



*A Human Desire*

Written by Meredith Richmond





## AS HUMANS, WE HAVE AN INNATE DESIRE TO CELEBRATE.

All cultures share this, and it is a characteristic that unites us all. No matter the circumstances, we still find ways to celebrate milestones and victories, both large and small. Celebration not only marks an important moment in our lives, it also brings people together, feeds our deep need for community, fosters love among family members, and brings joy to people's hearts, even in heavy times. Celebration is a vital part of human connection. This is at the essential core of all weddings—a human desire to celebrate love. And this is why I love what I do so much, as I truly feel that there is no higher calling than love, and no sweeter celebration than one that honors it. I officiate all sorts of ceremonies, but no matter how big or small, how humble or fancy, I walk away with the same feeling—that I am blessed to have been part of such a remarkable moment. The most powerful moments for me are the ones when the couples themselves are truly immersed in the moment and feeling centered in their love and in the ceremony. These couples are not swayed by the festivities or details, but they remain steady in the celebration of their love. These ceremonies always hold a special magic for everyone present.







Photographer: Ruthanne Zouboukos  
Flowers: Wilderland  
Dress: Willow By Waters  
Hair and Makeup: Keema Love at Lumiere Studio





Photographer: Kay Kroshus





Photographer: Dee and Kris Robinson  
Design/Planner: With Grace and Love

## THE PORTAL OF CEREMONY

While there are some differences between officiating an elopement or a large wedding, it's actually the similarities that are the most striking. Of course a wedding with only a handful of people under the trees is different in many ways than a wedding with 100 guests in an expensive venue. But at the end of the day, the essence remains the same. This is one of my favorite things about working with weddings—there are details, yes, but it is always, always about the ceremony at its core. The word “ceremony” originates from the latin word having to do with ritual observances, and this feels relevant to me. When we begin the ceremony in any wedding, the couples are essentially stepping through a portal. The guests are invited to observe this special moment, and I am fortunate to help facilitate it. The art of weddings, I think, is knowing how to harness this transformative energy. And this is possible in any wedding, regardless of size or expense. In these moments, as two people become spiritually connected, a veil of energy falls upon both the couple and the guests, and emotions and tears often run freely. The deeper meaning of a wedding ceremony is to celebrate love, and for the couples to step across the threshold of being married. Whatever the day or wedding looks like, this is the core of each and every wedding that I attend. I consider it a gift to explore the connectedness of transformation through my work, and I have endless gratitude for all the couples I work with.





Photographer: Dee and Kris Robinson