

# Cecily and Mark's Wedding Day

When Mariam was the  
Ring-Bearer



3 April 2004

To

Mariam Haynes-Khalifa  
for her seventh birthday  
31 July 2004

with love

from Nana and Pop

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Palmerston North  
N.Z.

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Manuia Books

# Cecily and Mark's Wedding Day

Mariam looked at the pretty dress she was to wear for Cecily and Mark's wedding. It was made of a special fabric which had flowers embroidered on it, and there was lace around the hem of the skirt.

She picked up her sparkly sandals. "Umm, I'd rather wear my football boots," she thought. Mariam liked boys' clothes best. She felt comfortable in them.

But this was to be a special occasion, for Mariam would be the ring-bearer at the wedding.

Nan and Grandad brought her to Palmerston North in the plane, and they all stayed with Nana and Pop for one night. They were so happy to see Mariam again as her home was in



Christchurch, and they did not see their only great-grandchild very often.

On Friday afternoon Nan, Grandad and Mariam went by car to Wanganui and then a little further on to the farm of Mark's parents, where the wedding was to be celebrated.

It was time for a rehearsal, so the bridal party went through the ceremony with the Marriage Celebrant, and Mariam practised carrying the rings at the right time.



Everyone was in their ordinary clothes, so it seemed rather strange to be saying all these serious things which are special for a wedding.

Next day it was all for real.

“How lucky we are to have such a sunny day,” everyone was saying. The garden was so tidy and



the flowers were colourful. The goldfish in the pond kept swimming round and round, having no idea what important things would happen in the garden.

The big white marquee in the paddock near the house was set up ready for the reception, and the family and helpers



were busy decorating it with flowers and balloons.

The guests began to arrive in the afternoon. Some were from Mark's family, some were from Cecily's family, and others were their special friends. Everyone was happy to be there. The bride and her attendants were hidden in the house, putting on their pretty clothes. Nan helped Mariam to dress, her hair was brushed and soon she was ready, and



feeling a little nervous.

Out in the garden the guests gathered near the archway where the bride would first be seen, and Mark and his special friends were standing in their places waiting too.



First came the marriage celebrant, then the bridesmaids, Maria and Andrea, and Mariam the ring-bearer. Next the bride came through the archway with her mother and



father on either side of her. Cecily was wearing a beautiful blue dress and had tiny flowers in her hair. They all gathered in the special part of the garden where every-thing was ready. The rings, on a little cushion, were on a table at the side of the wedding

group.

Mariam listened to all the important words being spoken. They seemed to be about Cecily and Mark loving each other and wanting to share their lives together. They were both so happy to be getting married.



The time came for the rings, and Mariam picked them up from the table and carried them to the bride and groom. There were more important words said, they gave each other a ring to wear, and that was the end of that part of the wedding.

Then there were promises made, and the marriage celebrant said that Mark could kiss the bride. That was a special moment and everyone clapped and cheered.

Soon there were bubbles floating through the air, and cameras were clicking everywhere.

After signing some important papers, this part of the day was complete,



and Cecily and Mark were pronounced

‘Husband and Wife’.

Now Mariam was able to play in the garden with cousins Oliver and Jeremy, while the grown-ups had more photos taken.

Then it was time to go to the big marquee, where there were drinks and nibbles and a lot of talking going on. Family groups sat at the tables, and when the bridal party came in and sat at the top table

specially reserved for them, it was time for a special dinner. Uncle Peter was 'Master of Ceremonies' which meant that he told people to



collect their food, and later on he introduced the people who were giving speeches. There were a lot of speeches, much

laughter, and the wedding cake was cut. Soon





Mariam, Oliver and Jeremy were playing with corks and toothpicks making cork sculptures. This passed the time away.

Afterwards people were still talking, and Nana wanted a photo of all her grandchildren, so they lined up with the tallest cousin at one end, down to the shortest at the other end. They were – Fraser, Lochlan, Kyle, Alice, Karlo, Andrea, Cecily, Amy, Mariam, Oliver and Jeremy.



There were two cousins who were not there – Dugan, who was in Brazil, and Sarah (Mariam's mother) who had a university exam that day.

It was getting dark now, and quite cold outside. It had been a long day and it was time to drive back

to the Motel in Wanganui, and to go to bed.

Next morning the grown-ups packed their things into their cars. Some of the family had lunch together, then everyone went home.

It had been a wonderful wedding.

Back home in Lincoln Nan carefully washed and ironed the special dress. Something very strange happened – the dress shrunk so much Marian could not fit it any more!

Nan took it back to the shop.

“I’m sorry, we don’t have another dress the same,” said the shop assistant. “Please choose something else.”

Mariam was sorry not to have her pretty dress to keep, but she was very pleased with her new clothes. Of course she chose ‘almost-boy-clothes’.

So it was something like a fairy story, where a young girl was turned into a princess for a day, then back into her ordinary clothes next day.





Dugan



Mike and Sarah

Back: Fraser, Kyle, Jeremy, Vaughan, Lochlan, Karlo, David, Dave (Grandad), Peter, Alice M., Tony.  
 Front: Owen, Royce, Pam, Amy, Gillian, Verena (Nan), Des, Alice (Nana), Lyndia, Andrea  
 Seated: Cedly and Mark On the lawn: Mariam, Oliver, and Jeremy

**The Family**  
**3rd April 2004**