

The Story of Us

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What a complicated story we have written together. We started with a young love and somehow turned it into a life. There are moments I would change... things I would do differently... but falling in love with you, giving you my heart, my soul, and building this life with you—I would change none of that.

YOU'RE THE INSPIRATION of our love story. THROUGH THE YEARS you have brought so much LOVE AND HAPPINESS into our lives. I never thought that I could love someone the way I have loved you. And I know what we are. This love hasn't been simple; it hasn't always made sense—it's been a CRAZY LOVE. Tricia, I truly, madly, deeply love you.

Music has always been part of us. Not just something we listened to, but something we lived inside. You are my LOVESONG. I've always loved that song L-O-V-E, because in the simplest way, it says exactly what I feel when I look at you.

We have spent nights just holding each other, listening to the songs that became our life. Most people have a love song. We don't. We have a catalog—a lifetime of musical love notes we've given to each other.

This is what I've put together—not just a love song, but the story behind all of them. This is my tribute to us.

This is YOUR SONG.

BEFORE I EVEN MET YOU

Before you... I didn't really know what I was looking for. I was young, I didn't really know what I was doing I just knew there was something missing. But I've always been looking for you... that person I could love and feel loved by. I would lay in my bed and imagine you... **PUTTING YOUR HEAD ON MY SHOULDER**... what that would feel like. I imagined it would feel like home... like I didn't have to keep searching or proving anything. I didn't have the words for it back then... but I felt it.

There was something in me that was always reaching... something that wanted that connection you hear in a song like **UNCHAINED MELODY**... that pulls you toward someone you haven't even met yet, but somehow you already feel them.

I've always been **WAITING FOR A GIRL LIKE YOU**, even when I didn't know who you were. If I ever found her... I knew one thing—I would stand by her. No matter what life looked like... no matter how hard it got... and she would **STAND BY ME**, because that's what love is supposed to be.

I used to picture it sometimes... what it would be like to be with someone... just being there with her... a quiet night, nothing special... just looking over and thinking... this is it... this is everything. Something simple... something like **WONDERFUL TONIGHT**.

I wasn't looking for perfection (though I did find that in you). I didn't need someone to change or be something they weren't. I wanted to love you **JUST THE WAY YOU ARE**, and someone who could love me the same way.

The truth is... I was never ready for you. No matter how much I thought about you, I could never have been prepared for the effect you would have on me. Love doesn't hit you the way you think it should. I don't think you're ever ready. But when it does... you realize you **CAN'T FIGHT THIS FEELING**. You can't logic your way through it. You just... fall. That is my story when I met you—I **CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU**.

And somewhere in all of that... there's this quiet promise you don't even say out loud. That if you ever find her... if she ever shows up in your life... you're all in. No games. No halfway.

Just...

BABY I'M YOURS.

THEN YOU WALKED IN

That night in Torrance. when the cosmic cupid finally gave us a gentle push. Leaving us alone for that last dance.

I felt awkward, didn't quite know how to ask... but somehow, I did. A SLOW DANCE... to CARELESS WHISPER. The song doesn't tell our story... but it was the start.

We should have recognized then just how we moved in such a natural rhythm... like we already had danced for years.

You weren't looking and maybe even felt a little sorry for me at that moment. I still wasn't ready for you, but I couldn't help being drawn to your SEXY EYES. How they gave me A WINK AND A SMILE... those eyes have always carried so much love and compassion. Who knew that I would lose myself in their entrancing green beauty.....I could have DANCED ALL NIGHT with you.

CRUSH ON YOU

So, we planned to go together as a team—our first date. You in your tight capri jeans, a white blouse tied in the front, and your strawberry hair in a ponytail tied with a red ribbon. Me, trying to be the “tough guy.”

I remember that night you swung by to get me. You looked so cute. One thing would make your outfit perfect—my frat pin. I gave it to you, and once I saw it on you... I never wanted it back.

How me missed the date and decided to go see a movie (King David), everyone looking at us like we were a little nut. That is your personality, at it core fun loving.

I didn't really understand it at the time... I just knew I had this thing for you. Not something loud or obvious... just there, sitting under everything. I had a CRUSH ON YOU... and I couldn't really explain why.

I would watch you... not in some strange way... just noticing. The way you moved, the way you laughed, the way you were with people. MY EYES ADORED YOU... long before I ever had the right to say that out loud. And somehow... no matter where I was... or what I was doing... you were there in my thoughts. Like EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE... I was aware of you.

And then it started to shift.

Something deeper than just noticing. Something I could feel but couldn't define yet. There was a truth in it... something real... something that felt like it mattered. TRUE... even before I understood what that meant.

I was drawn to you... that's a poor metaphor. I was pulled to you like gravity pulls all the planets. I just wanted to be in your orbit. I was looking for something TRUE. My soul wanted more. I was SO INTO YOU... in a way that didn't make sense yet. I didn't know where I stood... didn't know if you saw me the same way... but I knew this—IF YOU NEEDED SOMEBODY... I would have been that guy.

And somewhere in there... it turned into wanting.

Not just being around you... but wanting TO BE WITH YOU, not in passing moments, but in something real. When you weren't there... I felt it, something missing. HERE WITHOUT YOU wasn't where I wanted to be, even if I didn't fully understand why yet.

But it wasn't simple. It never is. There were moments where I thought maybe... and then moments where I wasn't sure at all. Things said... things not said... looks that meant something... or maybe nothing. MIXED SIGNALS... everywhere. I would go over it in my head again and again... 1000 TIMES... trying to make sense of something that wasn't ready to make sense.

And still... it didn't go away. It stayed with me. It followed me. It sat in the quiet moments when nothing else was going on. It would LINGER... longer than it should have, longer than I expected it to.

So we stayed where we were. Just friends. That safe place where nothing has to be defined... and nothing has to be risked. JUST FRIENDS... even though something underneath that was starting to push against it.

Because the truth is... there comes a point where you can't stay there forever. You either let it go... or you step across the line and risk everything. You RUIN THE FRIENDSHIP... or you live wondering what it could have been.

In the middle of all of that... without a big moment... without some grand realization...

I just saw you. Not as a friend... not as a maybe... not as something undefined... I saw you for who you were. YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL. Not just in the way you looked... though that was there... always there... but in who you were, in what your soul said to mine. I don't think I had the words for it then.

ITS COMPLICATED I knew I wasn't going to be able to walk away from you. I knew I just needed 20 seconds of courage. 20 seconds to answer your teases. 20 seconds of courage to make the best choice in my life. I jumped headfirst, on that lifeguard stand in the early morning darkness. With each coy rebuff, my resolve became even stronger. I knew this was what I wanted. I wanted you as my girl.

But as dawn broke over the sands of Manhattan Beach, I knew our moment had passed. I was wrong. This was not what you wanted, what you felt. I had no regrets. But as we went home that morning, I knew we were just friends, And that's when it started to get COMPLICATED .

Not in some dramatic way... just in that quiet, confusing way where nothing lines up the way you thought it would. One moment I felt close to you... the next I wasn't sure where I stood. We were still around each other, still talking, still going dancing... but something had shifted. It

wasn't simple anymore.

