



Tricia's Vows

OPENING / FAMILY / FOUNDATIONS



Zack, forty years ago, we stood at the beginning of a journey we could never have fully imagined. Today, we stand surrounded by the life we built together.

Not only a marriage, but a family.

Four amazing children who became extraordinary young adults and remain some of the most meaningful parts of our lives. When I look at them, I see pieces of both of us woven together.

Along the way, we were also blessed with a niece we came to love as our own daughter, someone who became woven into the heart of our family and brought even more love into our lives.

And through the years, we've been blessed with family and friends whose love, guidance, and support helped shape us and helped make this life together possible.





LOOKING BACK / OUR STORY

Our lives crossed paths so many times before we truly met. I think there were probably even more moments we'll never know about.

Life just kept pulling us toward each other.

And when we met again, we talked a little... and danced a lot.

There was something about you that felt different. I couldn't quite place it then. I was curious. You could even say intrigued.



Our love of dancing and music brought us together, but our souls belonged together long before we understood that.

I still remember the first time we swing danced together. The moment you took my hand, it felt natural, like we had somehow already done this before. Not exactly déjà vu... more like something in me recognized you. Like you were already becoming my home.

And then there was our first kiss. It felt like fireworks... the kind that leaves your heart racing and wanting more.

But it was our second kiss that changed everything.

The whole world seemed to go into slow motion in that moment. There was a connection that felt almost impossible to explain, like something larger than us





had quietly stepped into the room. It felt magical. Like our souls recognized each other.

After that, everything changed for me... and for us.

We were so young. Too young, probably, in the eyes of a lot of people. I still laugh remembering us going to get our marriage certificate and coming up thirty-five cents short. We searched the car for change, hoping somehow we had missed a coin somewhere, and finally had to drive all the way home to get the rest of the money.



I'm pretty sure the woman helping us thought we were far too young to be getting married.



But somehow... she was wrong.

We jumped into parenthood almost immediately. Our boys came along, and suddenly we were building a marriage, raising children, and learning life all at the same time.

Our days became filled with parks, baseball games, laughter, little hands pulling us in every direction, and trying to figure out adulthood while becoming parents together.

I still remember taking the boys late at night to the park in Palos Verdes, the one overlooking the lights below, where the swings felt like they carried you straight into the sky. We ran around with them, laughing and playing after ten o'clock at night. We were young parents with a lot of energy.





Then our girls came along, bringing even more love, more chaos, more beauty into our world. Suddenly there were ribbons and girly things everywhere, our hands were full, and we were completely outnumbered.

And while we were raising our family, we were also building dreams together.

I look back at all the years of hard work. Running the business together. Trade shows. Two o'clock in the morning. All-nighters. Watching your ideas, your designs, and your inventions come to life through determination and sheer persistence.



And through all those years, through the stress and responsibility and raising children, we never stopped loving each other.



Somehow, in the middle of raising children, building businesses, paying bills, and managing life, we still found ways to find each other.

We still danced together.

We still found moments to escape to the beach, the movies, or grabbing lunch together, just the two of us, where the world would quiet down for a little while and it could simply be Zach and me again.

And I still remember going with you to the Marriott and standing together on the eighteenth floor, looking out over the incredible view. It wasn't really about the building or the view itself.





It was about us. About the feeling that after all those years, I still loved being beside you, still loved experiencing life with you.

And one of the things I've always loved most about you is the way you cared for me.

I still remember one Thanksgiving when we were young and money was tight. I was pregnant and didn't have many dresses to choose from, but I put on my favorite dress and carried my favorite casserole dish with the food I had made to contribute to your family's Thanksgiving dinner.

I kept telling myself that it was enough. That everything was okay. I've always loved holidays and wanted them to feel special and meaningful.

But when I stepped onto the porch, the casserole dish slipped from my hands and shattered everywhere.



I just froze.

I turned around, sat down on the couch, and completely shut down because I couldn't believe what had just happened. It felt overwhelming in a way only little moments can feel overwhelming when you're young and trying so hard.

And you looked at me and instantly knew.

You didn't get upset. You didn't make me feel foolish. You simply took care of everything.





You cleaned up the mess, comforted me, coaxed me out of my shock, and gently reminded me that everything was going to be okay.

And somehow... you always found ways to make everything feel okay.

I still remember the night you decided we were finally going out on a real date after so much time spent just surviving life. You made reservations at Red Lobster and told them you were bringing a beautiful date.

At the time, I didn't really feel beautiful. I was still adjusting to motherhood, to my changing body, and to life moving so fast.

