EH48 1TS*

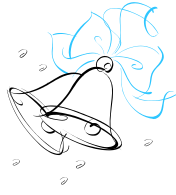
01506 282916

Livingston Registration Office

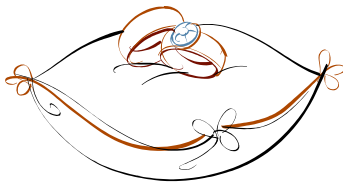
*West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road, Livingston
EH54 6FF*


01506 281897





Wedding Ceremony Readings





You may want to choose one or two readings to ask a friend or family member to read during your wedding ceremony.

Please have a look through this booklet, you can also look online for some inspiration.

Should you wish to do this please make the Registrar who is conducting your ceremony aware





Typical Order of Service

Arrival of Bride

Welcome and Introduction by

Registrar

The Civil Marriage Ceremony

Reading - optional

Vows

Reading - optional

Exchange of Wedding Rings

Pronouncement of Marriage

Signing of Marriage Schedule

Photographs





A Walled Garden

*Your marriage...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 only you 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.*

*So take my hand and let us go
back to our garden. The time we spend
together is not wasted but invested.*

*Invested in our future
And nurture of our love.*





Friendship

*It is very rare and hard to find
A special friend who is kind
To keep your secrets and never tell
No matter how mad they will never yell*

*Always there tried and true
Pick you up when you feel blue
Make you happy when your sad
Protect you at all cost when your bad*


*Never leave you always by your side
Shows true feelings the truth never hides
My best friend will always be you
Love me forever and I'll always love you*

Marriage

*A marriage is a promise
That two hearts gladly make
A promise to be tender
To help, to give and take
A marriage is a promise
To be kind and understanding
To be thoughtful and considerate
Fair and undemanding
A marriage is a promise
To share one life together
A love-filled promise
meant to be kept lovingly forever*

Marriage Is





*Marriage is a dynamic process of
discovery*

*Marriage is a journey, not an arrival
In Marriage, being the right person is as
important as finding the right person*

*Marriage is starting to love,
Over and over again*


*Marriage is a life's work
Marriage is an art...and like any creative
process, it requires active thought and
effort*


*We have to learn how to share on many
different levels*

*We need to practice talking from the
heart,
and understanding attitudes as well as
words*

*Giving generously and receiving
graciously*

*Are talents that are available to anyone
But all these skills need to be developed
If the marriage picture that we paint is
To be anything approaching the
masterpiece intended
Now You Feel No Rain*






*For each of you will be shelter to the other
Now you 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 in to the days of your togetherness
May your days be good and long upon the
earth.*

True Love

*True love is a sacred flame
That burns eternally
And none can dim its special glow
Or change its destiny
True love speaks in tender tones
And hears with gentle ear
True love gives with open heart
And true love conquers fear
True love makes no harsh demands
It neither rules nor binds
And true love holds with gentle hands
The heart that it entwines*





The Magic Of Love

*Love is like magic, and it always will be
For love still remains life's sweet mystery
Love works in ways that are wondrous and
strange*

*And there's nothing in life that love cannot
change*

*Love can transform the most commonplace
Into beauty and splendour and sweetness and
grace*


*Love is unselfish, understanding and kind
For it sees with its heart, and not with its
mind*


*Love is the answer that everyone seeks
Love is the language that every heart speaks
Love can't be bought, it is priceless and free
Love, like pure magic, is life's sweet mystery*

Today You Marry Your Best Friend

*Today you marry your best friend
One bond complete it hath no end
You share one soul you share one heart
A perfect time, a perfect start.*

*With these rings you share together
Love so close to last forever
This special day two special hearts
Let nothing keep your love apart.*





Today Is A Day


*You will always remember
The greatest in anyone's life
You'll start off the day two people in love
And end up 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 there 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 joys
But today is the day it all starts*





Always Love Each Other

*If you can always be as close and happy as
today*

*Yet be secure enough to grow and change
along the way*

*If you can keep for you alone your love as
man and wife*


*Yet find the time to share your joy with
others in your life*

*If you can be as one and walk through
marriage hand in hand*

*Yet still support the goals and dreams that
each of you have planned*

*If you can dare to always go your separate
ways together*

*Then all the wonder of today
Will stay with you forever*





In Marriage


*In marriage, cherish each other in big
ways and in small ways, and never
forget the magic of those three little
words "I love you"*

*In marriage, remember that it is the little
things that make the difference
Don't forget the birthdays and
the anniversaries*