Because the truth was... I COULDN'T MAKE YOU LOVE ME.

I could want you. I could choose you. I could see everything that you were and everything I hoped we could be... but I couldn't make you feel the same thing back. And that's a hard place to be... when your heart is already leaning in, and you don't know if the other person is stepping forward or pulling away. LOVE HURTS.

Nobody tells you that part when you're young. You think it's supposed to feel like music and magic... but sometimes it feels like standing there, wanting something real, feeling a loss of something that never was and realizing it's just not there yet. Or maybe it is... just not in the same way.

Maybe I just picked a BAD TIME

Not wrong... just not right. We weren't in the same place. Not ready in the same way. Everything was almost... but not quite. AGAINST ALL ODDS Close enough to feel it, but not close enough to hold onto it. So, we would stay where we were. Unless you SAY SOMETHING.

ASKING A BUM ON THE STREET "What do I have to do to get a kiss around here... ask a bum on the street?" An epic line that lives in our love story. Direct. Playful. That's you—cutting right through all that tension. Just like that... everything changed.

I guess after the night before at the beach, a day of thinking, and then our night of dancing where you felt the move back to only friendship... I think you knew the move was in your court. Did you realize that THE SEARCH IS OVER? The friend and lover you wanted was right in front of you? What were you thinking?

The whole night I'm thinking, JUST KISS ME. We pull up to my place. I'm looking in your beautiful eyes and at your kissable lips. In the back of my mind, thinking, ARE YOU GONNA KISS ME OR NOT? Realizing this is us... good friends. I got out of the car and said goodbye—not just for the evening, but a goodbye to what I hoped it could be.

Then your famous words:

“What do I need to do to get a kiss around here? Ask some bum on the street?”

I don't even remember thinking. I just heard KISS ME. Permission granted. There wasn't some big decision... no weighing it out... no overanalyzing it like 100 times before. This was simple—carpe diem (seize the Trish).

That's what it came down to. A simple request. ARE YOU GONNA KISS ME OR NOT... or maybe SHUT UP AND KISS ME. Both songs scream the same message to me: don't wait.

Like a flash, I was back in your car. Our lips crashed together. Months of wanting and passion exploding in mere seconds. The passion slowed... and to this day, I can still hear: HOLD ME... THRILL ME... KISS ME.

That's what it felt like. Not just the kiss... but the connection. The electricity of finally stepping into something that had been building for longer than either of us probably realized.

And just like that...

we weren't “just friends” anymore—but some weird limbo where we both didn't know what that was or what just happened.

And here's the part that still makes me smile...

I got lucky.

Not in some passing moment.

LUCKY... that it was you. LUCKY... that you said something. LUCKY... that I didn't miss it.

How did the night end? I went to bed, laid there, and could not stop thinking of you. Thinking, man... that was crazy. Not my best work. When can I show you how I feel?

You drive home and think... what did you just do?

Wow

What a weekend we'd had. After that hurricane kiss, the next day we decided to go to the beach and figure this out. We walked on the pier, and I reached for your hand. We moved slowly over to the rail, under the pier light. You could feel the energy—like FIRE—ready to explode and

consume us again.

We stopped, looking into each other's eyes, still holding hands. We slowly moved in, meeting each other halfway. Our lips touched so softly, yet with such passion, that our first kiss paled—even for all its intensity. The world seemed to stop on its axis. I imagined people walking by, stopping, watching... somehow understanding the significance of this event.

THIS MAGIC MOMENT.

Where, in one instant, you became the owner and trustee of my heart.

I had never kissed anyone the way you kissed me that night. You **TAKE MY BREATH AWAY** with **THIS KISS**. I never really knew what to expect. **TILL I KISSED YOU**, I was just walking through life, looking for wonder and purpose.

I found my purpose on a pier in Redondo Beach, under a light, when I kissed the prettiest redhead God had ever made.

I look back at that kiss, **AMAZED** that one person could love me so much.

SUCH A NIGHT.

Falling Deeper

Then you'd show up somewhere, or I'd see you across a room, it didn't matter what else was going on, **WHENEVER YOU COME AROUND** everything else faded into the background, my knees would get weak and my heart would start pounding. I noticed you in ways I hadn't noticed anyone before, the way you moved, the way you laughed, the way you made everything feel just a little bit better than it actually was. It didn't feel complicated, it felt easy, like **LET'S FALL IN LOVE** wasn't a decision, it was something we were already doing one day, one hand holding, one

kiss at a time.

Those first months, it was so fun. We just liked being together. There wasn't some big plan behind it, we weren't trying to define it, we just kept choosing each other every day, and it felt right. I'M YOURS and you were mine.

We had this energy between us that was just easy. We never felt forced. BABY (YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES)... there was confidence in it, we fit. We'd go out, go dancing, I can't think of us doing anything back then where we weren't together. I got so CAUGHT UP IN YOU it felt good, simple. YOU MAKE MY DREAMS (COME TRUE).

I loved dancing with you. Before it was something we did, something we had fun with. Now it connected us. We'd get there early, stay late, barely take breaks, just moving the whole time, completely in sync without having to think about it. SWAY[ing] in that rhythm we had, it wasn't something we practiced, it was just there. When the night would wind down, you always SAVED THE LAST DANCE FOR ME.

There were quieter moments too, those started to matter just as much. Sitting somewhere, cleaning Dad's car wash, not saying a lot, just being there, doing things together, I could feel you even WHEN YOU SAID NOTHING AT ALL... that kind of connection was new to me. There was SOMETHING about you I couldn't explain, I didn't try to, I just knew I didn't want to lose it. IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, I was figuring that out as we went, probably not always saying it the right way, but feeling it more than I understood it.

I remember one moment that even 40 years later I can see as if it were yesterday. At the mall, I was walking behind you, taking my time for no real reason, and you just took off ahead of me, skipping, in your Jordache jeans, your Velcro shirt, your hair bouncing, catching the light, and I just stopped. I wasn't in a hurry, I just stood there watching you, mesmerized by you, thinking how amazing you were, how happy you looked, and how lucky I was that I was with you. You stopped, turned back, your hair falling over your face to see where I was. Even from 15 feet away I could see your eyes through your hair. That look has been burned in my memory. Whe're you at boy? You gonna come get me?.... Always.

After dances we'd sit in the car, parked. Sometimes we'd just sit there, talk (remember — "GO TO ALONDRA"), somehow, we both end up in that passenger seat. I still don't know how we fit, but we did. I'd hold you, not saying much, just feeling you there, listening to you breathe and you

would hear my heart beating loud as a drum. Playing a game I never knew “How can you make my heart race” . Where you’d listen to my rhythms. In those moments I held the world in my arms. WHEN I’M WITH YOU... that was it, that was the whole thing, nothing else really mattered.

It started to build slowly in those moments, not all at once. JUST A KISS would turn into lingering, KISS ME [softly.....slowly], learning each other without rushing it, without pushing past where we were. I’ll filled with the same passion as our 1st kiss but tempered with more gentleness. There was an ETERNAL FLAME in that time, something steady underneath all the fun, all the movement, all the laughter.

