

## Amanda's Vows

Matthew, when I was trying to write words to describe our love for my vows, a powerful image came into my mind. I thought of us in the front row of a roller coaster. I know many people think of a roller coaster as a negative metaphor when talking about relationships. But, I see the rollercoaster as a beautiful image to describe our love. It is thrilling and sometimes scary. It leads us one way and then suddenly takes us another. It goes up and down, and it feels like we are flying. There are dazzling lights all around us, and the wind blows against our faces. And through all of it we are laughing.

I love this image of us, and I vow that I will do everything I can to make our ride together thrilling. I will throw my hands up in the air and savor the exhilaration with you.

I vow that when it gets scary, I will hold you. I will protect you when it feels like the bottom is dropping from beneath us. Likewise, I will turn to you when I am scared and trust you to protect me. Even if we don't know what is coming around the next bend, we can be sure that we will face it together.

I vow that I will be flexible and calm when we seem to be going in one direction and we suddenly jerk another. I will try to point out the positives whenever I see them. Remember, you're marrying this! Focus on the positives!

I vow that I will love you when we are ascending up, up, up and it seems like there is no end to our climbing. I vow that I will love you when it seems we are crashing headlong into the ground below.

I vow to look around and take in the lights and the stars and the carnival music all around us while we soar.

I vow that I will always laugh with you while we share life on this earth together.