*An occasional note means a lot
share each other's life - even the small
details - for too often we forget that day -
after-day becomes year-after-year,
and then it's gone*

*Give each other room to grow
we all need out time alone
keep strong your faith in each other;
time has a funny way of testing us, and
it's faith that gets us through*

*Respect one another...this world could
always use more of that
Speak your mind honestly, openly,
but with kindness*





Sonnet 116


*Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove:
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark
That looks on tempests and is never
shaken;*


*It is the star to every wandering bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his
height be taken.*

*Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and
cheeks*

*Within his bending sickle's compass come:
Love alters not with his brief hours and
weeks,*

*But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me proved,
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.*





The Art Of Marriage

*A good marriage must be created,
In 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 a 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.*





The Wedding Ring

*The sweetest story that ever was told
Lies in the slim circle of gold
Joining two people as husband and wife
To share in the joys and the sorrows of life*

*For richer or poorer in sickness and health
Your marriage can yield up a wonderful
wealth*


*Of memories to treasure and hopes to
renew*

All part of the promises made by you two

*With faith in each other and love as your
guide*

*As long as forever you'll walk side by side
And a shining reminder of how much you
care*


*Will be in the little gold band that you
wear*





If Love Is


*If love is a gift
It's too big to wrap up
If love is a drink
There's too much for one cup
If love is the cake
It's too good to be eaten
If love is a meal
There is not enough seating
If love is a dance
Then make room on the floor
If love is a guest
It is family and more
If love is a deal
It is sealed with these kisses
I know love is here
With mr and mrs!*





Chapter One Of One Thousand

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






“My Love” by Robert Burns

*O my luvve is like a red, red rose,
That `s newly sprung in June:
O my luvve is like the melodie,
That `s sweetly played in tune.
As fair art thou, my bonie lass,
So deep in luvve am I;
And I will luvve thee still, my dear,
Till a` the seas gang dry.
Till a` the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi` the sun;
And I will luvve thee still my dear,
While the sands o` life shall run.
And fare thee weel, my only luvve!
And fare thee weel a while!
And I will come again, my luvve,
Tho` it were ten thousand mile*





The Colour of My Love


*I'll paint a sun to warm your heart
Knowing that we'll never part
I'll draw the years all passing by
So much to learn, so much to try*


*I'll paint my mood in shadow blue,
Paint my heart to be with you.
I'll sketch your lips in shaded tones,
Draw your mouth to my own.*

*I'll trace a hand to wipe your tears
And trace a look to calm your fears
A silhouette of dark and light
To hold each other oh so tight*

*I'll paint the stars in the evening sky
Draw the light into your eyes
A touch of love, a touch of grace,
To softly fall on your moonlit face.*

*And with these rings our lives will start
Let nothing keep our love apart.
I'll take your hand to hold in mine,
And be together through all time*





What is Love


Sooner or later we begin to understand that love is more than verses on Valentines and romance in the movies.

We begin to know that love is here and now, real and true, the most important thing in our lives.

For love is the creator of our favourite memories and the foundation of our fondest dreams.

Love is a promise that is always kept, a fortune that can never be spent, a seed that can flourish in even the most unlikely of places.

And this radiance that never fades, this mysterious and magical joy, is the greatest treasure of all - one known only by those who love.






I Carry Your Heart in my Heart

*I carry your heart with me,
I carry it in my heart
I am never without it,
Anywhere I go, you go my dear
And whatever is done by only me, is your
doing my darling
I fear no fate, for you are my fate, my
sweet
I want no world for beautiful, you are my
world, my true*

*Here is the deepest secret no one knows
Here is the root of the root and the bud of
the bud
And the sky of the sky of a tree called life;
Which grows higher than the soul can hope
or mind can hide
And this is the wonder that's keeping the
stars apart*

I carry your heart, I carry it in my heart






These I can Promise

*I cannot promise you a lifetime 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.*

The Wonder of Today

*If you can always be as close
And happy as today,
Yet be secure enough to grow
And change along the way.
If you can keep for you alone
Your love as man and wife
Yet find time to share your joy
With others in your life
If you can be as one
And walk through marriage hand in hand
Yet still support the goals and dreams
That each of you have planned.
If you can dare to always go your separate
ways together,
Then the wonder of today
Will stay with you forever.*





Captain Corelli's Mandolin

*Love is a temporary madness,
It erupts like volcanoes and then 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 conceivable that you should ever
part.*

Because this is what love is.