I didn’t like showing jealousy, it felt like weakness, but that didn’t mean I didn’t feel it. How could I not with a girl like you. I did notice when other guys noticed you a little too much. I always noticed. I didn’t make a big deal out of it. I managed it my way, stepping in, shifting position, putting myself between you and them without saying anything, not to make a scene, just to protect you, even if it was just from a look.

I just wanted to love SOMEBODY LIKE YOU... I knew what you were, I knew what I had, even if I didn’t say it like that. There were moments when it would get more serious, deeper than I expected. I didn’t always know what to do with that, sometimes I’d run away a bit. I couldn’t last 24 hours without hearing your voice.. I’d feel it, part of me leaning in, part of me pulling back just enough to catch my breath. NEVER THOUGHT (THAT I COULD LOVE)... not like that.

LOVING YOU, wasn’t complicated, It was natural, You are an easy woman to love. I HONESTLY LOVE YOU... I don’t know if I would have said it exactly like that then, but I felt it growing, getting stronger. TO LOVE SOMEBODY... I was learning.

There were nights where things felt a little more intense, where emotions sat closer to the surface, where being close to you felt different, I was CRAZY FOR YOU... that feeling, where it wasn’t about fun anymore. It’s WHAT THEY MEAN when they say A SUNDAY KIND OF LOVE... not just excitement, something steady underneath it.

Darling, I chose you. I know you question that. I have chosen you. Not in one moment, not in some big declaration, just in all the small moments, over and over again. NOBODY BUT ME... no, not me, us, choosing each other without needing to say it.

We were moving into something deeper, and the world seemed to accelerate. The universe telling us get **READY FOR LOVE**. Ready or not here it comes.

SOMETIMES WHEN WE TOUCH... those moments carried more than we were ready to explain, more than I knew how to handle, and that's where this part of our story sits, right there on that edge. In love , and afraid of what this all means.

Our First Time

I remember laying on my bed thinking... I want to **MAKE IT WITH YOU**. Then that night came... my 19th birthday. You changed my life. You said **COME AWAY WITH ME**, and suddenly we had your friend's place all to ourselves. No plans. Just takeout and quiet time together... no Prindle involved this time. Just us, seeing where the night would go. We started the way we always did... kissing. Soft. Easy. Familiar.

Then you stepped into the other room. When you came back... everything stopped. That lingerie... the pink satin... your hair falling down across it. Every dream I'd ever had was standing right in front of me. My heart was pounding like a freight train. My body went right back to that first kiss in the car. There was no hesitation that night. No pulling back. We moved toward each other... and came together... bodies and souls... in a **SEA OF LOVE**. And then you said it. **LET'S MAKE LOVE**.

I knew what you were offering. Not just the moment... something deeper. Something sacred. I looked at you... "are you sure?" For the first time, I didn't want to be the one who rushed it. I didn't want to risk what we had already built. Your face... your lips... your eyes. Those eyes I've wanted to lose myself in for over 40 years now. And we did. We made love for the **FIRST TIME**. I didn't want that moment to end. I wanted it to **LAST FOREVER**.

That night... that was the beginning of Zack and Trish. **COME WHAT MAY**, something had changed. Something had been sealed. I knew it then, even if I didn't fully understand it. I loved you. I had since that second kiss. You were my girl. And I was... **YOUR MAN**.

JOURNEY TO MARRIAGE

Yesterday I watched you from afar in the shoe section of Macy's as you searched for your next conquest. I think the sales guy thought I was a creeper, just staring at you, thinking WOW... SHE'S EVERYTHING. Just watching you... 40 years later and you still move me that way. Sorry, got a little sidetracked... that happens EVERY TIME I THINK OF YOU.

Where were we... ah yes, my "couch dweller days." I would fall asleep to the smell of your perfume, the thought of your face as I recapped the events of the day. I'm so STUCK ON YOU. You've always been more than enough. My every thought and wish... I love you JUST THE WAY YOU ARE. You are so many things I never knew I needed. A WOMAN LIKE YOU... you bring such love, happiness, and peace. It's hard to do, but you leave me SPEECHLESS.

Remember those days back then... laughing, talking (I still love the sound of your voice). If you ever wonder what I see... MAYBE I'M AMAZED by you.

We didn't need any special event. Just LAY DOWN BESIDE ME... I'd hold you in THESE ARMS OF MINE. These were nights we didn't want to end. Laying there, I didn't WANT TO MISS A THING. Then that dreaded hour would come—we knew we needed to go home. More than once we fell asleep like that, then bolted awake realizing we had slept way past your curfew, panicking to get you home.

I love your personality... the vibrance and life you brought into my world. Even the worst day would brighten up with you.

After a day at work at Earthcraft, I was looking out into the mall and saw you walking toward the store. You've always had such style. My heart skipped, and I knew I needed to kiss you. As you walked in, I went to greet you with a chaste kiss. As our heads leaned in and we were about two inches away, the energy between us caused a little spark to arc between our lips. We both grabbed our lips and laughed.

"I guess we have some electricity between us." It showed up everywhere.

You won tickets to a Kings hockey game. When an opposing player was sent to the penalty box, you started chanting, "Foreplay! Foreplay! Foreplay!" The crowd around us just looked for a second... a few guys gave me an approving nod and a smile. Then you realized—ohhh... it was

“power play.” But you just leaned into it. Playful, funny, innocent... no embarrassment. The whole crowd joined you with such enthusiasm. I think you started a trend that night for Kings fans.

That girl won my heart so many times over. I remember sitting there thinking... there's nobody I'd rather be with. You have ALL OF ME.

Our time together... this was a very special time. Our love grew into something that would stand the test of time. It grew with every passing day... each walk on the beach, each slow dance where we held each other, each thought.

I was learning what it meant to LOVE SOMEBODY. I never needed a grand announcement. I just knew... I HONESTLY LOVE YOU. It wasn't difficult. IT'S YOUR LOVE that filled my life with meaning and happiness. Everything seemed so perfect... new... no problems... we just fit, like two perfect puzzle pieces. ... like it was always meant to be. Deep down, I knew... I would never let this end. NEVER MY LOVE. WILL YOU MARRY ME HEY PRETTY GIRL, now we move to when our amazing life truly began. Sitting in the car, talking about our amazing news... our lives were about to change in unimaginable ways. I knew one thing—what I wanted, what would set the world right—MARRY ME. I get it wasn't a perfect moment where I had everything figured out, it wasn't a grand plan... it was me choosing you. Forever. Right then, right there in that car. Plain and simple. I wanted you. I wanted this. And whatever was coming next, I wanted to face it with you.

Young men... especially me... we don't get it. Not then. Oh, how I've wished I could go back in time or write a LETTER TO ME, let him know all the ways he could do better, how to make those moments bigger for you, how to hold onto them just a little tighter.

