

My Eternal Love

I have wanted to say these things for many, many years but I realized that there are no words adequate enough to express everything I have to say. Today I started this journey after some fifty years of thinking about it. There may not be time to finish what I start here and it certainly will never do justice to my intent. To say love is eternal leaves the essence of these words unsatisfactory and without comprehensible meaning. I finally realized that saying nothing is unacceptable and would only lead to regret for not making the effort. It is time to at least attempt to put some context to the statement and the underlying feelings and motivation.

I don't exactly remember what day it was but I do recall the first time I saw your face, a face too beautiful for words. I recall the faint but beautiful smile and the first time we spoke. I recall a feeling I never experienced before and the hours we spent just talking about everything under the sun that first time we met. I knew at the instant that you were special, that my life would be forever changed by this chance encounter. For the first time I felt like I really cared deeply about someone and the same someone cared about me in ways I could not imagine before. You were so different than the giggling silly girls of your age. You were graceful, elegant, mature, sophisticated, regal and stunningly exquisite in every way, just as brilliant as beautiful. If this is love at first sight, and I am convinced it is, I consider myself blessed for having experienced it. I fondly recall the joy of seeing you on each and every occasion, the excitement of holding you in my arms, the pleasure of getting a whiff of your fragrance, the warm glow embracing you and kissing your lips. Our life was exciting and magical. I wanted to share a lifetime with you. I wanted you to have our children. We travelled on day trips as often as we had a chance to. I am sure we felt as one and the invincibility of youth, had me at least, convinced that as long as we were together nothing could ever go wrong; nothing bad could ever happen to us. We shared magic moments known only to blossoming lovers. We shared the most intimate of secrets. I recall the Sunday roast beef dinners at your house as well as some special occasions we shared. Mother's Day 1964 canoeing at the Island, your sixteenth birthday dinner at the Old Mill, the day we watched the sunrise at Niagara Falls (parked across the road at the brink), telling you about the JFK assassination are perhaps the most vivid but many magic moments come popping back from time to time. My Fair Lady always reminds me of you, your grace and elegance. To this day I can't listen to a love song without thinking about you, about us. Music in our time was special (Put your head on my shoulder, You are my destiny, Anything that's part of you, The first time ever I saw your face, Where do I begin, Somewhere my love) but now and then new songs, like "The most beautiful girl", "I will always love you" come along to rekindle the undying spirit. Our time was long before computers, cell phones, GPS, texting, sexting or even colour television but it was a memorable and joyous time all the same.

"A dream never dies, just the dreamer" may be true but love never dies, it lives for ever and gets passed from generation to generation. My life was forever changed from knowing you. You inspired me to become a better person. I drifted along doing what was necessary till you gave my life meaning and a purpose. I made a commitment to provide for you in a way that would not only be comfortable but make you proud of me. Time came for you to attend university which we knew would challenge our mutual commitment.

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Before I even knew of the quote: ***“If you love somebody, let them go, for if they return, they were always yours. If they don't, they never were.”*** — Kahlil Gibran; I realised the truth of the statement.

While apprehensive I was never really in doubt about our commitment. We discussed the challenges, dangers and opportunities, but I made a commitment to you that regardless how things unfold I would always be there for you till I knew you made the right decision, were you to embark on new adventures relationship(s). Your adventures resulted in finding a new love and eventually married and had your own family. Despite our understandings I found it really hard to let go! I stayed true to my word and did not marry (for some ten years) till I was sure you were in the forever relationship you wanted.

What would I change given the chance? Nothing! It would have been selfish and unjust to try to hang on any harder than I tried. You deserved to be free to make choices, choices in your own best interest. As painful as it was I have never harboured ill feelings toward you, wishing you all the happiness and wonderful things life can offer. I became a better person for having known you and I have always been grateful for the time we had together. I learned that no matter how much you love someone, what truly counts is how much you love each other. Letting go was extremely hard and painful but I knew if you settled for less than what you truly wanted it would make our lives less than the perfect utopian relationship we dreamt of having. If I ever felt that I kept you from fulfilling your dreams, reaching your potential, I would have been devastated. Perhaps life unfolded as it should. My eternal love remembering you as the magnificent lady you were and our relationship never deteriorating like so many do. I wonder if from time to time you recall the plans and dreams we had and reminisce as I do so often about what might have been. I wonder if you cherish and fondly recall our brief time together as much as I do. I know I will love you as long as I live and perhaps much, much longer! I am sure you know that nobody has ever loved you more than I have, for all these years. To this day memories of you, of us, fills me with joy and youthful exuberance beyond comprehension.

If I ever ran into you by chance, what would I say? What would I do? What would you say? What would you do? I know my heart would start racing and my knees would weaken and I would have the urge to run to you and embrace you one more time. I wish we could meet. I would really like to know your dreams came true and you had a wonderful fulfilling life. If I ever won big on the lottery I would seek you out and offer you the opportunity to have a get together just to discuss how life has been. Having a chance to see you again would be like winning the lottery. I can only hope and dream that one day before I go we will meet again. The scene where Dr. Zhivago sees Lara, the love of his life but can't get to her one last time often pops into my mind. I must admit I did not truly understand the movie when we saw it together but I have always loved it and the beautiful Lara's Theme which always reminds me of you as does Casablanca and As Time Goes By and of course My Fair Lady with Audrey Hepburn your lookalike always stir treasured memories. I know there is no going back to the way things were under any circumstances, even if we were free to commit again. Perhaps memories are best left as beautiful memories and dreams of a love that was and will forever be.

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Memories are precious and everlasting

I am proud to have known you. You brought the greatest joy and the greatest sadness to my life. Being with you, just anticipating seeing you again brought immeasurable joy. It took many, many years to get over losing you, but I never stopped loving you. The world has been very empty without you. I still feel that youthful love and excitement when I remember your smile or that look, the special and arousing look I have never seen again but will never forget. I can recall that special feeling of holding you in my arms on the dance floor, the touch of your hand, the fragrance of your perfume. We shared so many firsts in our young lives. If you live three lifetimes you will never be loved as much as I have loved you throughout the years but I recognise the reality that it is not just how much I love you but how much of that love is mutual that makes eternal magic between two souls. I still wonder if you think of me now and then, recalling how special our relationship was. I wonder if you feel me thinking about you. I wonder if you are thinking about me, about us as often as I do, to this day.

I have seen some of the most amazing sights in the world and always wished we could have shared the beauty of everything forever. I wondered how our children would turn out. I wish I could have shared my successes with you and thrilled at your accomplishments. I will forever consider you one of the wonders of this world and you will forever remain my eternal love.