Love is not breathlessness,


It is not excitement,


*It is not the promulgation of eternal
passion.*

*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.*

*Those that truly love, have roots that grow
towards each other underground, and
when all the pretty blossom have fallen
from their branches, they find that they
are one tree and not two*





Once in a Long While

*Once in a long while, someone special
walks into your life and really
makes a difference.*

*They take the time to show you in so many
little ways that you matter.*

*They see and hear the worst in you, but
don't walk away; in fact, they
may care more about you.*

*Their heart breaks with yours, their tears
fall with yours, their laughter
is shared with yours.*


*Every time you see a certain gesture, hear
a certain laugh or phrase, or return to a
certain place, it reminds you of them.*


*You treasure the time you have with them,
and you feel thankful that someone can
still touch your heart so deeply.*

*You remember their words, their looks,
their expressions;*

*You remember the strength that amazes
you,*

*The courage that impresses you, the grace
that inspires you, and the
love that touches you.*






May You Have Love


*May your marriage bring all the excitement
A marriage should bring
And may life grant you patience
Tolerance and understanding*

*May you always need one another
Not so much to fill our emptiness
As to help you know your fullness
May you need one another
But not out of weakness*

*May you want one another
But not out of lack
May you entice one another
But not compel
May you succeed in all-important ways
With one another
But not fail in the little graces*

*If you have quarrels that push you apart
May both of you have the good sense
Enough to take the first step back
May you have happiness and may you find it
Making one another happy
May you have love
And may you find it loving one another*





Dove Poem


*Two doves meeting in the sky
Two loves hand in hand eye to eye
Two parts of a loving whole
Two hearts and a single soul*

*Two stars big and bright
Two fires bringing warmth and light
Two songs in perfect tune
Two flowers growing into bloom*

*Two doves gliding in the air
Two loves free without a care
Two parts of a loving whole
Two hearts and a single soul*

The One

*When the one whose hand you're holding
Is the one who holds your heart
When the one whose eyes you gaze into
Gives your hopes and dreams their start
When the one you think of first and last
Is the one who holds you tight
And the things you plan together
Make the whole world seem just right
When the one whom you believe in
Puts their faith and trust in you
You've found the one and only love
You'll share your whole life through*





A Dream


*I dreamed that I loved a sweet maiden
With hair of bright rippling gold
And the story I told of my love to her
Is the same one that's never told*

*I dreamed that her eyes, bright and
gladsome
Were dark as the raven's black wing
And I thought that upon her third finger
I placed a plain gold wedding ring.*

*I dreamed that her lips, red as cherries,
Were dangerously close to my own and the
Kiss that I gave her whilst dreaming
Awoke me so loud was its tone*

*But when I awoke I remembered
the cause of my fancy's sweet flight
and the reason of happy dreaming
which made blissful the visions of night*

*'Twas a picture which looked from the
canvas painted though perfect to life
And so sweet was the face and the tresses
I dreamed that I made her my wife*






There Are None

*There are none so happy as my love and I
None so joyous, blithe and free,
The reason is, that I love her,
And the reason is, she loves me.*

*There are none so sweet as my own fond
love,
None so beauteous or true,
Her equal I could never find,
Though I search the whole world thro'.*

*There's no love so true as my lady sweet,
None so constant to its troth,
There's naught on earth like her so dear,
No queen her equal in her worth.*

*So there's none so happy as my love and I,
None so blissful, blithe and free,
And the reason is that I am hers,
And she, in truth, belongs to me*





The Day

*May this be the start of a happy new life
That's full of special moments to share,
May this be the first of your dreams come
true,
And of hope, that will always be there.
May this be a lifetime of trust,
And of caring that's just now begun,
May today be a day that,
You'll always remember,
The day when your hearts become one.*


A White Rose

*The red rose whispers of passion,
And the white rose breathes of love,
O the red rose is a falcon,
And the white rose is a dove.*

*But I send you a cream-white rosebud,
With a flush on its petal tips,
For the love that is purest and sweetest
Has a kiss of desire on the lips.*

From This Day Forward

*From this day forward,
You shall not walk alone,
My heart will be your shelter,
And my arms will be your home*





A Tapestry Of Love

*Just as two very different threads woven
in opposite directions can form a beautiful
tapestry, so can your two lives merge
together to form a beautiful marriage.*

*To make your marriage work will take
love.*

*Love should be the core of your marriage;
love is the reason you are here.*

*But it will also take trust - to know in your
hearts*


you want the best for each other.