We do things differently, that's for sure. Our story may not be a fairy tale to some... but it's an eternal LOVE STORY to me. The life we've experienced has been amazing BY YOUR SIDE. Real, a little messy... maybe a lot messy... but we believed in it. In each other. And the POWER OF LOVE was enough to carry us forward, even if we didn't fully understand where we were going or what it was going to take.

Then came our wedding day. I remember standing there... I didn't care that the room was small, that it was just our family. All the things people think matter... they didn't. I was nervous—honestly surprised no one could see me shaking. And then you walked into the room.

That pretty dress. Your hair swooping to the side. Your beautiful face.

I couldn't take my eyes off you as you walked down the aisle with your dad. You smiled at me. Your eyes... that beautiful green... and just like that, peace filled my soul. The nervousness was gone. The shaking was replaced with calm. Everything else just faded. The people, the noise... all of it disappeared. It was just you standing there in front of me.

It felt like a line in time. Like everything before that moment led right there.

The universe got it right when it pushed us together.

Then Bishop Tucker asked those words: Do I pledge my life to you?

No fear. No hesitation. No quivering voice.

I pledged my soul to yours.

WHEN I SAY I DO... I meant it.

I was choosing you. More importantly, the woman of my dreams... the girl who has held my soul since our second kiss... was choosing me.

FROM THIS MOMENT ON, we would be known as Mr. and Mrs. Anderson... ah, Arnold... fully and completely.

We left that church and walked out to your car. That picture of you and me... it's still there in my mind. You looking amazing, holding my arm. My smile... you made me the happiest man in the world that day.

Thank you, sweetheart, for choosing me... and choosing me every day since then.

Most people get just one shot at a wedding. We knew that love could be eternal—NOW AND FOREVER—so we were sealed in the Los Angeles Temple a year later. GOD ONLY KNOWS why you chose me a second time.

I had started hatching a plan a year earlier... how I would propose if I could do it right. With our sealing looming months away, I executed it.

Close your eyes and remember... dinner at the Marina Del Rey pier. In many ways we were out of place in that restaurant, surrounded by older couples... and there we were, just starting out.

It took everything we had to afford that night.

Outside, near the fire pit, with the sound of the ocean and the boats rocking in the marina... I got down on one knee.

I SWEAR, I was still nervous that night. Even though I was pretty sure what you would say... I knew I was asking for eternity. And for the first time... I understood what that meant.

Then the next in a line of perfect days was at hand.

I knelt at that altar... soul bare, holding your hand. We were asked again if we would pledge ourselves—not just till death do we part... but for time and eternity.

It was a LOVELY DAY... and a lovely reception with so many friends and family. We chose our “wedding song,” ALWAYS. I can feel you in your dress, swaying to those words “Girl you are to me, all that a woman should be And I dedicate my life to you always A love like yours is grand It must have been sent from up above And I know you'll stay this way, for always... I thank THE KEEPR OF THE STARS that we are together and share in MAKING MEMORIES OF US... knowing somehow we would last. I was so happy And even now, when I look back on that time... when I look at you, after everything we've been through, after all the years... there's still that same feeling there.

Every time I catch your expression... every time I SEE YOUR SMILE I see that look, it still hits me and it takes me right back to that day... you walking down the aisle, the way you looked at me, and the start of our lives.

NEWLY MARIAED LOVE Our first years of marriage were met with the kind of struggles you would expect a young couple to have... but somehow... none of that is what I remember.

What I remember... is you.

Laying there with you... no money... no plans... just time... wrapped up in each other... listening to KOST late at night... other people telling their love stories... and thinking...

they don't even know they don't know what this feels like.

Because I'm laying here with you, your head on my chest, candles barely lighting the room, your fingers tracing across me like you've always known me... and I'm sitting there thinking,

how did I get this lucky. how did I get you. Close your eyes and imagine that soft radio voice reading a Love Thought to you.

“This one comes from Zack to Tricia in Lawndale...”

Tricia Zack just wants you to know...

AGAINST ALL ODDS... I found you... or maybe... you found me... somewhere deep down... before I could explain it... I KNEW I LOVED YOU... I just didn't have the words yet... and now... LAYING HERE WITH YOU... I do...

This is... A LOVE THAT WILL LAST... quiet... steady... real...

WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN... he feels every part of her... wants to show her HOW DEEP IS his LOVE... there is ALL THIS LOVE... between us...

I SWEAR, I ADORE YOU... I'm STUCK ON YOU... ALWAYS AND FOREVER...
(EVERYTHING I DO) I DO IT FOR YOU.

I want to love you with a SLOW HAND... learning you... without rushing... and sometimes... just get lost... like I JUST DIED IN YOUR ARMS...

When you look at me... SAY MY NAME... you're KILLING ME SOFTLY WITH YOUR VOICE...

You're ONE IN A MILLION YOU... and I'M STONE IN LOVE with you This FOOLISH HEART was BORN TO LOVE YOU... LONGER... deeper...

ALL OF ME , CAN LOVE YOU LIKE THAT with no hesitation...

WE ARE IN LOVE... always will be... I want to give you A SUNDAY KIND OF LOVE... soft... simple... TO MAKE YOU FEEL MY LOVE...

with OPEN ARMS... FOREVER YOU AND ME... and in those quiet moments... when it's just us... nothing else in the world getting in the way...

LET'S STAY TOGETHER... right here... like this...

just holding you... feeling you breathe...

I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF YOUR LOVE... A little bit of me and a whole lot of you were the RECIPE FOR LOVE...

...

Tricia... Zack wanted to dedicate this song to you...

WHEN I'M WITH YOU – Sherif WE START A FAMILY 25 songs seems so short for something this big. This part is hard for me. Water still gets in my eyes.

The 1st song here-DANNY'S SONG... funny how a song can change meaning over time. What it meant to me growing up... and what it meant the day I became a dad.

That was a hard day for you. I was so young, so helpless, not knowing what to do, just wanting to take away the pain you were going through. The hours kept passing... and then everything changed when our son was born. I SAW GOD that day.

They gave you so few seconds with him before they took him away. Just a few moments, but I remember every one of them. I was in awe of you—what you did, how you did it, your strength. We kissed... the first time as parents.

Then I walked into the waiting room. Everyone was there. I was so overwhelmed all I could say was, “we have a BOY.” You didn't get to see their faces, but there was so much love for you in that room.

I remember the first time I saw you holding Devin... BABY MINE. That boy taught us so much, but you didn't need to learn how to be THE MOTHER—you already were. Watching you with each of them, you just knew what they needed. Being a father changed me. It gave me a different understanding of love, of parents. I could finally feel it... A LOVE WITHOUT END, AMEN.

We were a fun little family. I still didn't know how I was going to make it all work. Tricia, I've always wanted to provide for you and the kids, whatever was needed. That's how I knew how to show love. Maybe not always what you needed, but that's where my heart was every day I left

for work—gladly leaving for provide for you, while wishing I was home.

I remember you driving out to Lil Mort when I had to work late, bringing me dinner. Even if it was just 30 minutes, seeing you and Devin gave me everything I needed to get through the rest of the night. Or working all day then chucking freight at consolidated and not getting home until 1 or 2 . You were always there, awake waiting for me. Who knew... those were the easy days.

