

Fabric of Love



LOVE

Love is when he's standing there
And I open my sleepy eyes from beneath
He kisses me good morning
Before I have even brushed my teeth.

Love is when he doesn't see
That my hair is really a mess
Or when he makes no comment
On my favorite worn-out dress.

It's when he tells me I am pretty
Before I put my make-up on
And when he's totally unaware
My girlish figure has long since gone.

Love is when he looks at me
With eyes full of joy and pride
In his sight I'll always be beautiful
For he loves the me deep inside.

Faye Ann Smith

LONIKA'S LIFE'S RECIPE

I once heard a chef say, "It takes two good eggs to make a perfect omelet." A good cook recognizes that if he takes one good egg and beats it in with one rotten egg, the whole omelet goes kaput. I strongly agreed with this statement. Then I applied it to my life, as it relates to relationships and myself. My experiences have taught me that a person must first develop character in him/herself before joining self with a mate. There are many areas in my life that greatly need perception. I believe this is why I am choosing to stay single in this season of my life. Redeeming this time to honor the God in me and learning how to love and accept myself, I'm making room for change and improvement in my life and in my home. I am learning how to conquer the fear that's been gripping my heart, mind and life. Well, sit back, relax and read a preview of my recipe for life. The things I will share are the things that I think makes for a perfect recipe for life and relationships.

Self-worth is an important ingredient to me. If you don't understand your value, you'll allow others to define you. Consequently, they may mistreat you because you lack confidence, self-respect, and dignity. If you don't first lovingly care for yourself how can you properly love the one you've become one with? Impossible! I'm on a personal journey right now. I am learning to love me for me. Someday, I'll be able to share my life and love with someone special once all the ingredients are put together.

The second "egg" needed in this recipe is to make my home a palace – a sanctuary and welcoming haven of rest for my children, myself, and my future king. I must set the atmosphere! I must decorate and fill my home with love, praise and cleanliness. I am trying to abandon my "clutter bug" bad habits. If things are unorganized and chaotic in the home, everyone that dwells therein is affected. They will begin to feel and act out the chaos in their spirits. This

negatively disrupts the whole house. That is why I am pressing to perfect this area in my life.

The last but foremost pursuit is overcoming my fears of creativity. This is a giant endeavor with me, because fear contradicts my faith. I have many fears that have crippled and robbed me of so many things; for example, getting my G.E.D. Fear has made me think that I didn't need it. I didn't have to go after it. Fear made me give in and to accept my situation as it is. That is a lie!! The Word of God clearly tells me differently. I have consciously made a decision to believe in faith, rather than succumbing to fear. I believe that God will see me through. I know that overcoming this will place me in position to receive a brighter future. Little by little, faith is making me believe that I am becoming a better and stronger ME. With faith, I can believe that my future mate and I will be able to overcome the storms that will come our way. As one, we can look fear in the face and say that we will not be moved! We will stand on the truth of the Word of God.

There you have the recipe for my life. I am surrendered to God. By His grace, I believe that I can and will overcome all my imperfections. I'm trusting that God is building His Son's character in me. I am under construction at the moment. He is at work, perfecting my recipe for life through heart and mind. As I follow His mixing of the ingredients, I know that He is making me to be the woman I was designed to be. He is finishing the recipe to perfect me to be the perfect match to the man that He has for me.

Lonika Thomas

A MILLION REASONS

Here is a million kisses
for all the times I should have kissed you and didn't.
Here is a million sorry's
for all the times I was wrong and didn't admit it.
Here is a million "You're So Beautiful's"
for all the times you looked good and I didn't say so.
Here is a million hugs
for all the times I should have held you and I couldn't.
Here is a million "Thank You's"
for all the times I should have said it and wouldn't.
Here is a million dollars
for all the things I wanted to buy you, but couldn't afford.
Here is a million "I Love You's"
because I really do.

Joshua Bourne

INFLUENCED BY SILENCE

Where do you find inspiration? Is it in the changing seasons, your favorite teacher, or perhaps a religion? Inspiration is not something that can be taught. It is a personal feeling that comes from deep inside. Maybe it makes your heart melt, helps you with the toughest situations, or helps when you are stressed. As for myself, inspiration comes from someone I have only known for two years. He not only gives me inspiration but also builds my inner strength.

He is not a brother, a husband, or a father. It is my son, Eden. That's right, a person who can't even count to five or speak full sentences gives me more inspiration than anything or anyone. You may say that is bizarre or unprofessional. I say that you are wrong. The look in his blue-green eyes and his tiny gestures give it all away. Eden has inspired me to further my education in Cosmetology (my dream career) and has given me a new perspective on life. All in all, it is because of Eden that I have the energy to get up in the morning.

Is it not amazing that some people do not really face life until it is thrown at them? It took me eight hours in the labor and delivery room to grab life by the horns. Before I thought inspiration was puppy love, freedom, and free will. Of course that was in my more immature days as a teenager. Perhaps it was because I gave birth to him at 17 and took on a great responsibility that made me realize what inspiration really was. It is a feeling that is overwhelmingly unable to be described in words.

Unconditional love is, in my opinion, a necessity of inspiration. I can't help but love Eden even when he spills Kool-Aid on the carpet, pulls out all my pots and pans, and refuses to eat his Happy Meal until he gets the toy. You see, he inspires me because he can't criticize, opionate, or give me advice. Being criticized or judged draws me further away

from someone. Therefore, and I am not sure why, but Eden's way of expressions inspires me to make lifelong decisions. My son helps me make the right choices in my personal life. Those of you that have a child (ren) can relate to my reasoning.

Some may wonder, what does it actually take to influence someone? Why a two-year old? To me, an influence is your best friend. They act as companion who is there through thick and thin, rich or poor. They guide and give you awesome advice whether by words or gestures. I live for Eden, and he is the closest blood I have. To see the look on his face when I am about to do something regretful is enough to make even the strongest man cry. That is what it takes to be an influence and a loyal companion. Eden was there for me when I entered marriage. He has been there when I cried and when I thought all hope was lost.

The most unexpected persons or things influence people. It may not make sense to others, but you know what influences you. Eden will always be my strongest influence. It has taken me this long to realize that an influence is not your clique in school or the people that make decisions for you. It is Eden, who looks at me with that face. That adorable face saying without words, "Now, mom, you know that's not what you want!" I will always love him unconditionally. I am stress free, and there is always a good head on my shoulders when I listen to him. I listen to his gestures, his looks, and his thoughts. Eden is without any doubt, my number one fan. He is my loyal, trustworthy influence.

Kaemi Fowler

MISSING YOU

The glass is full, the wine is fine, but I can't seem to get you
off my mind.
I stand here with my drink in hand, happy for another new
year, but my heart is back to when you and I stood here
together, as one.
A tear quietly falls down my cheek as I raise my glass to
speak.
I wish I had you here with me this night, to keep.
Instead you are lying in the snowy ground below.
I tell you how much I love you and how much I miss you and
how much I long to be with you.
I tell you all about our children and grandchildren.
I tell you about our drafty old house and how much I enjoy
the roses we planted together.
Then I stop and listen to the blowing wind, as if you are
hidden there within.
Oh, how I long to hear your voice once more, even if it is
only in the wind.

Kathy L. Boyd

HEARTBREAK

Have you ever been in love, but they didn't love you?
Have you ever felt like crying just to see what they would do?
Have you ever looked into their soul and said a little prayer?
Have you ever looked into their heart and wished that you
were there?
Have you ever looked into their eyes when the lights were
way down low?
Never fall in love, my friend, for this is what I know:
In the end, the very end, your heart will break in two.
All this and more I know, my friend, 'cause I'm in love with
you.

Dawn Powell

WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW

They all say if it's meant to be
It will find a way.
I say if it finds a way, then it probably
Wasn't meant to be for me.
Some say I'll never fit into a world full
Of love and trust.
Others say sooner or later I'll give in to
Lust.

But what they don't know,
What they can't see,
Is that everything I am reflects onto me.
Some say I'm nice and kind.
Others say I'm a little behind the time.
What they don't know
Is what makes me me.

One group invites me to stay and play.
While the other group says, "Just stay away."
But what they don't know,
What they can't see,
Is how my heart truly does bleed.
It bleeds for love.
It yearns for trust,
It looks above, yet tears for lust.

For how many years should I wait to wed?
And let no man take me or offer his bed.
But have I lusted?
"Of course," I say.
But what they see
May not always be.
And what I feel may not always be felt.
And what I hear may not always be heard.

What they don't know
Has been lost in the rain.
For in their hearts, they feel no pain.
They don't have love;
They know no trust.
All they have
Is their body's lust.

April Spangler

SOUL MATES

I met him years ago through a friend at a party. I was in the kitchen when I heard someone say, "He's here," and I wondered, who?

Then he walked in and I knew as soon as I saw him. He's the one. Tall with broad shoulders, dark chocolate with a slow easy smile. He was wearing sunglasses but I knew when he took them off, I'd be hooked.

Our eyes met and held each other's gaze and something passed unspoken between us. Imagine all this, before anyone even introduced us. Well, I just didn't know how to act, I mean, what to do.

I just knew that I couldn't take my eyes off of him. I'm trapped by feelings of overwhelming helplessness. Knowing that I would be his and he would be mine, together for always as Soul mates. . .

Henrietta Young

TRAPPED

Maybe I was wrong
To turn and walk away,
But maybe you were right
To say what you needed to say.

Your shield has disappeared now
I can see through you like glass,
What you say now in the present
Reminds me of the past.

You say that we have changed
That I'm too blind to see,
But underneath the pain and tears
You'll find the loving me.

You have locked away my heart
And thrown away the key,
You've trapped me in a cage from love
To benefit your need.

One day you'll open up your eyes
And see what you've done wrong
But by the time you change your ways
I'll be unlocked and gone.

Jessica R. Carroll