



Casually Elegant Weddings

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CEREMONIES WITHIN YOUR CEREMONY

Love Lock Ceremony

A relatively uncommon ceremony (although it has caught on with several celebrities) involves two Locks and two Keys. These can be purchased from Internet sites. The Love Lock Ceremony is of Chinese origin but no one knows how or when this ancient custom began. It symbolizes opening your hearts, your lives to one another. Your partner is the key that has made this love possible. Now, in your wedding, you fasten this love in absolute, eternal unity.

In a Love Lock Ceremony, the Bride and Groom lock their individual heart padlocks together as one. They may then assure that the keys that first opened their hearts can never be used to separate what has been joined in their wedding. Sometimes the keys are tossed into a place from which they can never be retrieved. Sometimes the keys are tied to helium balloons and released; sometimes they are buried in a meaningful location or melted in a fire. Sometimes they are kept and displayed as a reminder of the love that brought them together. Love Lock Ceremonies follow your vows and exchange of rings. Then your officiant may say:

You all have just witnessed (*Saying Groom's name*) and (*Saying Bride's name*) pledge their lives, and exchange rings symbolizing the endless nature of their love. They wish to further symbolize the strength of their commitment with a Love Lock Ceremony.

A lock and key can symbolize so much. For (*Saying Bride's name*) and (*Saying Groom's name*) it symbolizes the opening of their hearts to one another and the locking of the commitment that now binds them together.

It's important to understand that the key to love is the ability to comprehend not only the spoken word, but those unspoken gestures, the little things that say so much by themselves. It is giving, without thought of return, but with the hope of just a simple smile; and giving in but never giving up. The key to love is forgiveness, to accept one another's faults and pardon mistakes, it is sharing and facing your good fortunes as well as the bad, together; conquering problems and forever searching for ways to intensify your mutual happiness.

A soul mate is someone who has locks that fit your keys and keys to fit your locks. When you feel safe enough to open the locks, your truest selves step out and you can be completely and honestly who you are. No matter what goes on around you, with that one person you are safe in your mutual paradise.



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Your soul mate is someone who shares your deepest longings, your sense of direction. When you're upholding one another, and moving upwards together, chances are you've found the right person.

(Saying Bride's name) and *(Saying Groom's name)*, your hearts, bodies, and minds are joined together in a bond that constitutes the sanctity of marriage. These locks illustrate that you are forever joined together in a lifelong partnership and an abiding friendship, a promise between two people that you will forever be one, and that your oneness will complement and complete the two of you.

These locks represent your recognition of the dedication and courage necessary for securing a strong and healthy marriage. And now as you join your separate lives into one, I invite you to lock your locks together as a symbol of your commitment to each other.

As you do it, I remind you of the reason you are marrying one another: to be committed to each other as a couple forever, to keep each other safe in good times and in bad. Let these locks remind you that today you are joining your hearts and souls together for a lifetime.

Remember – your locks will be joined permanently because you have chosen to let these balloons take the keys to where they can never be found by anyone. This symbolizes your commitment to each other for an eternity. As these locks will be locked together forever, so will your love and commitment to each other. The keys will no longer be of use because there is no need to undo the bond of your commitment made today. What your love has brought together cannot be broken, and if there is ever a time of struggle just remember this day and the promises you have made to each other.

[The Bride and Groom then move to table where two locks, keys, and the balloons are positioned. They each take a key, unlock the locks, and then fasten them together. After connecting the locks, the newlyweds tie their keys to strings attached to a bouquet on helium balloons and release the balloons along with the keys into the sky. They then return to their position in front of the officiant.]