Then came Ryan. What a character. Those two boys... what a duo. I can still hear them—Devin with that husky little voice, “dad... dad... you gotta use the destructions,” and Ryan with that smile in his voice. He made me feel like a million dollars when I walked through the door.

When you're young, you've got all the energy in the world and about the same amount of wisdom. You think you've got time, the whole world in front of you, and you don't even realize... **YOU'RE GONNA MISS THIS.**

Remember those nights—you sitting on the couch laughing at us, me and the boys stomping around the living room, running like trains, playing Daddy Robot. Those were great days. Thank you for giving me those.

I worried sometimes they'd be **ANYTHING LIKE ME**, but you raised them right. You taught them what matters, how to be a **SIMPLE MAN**, and that's carried them into who they are today.

MY LITTLE GIRL... Amanda, Boom-ba-latley. That was **THE BEST DAY**. You finally got your **DAUGHTER**, and you loved every second of it—the dresses, the outfits, her smile, that energy. I still see her standing there watching **CINDERELLA**, reciting every word. I tried to put a game on, and you just stood there in the kitchen watching it play out. She saw the commercial, turned back to me and said, “Please Daddy.” You just laughed—“oh, you're screwed”—and walked away. She had me figured out from that moment on. “Daddy... we need donuts.”

I still laugh thinking about coming home and seeing you sitting on the floor surrounded by takeout containers after months of not being able to eat. You just smiled, “you want some Chinese food?” I think you ordered the whole menu. That laugh... that joy... I can still see it.

Gidget... she was so small. I remember sitting there holding her in the palm of my hand. She fit. I just stared at her. Gidget. Another one with fire in her—funny, smart, sharp. You took her to dance, ballet, gave so much of your time, even decorating for the Nutcracker so we could make it

work. I got to go on stage with her—I HOPE YOU DANCE. Moms do all the work, dads just get the credit. But I know this—in your DAUGHTERS’ EYES, you’re everything. MY WISH is that you could see what they see... how much they want to be LIKE MY MOTHER DOES.

They’ll look back one day at everything you’ve done—how you shaped them, lifted them, helped them become who they are—and in their lives... THERE YOU’LL BE.

I wish I could have SLOWed DOWN. You told me IT WON’T BE LIKE THIS FOR LONG, but I didn’t always see it. There are so many stories, too many to tell. You think they’ll never grow up... THEN THEY DO.

But they had you. They had us. And they learned what matters—to be HUMBLE AND KIND.

Kids, if you ever hear this... from your mom and me... YOU’LL BE IN OUR HEARTS, FOREVER NOW.

THE EARLY YEARS

That little house, what like 800 square feet, two bedrooms, four kids, I don’t know how we did it. I really don’t. But I know this—we were happy.

We didn’t have money. We didn’t have space. We had each other, had our kids and somehow that made everything feel like enough.

We didn’t have money. We didn’t have space. But we had each other... we had our kids... and somehow that made everything feel like enough.

I’ve always loved the sound of WONDERFUL TONIGHT... such a simple story of a couple who just knows each other... loves each other. A quiet night... just enjoying being together. Appreciation... admiration... the little ways you take care of each other. Those lyrics feel more real now... built through this time in our lives.

There was something special about those days... HOW SWEET IT IS (TO BE LOVED BY YOU). Just being loved by you... coming home to you... that was everything. You were MY

EVERYTHING... even if I didn't always say it right. I'd leave in the morning and spend the whole day wishing I was back home with you. You were THREE TIMES A LADY... more than I deserved... more than I understood at the time.

That house wasn't much... but you made it our home... with your love... your touch... your way of making everything feel right. Nights felt like HEAVEN... just lying there on the couch together... nothing else needed.

You always knew how to make people feel loved. You knew what mattered to me. I still remember that Christmas... you somehow found money. Bought us that CD player. I just stared at it sitting under the coffee table for weeks... couldn't even hook it up. When I could My old system wouldn't take it. And Some how you found enough money and we got a receiver at the pawn shop.

Our first CD... Little River Band.

Now every time I hear REMINISCING... or LADY... I think of you. That Christmas. The way you made something out of nothing... like you always did... for me... for all of us.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH... but when I look back at us... I see that LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL... and for everything we didn't have... we had EVERYTHING.

You've always been my PERFECT STORM... and at the same time... my PORT IN THE STORM. You could shake everything up... and calm it all down in the same breath. In a world that felt chaotic... you brought me peace.

I'd get LOST IN YOUR EYES... and it didn't matter what else was going on. JUST THE TWO OF US... pushing everything else aside... music playing low... WE'VE GOT TONIGHT... we'd just be there... WE DANCED... sometimes just swaying in the living room... CLOSE YOUR EYES... and the world would fade... we'd get LOST IN LOVE... because THAT'S THE WAY LOVE GOES.

And yeah... we always had that spark too.

You've always been MY KIND OF WOMAN... and somehow I got to be YOUR KIND OF MAN. Nights like that... NOTHING ON BUT THE RADIO... just us... that look you'd give me... like a HEAT WAVE rolling through... no rush... just finding our way back to each other.

I'd KISS YOU ALL OVER... not because I had to... because I wanted to... because I still do. We'd just FEEL LIKE MAKIN' LOVE... natural... easy... like it was always meant to be.

ANY WAY YOU WANT IT... ANY TIME, ANY PLACE... that's always been us. No matter what life looked like on the outside... we could always come back to each other. That connection has always been real and deep. Each of us choosing each other Over and Over again.

ON THE ROAD

They say it never rains in California. But the storms we weathered... those weren't the ones that nearly wrecked us.

We took our band and "migrated north." We landed somewhere that felt like paradise. The kids were happy. They loved it there.

And me... I doubled down. On what I thought I needed to do. Take care of us. Build something. Provide.

So I worked. And I traveled. A lot.

I wasn't there... and you were left holding everything up.

We were still in love. WHEN I SEE YOU SMILE... it made all of it feel worth it. The long days. The time away. The distance.

But those were hard.

I hear FAITHFULLY now... and it says everything I didn't know how to say then. What it feels like to be on the road... loving someone you're not there for.

I hoped you were DREAMING A LITTLE DREAM OF ME. But the truth is... you felt SO FAR AWAY. And I was HERE WITHOUT YOU.

I'd leave the house with purpose... trying to be the man who provided for you. But the second I was 10,000 feet in the air... I just wanted to be HOME.

I should have stayed. WATCHING AIRPLANES... instead of getting on them.

I was MISSING YOU. And I was stupid enough to think... I was the only one feeling it.

I NEVER KNEW LONELY... until I realized you were feeling it too.

Your world didn't stop when I left. It got heavier.

You were just trying to HELP ME MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT... while you were the one lying there... at 2AM... trying to BREATHE.....ALONE. with a FADING PHOTOGRAPH

I see that now.

I love you, honey. YOU ARE NOT ALONE I never meant to drift away like that... but I did.

And instead of pulling closer... we started to pull apart.