But I remember putting on my black pencil skirt and getting dressed up... and for the first time in a long time, I felt good about myself again.

And when we walked into the restaurant, the man at the front looked at me, looked at you, and gave you this quiet little approving thumbs-up, like he understood exactly what you meant.

But what stayed with me wasn't the compliment.

It was the way you saw me.

You made me feel beautiful, cherished, special, and loved... not just as the mother of our children, but as your woman.

And after forty years, that still means everything to me.





ADMIRATION / GROWTH / FATHERHOOD

One of the greatest gifts of our life together has been watching you grow into the man I always saw inside of you.

Even when we were young, I saw your strength, your determination, and the depth of your heart. But over the years, I've watched those qualities deepen in ways I could never have fully imagined.

Watching you become a father changed something in both of us.

I still remember seeing you hold our sons for the first time. You were playful, strong, protective, and so intentional about teaching them how to move through life as men. You wrestled with them, played hard with them, guided them, and poured yourself into raising them.



And then our girls came along... and suddenly this strong, determined man had these little girls wrapped completely around his heart.

You softened with them in the sweetest ways.

You became more nurturing, more tender, and somehow even more protective. The girls could look at you with those eyes and somehow convince you that donuts at ten o'clock at night were a perfectly reasonable idea.

And honestly... they knew exactly what they were doing.





But what I loved most was watching how deeply you loved all of our children, each in the way they uniquely needed from you.

Through fatherhood, responsibility, success, challenges, and life itself, I've watched you continue to grow into the man I always seen in you.



A man of strength.

A man of determination.

A man grounded in his love for God and Jesus.

A man who loves his family fiercely and completely.

And after all these years, I still look at you with admiration for the man you are today.





GRATITUDE

One of the things I hope you truly understand is how valuable you are to me and to our family.

Over the years, I have watched you carry burdens that would have broken many people, and yet you still continued to show up for us with strength, patience, kindness, and intention.

You may have thought you were simply doing what was expected of you, but I always saw so much more than that.

I saw your quiet resilience.

Your determination.

Your warmth.

Your goodness.

And the depth of character that defines the man you are.

Through overwhelming days, uncertain seasons, successes, failures, responsibilities, and challenges, you brought stability, peace, safety, and love into our home.

Thank you for all the sacrifices no one else saw.





Thank you for the late nights, the hard decisions, and the weight you carried so often without complaint.

Thank you for continuing to stand beside me through every season of life.

Thank you for continuing to choose us.

And thank you for continuing to choose me.

I respect you.

I value you.

I trust you.

I believe in you.

And after forty years together, I still deeply believe in us.

Please never doubt your worth or the impact you have had on my life, because you are deeply appreciated, cherished, admired, and loved more than words could ever fully express.

And no matter what life brings in the years ahead, one thing I know with absolute certainty is this:

It has always been you.

And I will never give up on us.





RENEWAL PROMISES



I'm not going to promise you perfection, because life has taught us that love is not built on perfection.

But I do promise that I will continue striving endlessly to love you with patience, devotion, honesty, and intention.

I promise to pay attention not only to the things you say, but also to the things you don't.

I promise to listen more carefully, love more deeply, and continue growing beside you through every season still ahead of us.

And I promise that I will hold your heart fiercely, carefully, and faithfully for now and all eternity.







THE DANCE / REFLECTION

When I look back over our life together, of course there were hard seasons. There were moments that tested us, stretched us, exhausted us, and changed us.

But if given the chance to live it all again, knowing everything that would come, I would still choose this life with you.

Because every challenge, every sacrifice, every joy, every ordinary moment, every late night, every tear, every laugh, every dance... led us here.

And after forty years, I can honestly say I would not trade a single step of the dance we shared together.





RING EXCHANGE

Koa wood is known for its strength, but also for its beauty that comes from time and endurance.



That reminds me of us, and especially of you.

Not because you are strong only in the obvious ways, but because of the quiet strength you've carried through our life together.

The strength to endure.

And the love that has carried us through every season.

As I place this ring on your hand, I want you to know that when I look at you, I see strength wrapped in love.





CLOSING

After everything we have lived through together, all the years, all the laughter, all the challenges, all the ordinary moments that became extraordinary because we shared them, one truth has never changed for me.

It has always been you.

You are the love of my life, my safest place, my greatest blessing, and the person I still want beside me through every season still ahead of us.

And if I had the chance to live this life all over again, with every joy and every hardship included, I would still choose you.

Again and again.

Every time.

Because my soul has always known yours.

And it always will.