*It will take dedication - to stay open to one
another;*

*to learn and to grow together even when
this is not so easy to do.*

*It will take faith - to always be willing to
go forward to tomorrow, never really
knowing what tomorrow will bring.*

*And it will take commitment - to hold true
to a journey you both now will share
together.*






*Extract from a Native American
Wedding Ceremony*

*May the sun bring you new happiness 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 the days of your life.
May you walk gently through the world,
And know its beauty,
Now you will feel no rain,
For each of you will be warmth for the other,
Now there will be no more loneliness.*

An Irish Blessing

*May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the sun of many days
And years shine upon you
May the blessing of the light be on you
May you be poor in misfortune
Rich in blessings
May good luck pursue you each morning
And night
May the love you have for one another
Grow and hold you close
May you see your children's children
May you know nothing but happiness
From this day forward.*





Reasons Why

*Our love is the long lasting kind;
We've been together quite awhile.*


*I love you for so many things,
your voice, your touch, your kiss, and your
smile.*

*You accept me as I am;
I can relax and just be me.
Even when my quirks come out,
you think they're cute; you let me be.*

*With you, there's nothing to resist;
you're irresistible to me.
I'm drawn to you in total trust;
I give myself to you willingly.*

*Your sweet devotion never fails;
you view me with a patient heart.
You love me, dear, no matter what.
You've been that way right from the start.*

*Those are just a few reasons why
I'll always love you like I do.
We'll have a lifetime full of love,
and it will happen because of you.*






If Not For You

*If not for you, I wouldn't know
what true love really meant.
I'd never feel this inner peace;
I couldn't be content.*

*If not for you, I'd never have
the pleasures of romance.
I'd miss the bliss, the craziness,
of love's sweet, silly dance.*

*I have to feel your tender touch;
I have to hear your voice;
No other one could take your place;
You're it; I have no choice.*

*If not for you, I'd be adrift;
I don't know what I'd do;
I'd be searching for my other half,
Incomplete, if not for you.*



From She Moved Through The Fair

*My young love said to me my mother won't
mind*

*And my father won't slight you for your lack
of kind*

*And she stepped away from me and this she
did say*

"It will not be long, love, till our wedding day"

*She stepped away from me, and moved
through the fair*

*And sadly I watched her, move here and move
there*


*Then she went homeward with one star awake
As the swan in the evening moves over the
lake.*

*Last night she came to me, my dear love came
in*

*So softly she came that her feet made no din
She laid her hand on me, and this she did say
"It will not be long, love, till our wedding
day"*

*Do you think then, my love we should
marry - do you?"*

"Yes" she said smiling "I do"





The Promise


*The sun danced on the snow
with a sparkling smile
As two lovers sat quietly, alone for a while
Then he turned and said, with casual air,
(Though he blushed from his
chin to the tips of his hair)
“I think I might like to get married to you”
“Well then” she said, “Well there’s a thought
But what if we can’t promise to be all that we
ought.*

*If I’m late yet again, when we plan to go out
For I know I can’t promise, I’ll learn to ignore
Dirty socks and damp towels strewn all over
the floor.*

*So if we can’t vow to be all that we should
I’m not sure what to do, though the idea’s quite
good.”*

*But he gently smiled and tilted his head
Till his lips met her ear and softly he said.
“I promise to weave my dreams into your own,
That wherever you breathe will be my hearts
home,*


*I promise, that whether with rags
Or with gold I am blessed
Your smile is the jewel I will treasure best.*





The Wedding Poem


*Love is a flower
A friendship
A sheltering tree
Love is a river
That when added to
Only grows stronger
As you begin your journey together
And as you build your life together
Use your love as the foundation
Because it is a bond stronger
Than any other
Let your love light the way
Along the path of life
And when your steps begin to falter
Draw upon the strength of one another
For this is a journey undertaken
Not separately
But together*





Excerpt From The Bridge Across Forever

*A soul mate is someone who
Has locks that fit our keys
And keys that fit our locks
Our truest selves step out
And we can be completely
And honestly who we are
We can be loved for who we are
And not for whom we're pretending to be
Each unveils the best part of the other
No matter what else goes wrong
Around us with that one person
We're safe in our own paradise
Our soul mate is someone
Who shares our deepest longings
Our sense of direction
When we're two balloons and together
Our direction is up
Chances are we have found the right
person
Our soul mate is the one who makes
Life come to life.*





The Big Day

*As you are walking down the aisle
I remember fondly with a smile
When you were wee and needing carried
But now you're all grown up and married*


*You'll both go on to greater things
Now that you have swapped the rings*

*But as we gather here today
To see you on your merry way
I'd like to offer some advice
Some is good and some not nice*