HARD TIMES

There was a time. More than one. Where the warmth between us went quiet, Where the quite became so loud. Where something that always came so naturally to us felt forced and started to feel like work. I think about that and how we were SLOW DANCING IN A BURNING ROOM...Neither one of us ready to say out loud... hey. Do you smell smoke? Or hearing the other call to alarm.

Some of that was just life getting loud. Some was misunderstandings that weren't understood or addressed, Some of it was me. I know the difference looking back. STORMY WEATHER followed us for a stretch... and I brought a good share of it in through the front door.

The truth is... I am HARD TO LOVE. I've always known that somewhere underneath everything. I just didn't say it. Didn't know how. I'm wired in a way that makes closeness

complicated pushing away while calling you near... and in these seasons where that showed up the most... you felt it. IF YOU COULD READ MY MIND in those moments... I wonder sometimes if it would've helped. If you could've seen what was going on inside me, understand it wasn't about you, understood how I need you. How I saw you...

But CHEAP IS HOW I FEEL. That's what it must have landed like from where you were standing. Without thinking about what I made you carry without realizing it. You never said those words to me. But I know. I know what it does to a person when they keep reaching and keep coming up just short.

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY. Answers seem like excuses for pain that I caused. HOW DO YOU KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING when life gets loud and the two of you stop hearing the same music. That's what some of those years felt like. Not a blowup (though we had a fair share of those). Not some dramatic moment. Just two people trying... and not quite landing in the same place, and don't know how to dance anymore.

CAN'T WE TRY — and we did, time and again. . We kept going. We'd find each other again, things would explode with heat, we would feel like us again. Then something would pull the tide back out. That silence would LINGER longer than it should have, that distance, that quiet that sat between us sometimes. WHO KNEW that two people who loved each other the way we do could still find ways to miss each other. Be in the same room and fill it up with empty space.

I didn't know that was possible before us.

YOU DON'T KNOW ME — not all of me. 40 years of being a couple, I made sure of that in some ways. Kept things locked up that I should've let you into. Told myself I was protecting you. Maybe I was protecting myself. IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME BY NOW... after everything... some of that is on me. I know it. These were FOOLISH GAMES I didn't even realize I was playing. I thought I was just surviving. Managing myself, my problems, my demons. I didn't see what it was costing us until much later. The price was too expensive.

There were moments — maybe more than moments — where you must have felt like an ALMOST LOVER to your own husband. Not fully met. Not fully found. I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE. Times I felt lost from you and poured my attention back into the things I thought I could fix and not fix the hard things that were right in front of me. I thought if I could just work harder, you would see how much I love you. When in fact what you needed was me being there, open. HOW

COULD YOU... I've asked myself that. Not about you, about me. Then there were days I wonder if you felt the distance too... I was sure that you knew how much I needed you but that I was no longer your prince charming that you wanted. I lived for years feeling SHE DOESN'T LOVE YOU.

WHAT HURTS THE MOST is never the big things. It's the quiet stuff. The moments that could have been tender and just... weren't. The misunderstandings. The things not said that should have been said. The reach that didn't get answered. AIN'T NO SUNSHINE when your gone. How is it possible to have such passion and such distance and cold between us — and it did go cold sometimes. I won't pretend it didn't. WITHOUT YOU I know exactly who I am. I've caught glimpses of that version of me. I don't like him much. ALL I WANT — even in the hardest stretches — all I wanted was for you to know I was still there. Still yours. Even when I was hard to find.

WICKED GAME. That's what love can be sometimes, even between two people who mean it. You can love someone with everything you have and still cause damage. Not tell them everything. Not being there to be their one and only. To be the one who knows and will accept them in all circumstances. Still we play the game without knowing the rules or the full cost of it. LOVE IS BLINDNESS goes both ways... not just to who someone is, but to what they need. I was blind to things I should have seen. I'D RATHER GO BLIND sometimes than look at it straight. Easier to tell myself we were okay. That you were okay. That it wasn't that serious.

But you weren't always okay. And I wasn't honest with myself about that.

UN-BREAK MY HEART... I've thought about that. About how a heart breaks quietly. Not in one crash. Just the small accumulations. Things were left unsaid that leaves you feeling ALONE AGAIN — sweetheart, I know sometimes if you felt that. Even in a full house. Even in a full life. ALONE... because I wasn't all the way present. That one stays with me more than almost anything. That we were both living in a state of pain that didn't need to happen.

HURT. I caused it. Not the kind anyone tells big stories about. The quiet kind. The kind that sits in a person without a name. That's my truth and I own it.

I CAN'T MAKE YOU LOVE ME — I understand that song differently now. Love can be much deeper, You can't will closeness into existence. You can have a deep love and lose it. You can't make LOVE OUT OF NOTHING AT ALL . You must always water it with honesty, truth.

For a stretch... ours stopped growing the way it should have. SORRY SEEMS TO BE THE HARDEST WORD... it is. Especially when you don't know where to start. When the list feels long and you're not sure sorry covers the distance. I thought about APOLOGIZE and that line about it being too late... I've thought about how close we came to that, to losing everything . How lucky we are that we didn't cross it.

LOST. For a while that's what we were. Not finished. Not gone. Just lost. Circling each other. Not quite finding the door back in. And HERE WITHOUT YOU isn't just a feeling from the road... I know what it feels like in the same house. Same room. A BROKEN WING. That's you. You kept going. Kept showing up for this family, for me, even when things between us were cracked and neither of us had the tools to fix them yet. I don't know how you did that.

I'M NOT THAT GIRL — I think you felt that sometimes. Like you'd somehow faded in my eyes. Become ordinary. When you have never been ordinary. Not one single day. And there were quiet seasons where you just kept moving forward like a MARINER'S SONG... head down, no harbor in sight, just keep going because what else do you do. DESPERADO... that's me. That man who couldn't quite be reached. Who kept the walls up and called it strength when it was fear. Why don't you come to your senses...

I'm still working on that.

But underneath all of it. Through every season. Every hard stretch. Every mile of distance between us.

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

That never moved.

BABY CAN I HOLD YOU — sometimes that's all it takes to start finding your way back. Not a perfect conversation. Not the right words finally landing. Just... can I hold you. Can we remember what this feels like. That's where it starts. Always the small thing. FIX A HEART doesn't happen all at once... you do it slowly. You earn each other back one morning at a time. One hand reaching across in the dark.

I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE BLUES — you have to go through it. There's no way around. We went through ours and I believe now that we had to, to find what we found on the other side. OH DARLING... please believe me. Please believe that underneath all of it I never stopped. That the hurt was never about love running out. MORE THAN I CAN SAY what you mean to me — more than these songs can hold, more than I've ever gotten out of my mouth right, more than I deserve.

RIGHT HERE WAITING. That's what love looks like when things get hard. You don't go anywhere. You hold the door open. You stay. PLEASE FORGIVE ME — for the distances, for the silences, that ran too longm the hurt and betrayals of trust, for every moment I was hard to reach. For all of it. Please. STAY WITH ME — that's what was underneath every hard season. Every closed door. I needed you to stay. I still need you to stay.

COME BACK TO ME. And you did. Every time. No matter how far we drifted from each other...

We always found our way back.

HOLD MY HAND. That's where it starts again. EVERY LITTLE KISS is How we build BACK AT ONE.

CHOOSING US

THE BIGEGST LIE I've ever told is that I'm great. I haven't been alive for a long time. There's a difference between loving someone and choosing them. STILL LOVING YOU has never been a question in my mind. Will you still love me? Can we build back that love, rebuild that road, so we can walk down it together holding hands and growing old together WHEN I WAS YOUR MAN and did all the things right, that was a happy time. Somewhere I got lost in what I thought you wanted from what you needed. I should have done so much differently. Put the work down sooner, said the things I was feeling instead of assuming you could feel them through the walls I was standing behind. EVERY TIME YOU GO AWAY you take a piece of me with you. There were seasons where so many pieces were gone I barely recognized myself. You saw me AT

MY WORST. The real underneath stuff. The parts I didn't show anyone, and you didn't go. I made that so much harder than it needed to be.

FALLIN'... over and over. Not the falling in love kind — we'd already done that. This was falling and catching and missing and falling again. Sometimes FALLIN' for each other, sometimes just falling. And at some point you have to decide whether you keep reaching or let the ground come up.

I'm not a perfect person. I know that better than anyone. But the reason I wanted to be better...THE REASON is you! I got up and tried again when it would have been easier not to, Instead of trying something new , or living in the status quo. — when I look back at what pulled me back, it was just you. I wanted to be that man for you. That was worthy of you, of your love, passion and loyalty. I WON'T GIVE UP on us! Feelings move, I made a decision look deep into where I've failed, Why, and how I can be who I was meant to be. That is a man who can love you in ways that will make your heart soar and your soul delight with joy! I STILL BELIEVE IN YOU — in what we are underneath all the noise — that belief never moved, it just got buried, and BLESS THE BROKEN ROAD that brought us back, every wrong turn, every hard season, every moment I didn't get it right, because all of it led here. To me finally understanding what I had.

I CHOOSE YOU. Not because everything got easy or figured out. Because when I got quiet enough to hear what I actually wanted... it was you. It has always been you.

WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEONE the way I love you he doesn't always know how to show it right. He works himself into the ground thinking that's the same as being present. He goes quiet when he should speak. He is complicated and stubborn and hard to reach. But the love doesn't go anywhere. It just waits for him to stop being afraid of it. IF NOT FOR YOU I don't know who I am —You are in everything good about me. I love you sweetheart ALWAYS.

SAY YOU WON'T LET GO — I was asking that even when I didn't have the right words for it. Please... stay. LOVE ME WHEN IM HARD T O LOVE, this love is worth the fight!. THE PROMISE underneath everything has always the same — that what we built together is worth whatever it cost to protect it. What we built is not the hurt that was a bad path, STAY my love. after everything we'd been through , it's still worth keeping! I think the best of us is still out there waiting for our creation. This love can be more amazing than anything we have ever been able to imagine. I

HOLD ME NOW —, not when everything is fixed, just now. COME TO BED, leave the weight outside at the door tonight. WE'VE GOT TONIGHT, We can be Zack and Tricia again, and we will figure out tomorrow. I won't have every answer, but I see what you need....I WANT YOU..... LET'S STAY TOGETHER.

Not because we have it all figured out. But because after everything... this is still the only place we want to be.

TURNING THE CORNER

There's a moment after the storm where you don't quite know what you are yet. Not broken. Not fixed. Just... somewhere in between. Still breathing. Still here. COMING BACK TO LIFE — that's what this felt like, slowly...coming back into something that's been missing.

I MISS YOU. Even when you were right there I missed you. Missed the easy version of us. Missed the way things felt before we let so much distance grow in between. That ache doesn't disappear just because you decided to stay. It sits with you for a while. But it does get lighter. It did. Slowly, it did.

And somewhere in that quiet... I started waking up. NEED YOU NOW isn't just three in the morning loneliness. It's the moment you realize you've been sleepwalking through the most important thing in your life. all I could think about was whether we were going to be okay. Whether I had done too much damage. HOW DO I tell you that I see it now. That I'm not on autopilot anymore. That I'm actually here... choosing to be here... choosing you. SAY SOMETHING — and you did. Tell me what you need. The silence between us had been so loud for so long... I needed to hear your voice in it again.

Here's what I know about us. GRAVITY always wins. Doesn't matter how far we drift or how wide the space gets between us... something pulls us back every time. Like gravity we can't escape each other. Like we're wired for each other and fighting it was always going to be a losing battle..

AFTER ALL we've been through — and it has been a lot — we're STILL THE ONE for each other. That Orleans song used to feel like a nice sentiment. Now it feels like a fact I had to earn the right to say. YOU'RE STILL THE ONE I want. Still the one I need/ no Still the one I choose.. Still the one I come back to. Still the one who knows me better than I know myself most days Being near your orbit FEELS LIKE HOME... sweetheart, that's you. Not a place. Not a house or a city or any of the things we built. You. Just you bring me peace. Walking back toward each other after all of that and having it feel like coming home — that's not something you can manufacture , something you fake. That's just what we are. Home for each other. Ports in the storm of life.

We never lost the fire. I want to say that plainly. Through all of it... ADDICTED TO LOVE isn't just a song for us. It's a fact of our lives. There has always been this pull between us that nothing could touch. That SEXUAL HEALING — I'm sure some who may read or listen to this will think they know. That kind of healing is a connection, a closeness, Is a salve that heals wounds, Repairs burns, Restores cuts from a sharp tounge. Finding each other in the dark — that was always there. Even when everything else was fractured. Maybe especially then. Some nights that's the thing that reminded us we were still us. Still in it. Still wanting each other.

Not just physical... MORE THAN WORDS — it was the language we learned so long ago, we could fall back on when the other ones stopped working. HOLD ME... just hold me. We always knew how to do that even when we didn't know how to talk. FALLIN' IN LOVE again in those moments. Not falling back in. Just... fresh. New and old at the same time.

SAY YOU LOVE ME. you did, and I did. I'm amazed at how in every stage of my life I think I can't need you or Love you more. THEN I do. When you say to me you love me. I often say I love you more. I don't mean my love is greater than yours. What I mean.... I love you more today than I did yesterday, last year, or that night of that soul stealing kiss on the pier. Sweetheart I cant imagine loving you more than I do in that moment. Then I do!

SHE BELIEVES IN ME. You always have. Even when I gave you every reason not to. I'D LOVE YOU TO WANT ME — not just stay, not just tolerate, actually want me... and the miracle of it... is that you do. Even after everything. You still do. And I choose you knowing that. Fully knowing that. YOU ARE THE REASON for everything I got serious about being a BETTER MAN. Not just saying it. Doing it. Looking honestly at the patterns. The ways I shut down. At what I was asking you to absorb while I called it managing. You MAKIN' ME LOOK GOOD

AGAIN —when I walk in all I need is look or touch and you make me better. I believe in the version of me I'm still becoming. Because of your faith in me.

DON'T GIVE UP ON ME — you didn't. You'd LEAVE THE LIGHT ON when I was hard to find, when I'd stumble my way home to your arms. SAVE ME — you did with your love and forgiveness that lets us build back who we were. I'LL STAND BY YOU — that's the truest thing I know how to say now. Through everything. Through the worst of it. I am here. I am yours. I will always be there for you.

There's something about the raw voice of a Chris Stapleton song that gets at the complications of love. Equal parts comfort and ache. STARTING OVER – I can be your lucky penny, and you can be my 4 leaf clover.. That's us. We're not a perfect love story. We're real one. With all the ups, downs, joys and pains. And a real love story is so much better than fairytales. Through all of it. Every season. COME RAIN OR COME SHINE — that's the vow underneath the vow. The promise to choose each other Eternally... Darling I choose you! I choose US! LET ME GO from who I was. That's what this season of life asked of both of us. Not let each other go. Let go of the version of us that was stuck. Let go of the old us And there's something freeing about that... when you finally stop white-knuckling the past and just... open your hands, embrace what we could always have been. Being there for each other in all things.

Letting go and looking inward That's when I started to actually see you again. Not the arguments. Not the distance. Not the history of hard things. Just you. The woman who has been right here through all of it. I know this new time can be hard as we build. LEAN ON ME —Let me carry. We can be the best Zack and Trish. Let me be the one to carry you over the TROUBLED WATERS— as we reach through this new phase of life. We are so BETTER TOGETHER — we just are. Worse apart. Smaller apart. Every version of me that tried to operate independently from you was a diminished version. I know that now the way I know my own name.

HAVE I TOLD YOU LATELY that I love you. I do with all my heart. I want you to know that all of the good in my life comes from your love! Know that I notice you, in so many ways. Not just the the way you move through a room. But the way you love our kids. The way you still look at me sometimes. That smile in your eyes. There is still some of that young girl inside of you.

RIGHT DOWN THE LINE — no conditions on that. No fine print. Just all the way in, all the way through, whatever comes next. That's my promise and I mean it. Honey I'm SHAMELESS

when it comes to you! My love for you. I apologize to no one for how I feel about you, how you move me, how you reached through time to my soul and made me a man I can be proud to be. Proud and worthy of being called your husband.

That's where I've landed after all of it. No walls. No managed distance. No protecting myself from how much I need you. Just wide open, completely yours. **WHERE WE'RE AT** Forty years. Who would have thought. That 40 years ago we were looking at each other as you walked down the aisle. **THE WAY YOU LOOK** still captivates me. I still stop and look at you and lose my place in the conversation. Forty years in and you still catch me off guard. **ALL ABOUT YOU** is how I feel and it has always been true. **JUST THE WAY YOU ARE** is exactly who I want. No revisions. No fine print.

YOU ARE THE BEST THING that ever happened to me. **IT'S YOU** at the end of every question, every day, every version of what comes next. **YOURS** — completely, without reservation. That's what I am. That's what I've always been.

A THOUSAND YEARS and I'd choose you! This! Every time! I want to love you **LIKE I'M GONNA LOSE YOU**. Not taking mornings for granted. Not assuming there's always more time. **PHOTOGRAPHS** — that's what forty years looks like. A collection of moments I'd give anything to freeze, and just live inside of them with you **FOREVER AND ALWAYS**.

There's **NOTHING LIKE A WOMAN** no one like you specifically. Even when I **DON'T** / can't **DANCE** my heart will always sway with you like we did when we were just kids learning how well we fit. **LOVING YOU EASY** Not effortless... It's you It's just natural. Like breathing. **YOU MAKE IT EASY** to love you and to be the man I always wanted to be.

We've built a life for forty years **FROM THE GROUND UP** Built with our hands our hearts, the fights, the forgiveness and forty years of choosing each other. **KEEP ON LOVING YOU** because there was never another option. **I WAS BORN TO LOVE YOU** and I believe that the way I believe anything. We are eternal. We knew each other before we came here. We knew this life could be hard. How hard we didn't understand. But I think we knew how much love we had for each other. I want to make this **LAST FOREVER** — that's all I want now. **ONE FRIEND** who knows all of it and stays. **HOLD ON** To us. To whatever comes next. I promise you an amazing life coming up. I can love you more. We will soar to new heights and our love will grow in ways that will blow our minds. Along the way I promise many **DARK AND VELVET NIGHTS**. Quiet. Close. In each other arms and away and protected from the world. Honey **YOU'RE THE FIRST**,

THE LAST, MY EVERYTHING.

Forty years.

Still true.

Always will be.

WHERE WE'RE GOING THE FIRST TIME EVER I SAW YOUR FACE I stammered.
Completely undone by you before I even had the words for it.

Forty years ago I stood across from you and wondered... WHEN I'M SIXTY FOUR will she still need me. Will she still love me. Now I know the answer. And it humbles me every single day.

Thinking back on our life together... REMEMBER WHEN. I see it all IN COLOR now. Every season. Every moment we laughed, cried, fought, forgave. THROUGH THE YEARS we have been there for each other in all of it. Not just the beautiful parts. All of it. And in everything... through everything...



you are MY BEST FRIEND.

I can see you from across a room and WHEN YOU SAY NOTHING AT ALL I hear you in my soul. I always have. YOU AND ME against everything the world threw at us. We held. We always held.

Honey... if I were to leave this world tomorrow... know that I WILL DIE A HAPPY MAN. Having been loved by you. Having built this life with you. I have been blessed beyond measure. If I go first I will find a bench in heaven where I can WAIT ON A WOMAN... because you have always been worth every single second of the wait.

Tricia I am STONE COLD in love with you — completely, permanently, without apology.

THESE DAYS I wake up every morning looking forward to whatever comes next. To MAKE A new MEMORY with you in all of it. HOW LONG WILL I LOVE YOU... way past sixty four. I WANNA GROW OLD WITH YOU... sitting on a porch somewhere holding hands watching the world slow down around us... it'll still be you. It will always be you.



And when people ask what true love looks like. When they want to know what an epic love story is.

They will LOOK AT US.

So what's next for you and me? FROM HERE TO ETERNITY we love. THE BEST IS YET TO COME and I'LL BE finding new ways to love you even more than I do today.

From the very beginning I CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU. That hasn't changed. It happens every day. To have you by my side... watching you GROW OLD WITH ME... that is the only wish I need granted. I choose you again without hesitation. Without condition. Without end.

I just want to be alone with you. Holding you. Smelling your hair. Feeling my pulse race the way it always has... feeling my heart SING.

How much more can I write? Over 40 pages, over 400 songs. I still can't find enough words to explain how much you mean to me. How much joy and peace you bring to me. This week we renew the vows we made forty years ago. In one of the most beautiful places on earth, and it pales next to you. This is our love story. It's clunky. It's far from perfect. But somehow... through all of it... we created something amazing.

I love you more. And I can't wait to see how much more I'll love you tomorrow.