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## Suggested Commitment Celebration readings

### From Captain Corelli's Mandolin, by Louis De Bernieres

"Love is a temporary madness. it erupts like an earthquake and then subsides. and when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have become so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is? Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion. That is just being in love which any of us can convince ourselves we are. Love itself is what is left over when being in love has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident. Your mother and I had it, we had roots that grew towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossom had fallen from our branches we found that we were one tree and not two."

### I will be here, by Steven Curtis chapman

If in the morning when you wake,  
if the sun does not appear,  
I will be here.

If in the dark we lose sight of love,  
hold my hand and have no fear,  
I will be here.  
I will be here,  
when you feel like being quiet,  
when you need to speak your mind i will listen.  
Through the winning, losing, and trying we'll be together,  
and I will be here.

If in the morning when you wake,  
if the future is unclear,  
I will be here.

As sure as seasons were made for change,  
our lifetimes were made for years,  
I will be here.  
I will be here,  
and you can cry on my shoulder,  
when the mirror tells us we're older.  
I will hold you, to watch you grow in beauty,  
and tell you all the things you are to me.  
We'll be together and I will be here.  
I will be true to the promises I've made,  
to you and to the one who gave you to me.  
I will be here.



## A Chinese wedding poem

I want to be your friend  
for ever and ever without break or decay.  
When the hills are all flat  
and the rivers are all dry,  
when it lightens and thunders in winter,  
when it rains and snows in summer,  
when heaven and earth mingle  
not 'til then will I part from you.

## Sonnet 116, by William Shakespeare

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
admit impediments. Love is not love  
which alters when it alteration finds,  
or bends with the remover to remove:  
o no; it is an ever-fixed mark,  
that looks on tempests, and is never shaken;  
it is the star to every wandering bark,  
whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
love's not time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
within his bending sickle's compass come;  
love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
but bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
if this be error and upon me proved,  
i never writ, nor no man ever loved.

## He's not perfect, by bob Marley

He's not perfect. You aren't either, and the two of you will never be perfect. But if he can make you laugh at least once, causes you to think twice, and if he admits to being human and making mistakes, hold onto him and give him the most you can. He isn't going to quote poetry, he's not thinking about you every moment, but he will give you a part of him that he knows you could break. Don't hurt him, don't change him, and don't expect for more than he can give. Don't analyse. Smile when he makes you happy, yell when he makes you mad, and miss him when he's not there. Love hard when there is love to be had. Because perfect guys don't exist, but there's always one guy that is perfect for you.



From the words of Richard Bach I'd like to quote a few lines from his book titled "one".

An easy life doesn't teach us anything. In the end it's the learning that matters: what we've learned and how we've grown.

We can have excuses, or we can have health, love, longevity, understanding, adventure, money, happiness.

We design our lives through the power of our choices.

We are each given a block of marble when we begin a lifetime, and the tools to shape it into sculpture...

We can drag it behind us untouched, we can pound it into gravel, or we can shape it into glory.

We generate our own environment.

And from Illusions

the bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life. These are profound words and in the case of - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ who are both people who choose not always to take the easy option, but together they are sculpturing a relationship that they are both proud of, they are both committed to the growth of their family unit and committed to the relationship.

Regina Hill

When two people join together and bond their lives forever  
because they are certain they have something special that will make their  
commitment last.

This is the first act of faith.

Upon this act of faith these two people will build a life.

And as long as their determination stays with them  
this life will always be their hope, their dreams, their truth, their being, their  
inspiration,

and their source of strength.

Through their life together, they will hurt and laugh.

Together they will feel all of life's up and downs.

They will learn and grow through trial and error.

The lessons will show them the meaning of true love  
and the difference between a love that lasts  
and one that just gives up.

These two people will face each failure together and  
discover the strength to go on.

They will encourage each other's dreams and forgive each other's faults.  
Through a labour of love.



These two will become as one,  
fighting against the odds and ultimately creating  
a commitment that will grow into an infinite love.

**"Love Is Friendship Caught Fire", by Laura Hendricks**

"Love is friendship caught fire; it is quiet, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection, and makes allowances for human weaknesses. Love is content with the present, hopes for the future, and does not brood over the past. It is the day-in and day-out chronicles of irritations, problems, compromises, small disappointments, big victories, and working toward common goals. If you have love in your life, it can make up for a great many things you lack. If you do not have it, no matter what else there is, it is not enough."

**"Benediction of the Apaches"**

"Now you will feel no rain,  
For each of you will be shelter to the other.  
Now you will feel no cold,  
For each of you will be warmth to the other.  
Now there is no more loneliness for you.  
For each of you will be companion to the other.  
Now you are two bodies,  
But there is only one Life before you.  
Go now to your dwelling place,  
To enter into the days of your togetherness.  
And may your days be good and long upon the earth"

**"A History of Love", by Diane Ackerman**

"Love. What a small word we use for an idea so immense and powerful. It has altered the flow of history, calmed monsters, kindled works of art, cheered the forlorn, turned tough guys to mush, consoled the enslaved, driven strong women mad, glorified the humble, fueled national scandals, bankrupted robber barons, and made mincemeat of kings. How can love's spaciousness be conveyed in the narrow confines of one syllable? Love is an ancient delirium, a desire older than civilization, with taproots spreading into deep and mysterious days. The heart is a living museum. In each of its galleries, no matter how narrow or dimly lit, preserved forever like wondrous diatoms, are our moments of loving, and being loved."



### "On Love", by Thomas a Kempis

"Love is a mighty power, a great and complete good. Love alone lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth. It bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders all bitterness sweet and acceptable. Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God. Love flies, runs and leaps for joy. It is free and unrestrained. Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds. Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil, attempts things beyond its strength. Love sees nothing as impossible, for it feels able to achieve all things. It is strange and effective, while those who lack love faint and fail. Love is not fickle and sentimental, nor is it intent on vanities. Like a living flame and a burning torch, it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle."