

My Dearest Zeal,

As we stand on the threshold of a new chapter in our lives, I find myself reflecting on the extraordinary journey that has led us to this moment. Our love story, filled with serendipity and surprises, began the day I accidentally bumped into you in eighth-grade all-star band and continued when you asked me out over the phone from Paris, urged on by your friends. Each experience has been a building block, fortifying the foundation of our love and commitment to each other. As we prepare to unite in marriage, my heart swells with awe and gratitude for the path that has unfolded, weaving our beautiful tale.

“Zeal,” the endearing nickname I’ve given you, encapsulates the fervor and enthusiasm you bring into our lives and our relationship. Your passion for the arts, relentless pursuit of perfection, and ability to delve beneath the surface have always inspired me to be the best version of myself. Falling in love, as Timothy Keller describes it, is witnessing who God is creating in your partner and yearning to be a part of that journey. I am overjoyed to be the one accompanying you as you strive for your dreams and realize your remarkable potential. You possess a fire for life and a spark of creativity that ignites my soul. I eagerly await the day when we might stand before God’s throne, and I too can proudly say, “I always knew you could be like this. I glimpsed it on earth, but now look at you!”

Throughout the past six years, we have experienced the highest highs and the lowest lows. Despite occasional separations and the tempestuous nature of our relationship at times, we’ve emerged more resilient and deeply connected than ever. Our love has been tested, and through God’s grace, we’ve found the strength to persevere. As my best friend, there is no one else with whom I’d rather share my joys, sorrows, and laughter. Your eyes, alight with excitement, and your smile, radiant in moments of happiness, have come to symbolize love for me. Your steadfast commitment, even in the face of my every weakness and strength, attests to the power of our love. Timothy Keller also writes, “To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God.” Zeal, you have granted me the gift of being wholly known and genuinely loved, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

Your unwavering faith in Christianity has illuminated my life, and I am forever thankful that you showed me what being loved by God is like, in more ways than one. As it is written in Ecclesiastes 4:12, “Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” Our marriage is not merely a union between us but a sacred covenant with God, and I am honored to have you by my side as we embark on this new chapter of our lives.

Let us recall the words of Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.” I vow to love, honor, and cherish you for the rest of my days, just as Christ loves His church. And let us also remember Proverbs 3:3-4, “Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind

them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.” Together, we shall let love and faithfulness guide us on this wondrous journey.

As we stand before God and our loved ones on our wedding day, I am reminded of the words of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” My love for you embodies these words, and I vow to cherish, honor, and love you for all the days of my life.

Yours eternally,

Simon