*For marriage is a bumpy road
It's not all hugs and kisses
If you don't believe me ask the Mrs*

*But I could tell right from the start
You have each other in your heart
And even when you go away
You're always in our hearts to stay*

*Now you're a husband
And you're a wife
We wish you both a happy life*






What Is A Soul Mate

*If you have found a smile
That is the sweetest one you've known
If you have heard, within a voice
The echoes of your own*

*If you have felt a touch
That stirs the longings of your heart
And still can feel that closeness
In the moments you're apart*

*If you have filled with wonder
As the way two lives can blend
To weave a perfect pattern
That is seamless, end-to-end*

*If you believe some things in life
Are simply meant to be
Then you have found your soul mate
Your hearts own destiny.*





I Knew That I Had Been Touched By Love

I knew that I had been touched by love the first time I saw you and felt your warmth, and I heard your laughter.


I knew I had been touched by love when I was hurting from something that happened, and you came along and made the hurt go away.


I knew that I had been touched by love when I stopped making plans with my friends, and started dreaming dreams with you.

I knew that I had been touched by love when I suddenly stopped thinking in terms of 'me' and started thinking in terms of 'we'

I knew that I had been touched by love when suddenly I couldn't make decisions by myself anymore, and I had the strong desire to share everything with you.

I knew that I had been touched by love the first time we spent alone together, and I knew that I wanted to stay with you forever because I never felt this touched by love.






Good Luck


*Good Luck! Congratulations!
Best Wishes! Cheers! Well Done!
The futures full of promise and
It's only just begun*

*You're starting on a journey
A new, exciting life
Together, as a partnership
As husband and as a wife*

*Adventures, thrills and choices
Are waiting just for you
The road will have some turnings
And perhaps a bump or two*

*But you'll be strong together
You'll come through every test
Your love will deepen week by week
Be Happy All The Best*






Sooner or Later

*Sooner or later we began to understand
what love is,
More than verses on a valentine and
romance in the movies
We began to know that love is here and
now
Real and true, the most important thing in
our lives.*

*For love is the creator of our favourite
memories
And the foundations of our fondest dreams
Love is a promise that is always kept, a
fortune that can never be spent.
A seed that can flourish even in the most
unlikely of places
And this radiance that never fade, this
mysterious and magical joy, is the greatest
treasure of all -
One known only by those who love.*






Extract from Les Miserable's

*You can give without loving,
But you can never love without giving,
The great acts of love are done by those
who,
Are habitually performing small acts of
kindness.*

*We pardon to the extent that we love,
Love is knowing that even when you are
alone,
You will never be lonely again.*

*And great happiness of life,
Is the conviction that we are loved,
Loved for ourselves,
And even loved in spite of ourselves.*





The Fulfilment Of Your Dreams
Together you share the joy of a deep
commitment
and the sacred trust.

You have given each other the most
precious gift of love.

Treasure it, nurture it, and encourage it
with all the honesty you used in creating
it.

You are sharing something rare and
beautiful.

Always speak the truth, and listen
attentively,
so that you may understand each other's
thoughts
and intentions.


Inspire each other by sharing your
accomplishments.

Say 'I love you' often to retain the warmth
between you.

Remember to laugh a lot, even when you're
angry

After all; you're each other's best friend.
Stand together and for each other always:
be content in mind and spirit.

Make each day a blessing
and a fulfilment of your dreams."





He Never Leaves the Seat Up

*He never leaves the seat up
Or wet towels upon the floor
The toothpaste has the lid on
And he always shuts the door
She's very clean and tidy
Though she may sometimes
delude
Leave your things out at your
peril*

*In a second they'll have
moved!
He's a very active person
As are all his next of kin
Where as she likes lazy days
He'll still drag her to the gym
He romances her and dines
her
Home cooked dinners and the
like
He even knows her favourite
food
And spoils her day and night!
She's thoughtful when he looks
at her
A smile upon his face
Will he look that good in 50
years
When his dentures aren't in
place?*

*He says he loves her figure
And her mental prowess too
But when gravity takes her
over
Will she charm with her IQ?
She says she loves his kindness
And his patience is a must
And of course she thinks he's
handsome
Which in her eyes is a plus!
They're both not wholly perfect
But who are we to judge
He can be pig headed
Where as she won't even budge!
All that said and done
They love the time they spent
together
And I hope, as I'm sure you do
That this fine day will last
forever
He'll be more than just her
husband
He'll also be her friend
And she'll be more than just is
wife
She'll be his soul mate till the
end*

