

Forever Yours Weddings



**** the bride and groom are responsible for providing their own broom. You can google 'jumping the broom brooms' and you should get quite a bit of suggestions.**

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## *DID YOU KNOW...*

*Jumping the broom was used as a marriage ceremony in the 18th and 19th century and served as an alternative to courthouse or church weddings for African Americans. This ceremony is a time-honored wedding tradition in which the bride and groom jump over a broom during the ceremony. The act symbolizes a new beginning and a sweeping away of the past, and can also signify the joining of two families.*

*Today's wedding brooms are a far cry from those first used in jumping the broom ceremonies. They're still made with a wooden handle and natural bristles, but they're kept as treasured keepsakes and probably never actually used to sweep the floor. Some brides prefer to create their own brooms, while others purchase ornately decorated brooms ready-made. Far from ordinary, these brooms are outfitted beautifully with silk ribbons, fresh or silk flowers, bows, beads and more.*

*In Christian ceremonies, ribbons on the broom may be considered symbolic of the tie that binds the couple, while the broom handle represents God and the straw signifies the couples' families*

*In pagan ceremonies, the broom represents a perfect balance between the male and female, with the handle symbolizing a phallus and the bristles symbolizing female energies*



## **THE CEREMONY**

Welcome to the ceremony that will unite **Groom** and **Bride** in marriage.

We gather here today to celebrate their union, and to honor their commitment to not just gazing at one another, but to looking outward together in the same direction. Today they proclaim their love to the world, and we rejoice with and for them.

### **Vows**

**Groom**, please repeat after me.

I am completely and unconditionally, in love with you. You are my best friend, my lover and my soul mate. I cherish every moment together. Today I give myself in marriage. I offer you my solemn vow, to be your devoted husband. In sickness and in health, in good times and bad, and in happiness, as well as in sorrow.

**Bride**, please repeat after me.

I am completely and unconditionally, in love with you. You are my best friend, my lover and my soul mate. I cherish every moment together. Today I give myself in marriage. I offer you my solemn vow, to be your devoted wife. In sickness and in health, in good times and bad, and in happiness, as well as in sorrow.

### **Ring Exchange**

**Groom**, take **Bride's** ring, place it on her finger, and repeat after me:

With this ring I the wed.

**Bride**, take **Groom's** ring, place it on his finger, and repeat after me:

With this ring I the wed.

For thousands of years' lovers have exchanged rings as a token of their vows. These simple bands are not of great value in themselves, but are made precious by our wearing of them. Your rings say that even in your uniqueness you have chosen to be bound together. Let these rings also be a sign that love has substance as well as soul, a present as well as a past, and that, despite its occasional sorrows, love is a circle of happiness, wonder, and delight.

### **Jumping the Broom**

We end this ceremony with the African American tradition of jumping of the broom. *This is a time-honored wedding tradition in which the bride and groom jump over a broom, which symbolizes a new beginning and a sweeping away of the past, and also signifies the joining of two families.*

*The ribbons on the broom are considered symbolic of the tie that binds this couple, while the broom handle represents God, and the straw signifying the couples' families.*

So, with that said... As our bride and groom jump the broom, they physically and spiritually cross the threshold into the land of matrimony.

- ♥ It marks the beginning of making a home together.
- ♥ It symbolizes the sweeping away of the old and the welcoming of the new;
- ♥ It sweeps away all negative energy, making way for all things that are good to come into your lives.
- ♥ It is also a call of support for the marriage from the entire community of family and friends.

May we please have the broom brought up while sweeping away any negative energies.

Please place the broom on the ground.

The bride and groom will now begin their new life together with a clean sweep!

Is everyone READY?

Everyone count 1, 2, 3... Jump!

*Together! 1, 2, 3... Jump!*

The bride and groom jump over the broom, then kiss.

***YOU MAY NOW KISS YOUR BRIDE!***

May I introduce to you  
Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_