

Brett's Letter to Brooke

Dear Brooke,

On our wedding day, I reflect on all that I love and adore about you.

First, you are the most thoughtful woman I have ever known. I don't just mean that you give incredible gifts to people, or that you buy me things before I even realize that I need them. Those things are true. I mean that you are always thinking about others and their needs, often before your own. You are highly attuned to how your words or actions may affect people, and take the impact on others into account when you are devising any plan of action.

Second, you are incredibly sensitive. I am not just referring to the fact that you cry when fictional characters die on TV. You have an amazing ability to put yourself in others' shoes. You feel their happiness, their sadness, their pain. And it affects you. But this makes you the most reliable and caring friend, daughter, and wife that one could ever wish to have.

Third, you are unbelievably creative. I am not simply referring to your abilities as an Art Director, and how you continue to excel professionally. That is true, of course. I am referring to your ability to find a solution to any problem. Sometimes the path is direct, sometimes less so. But your gift to explore, and often create, an answer to a challenge, is an extraordinary asset for you and for our marriage.

Fourth, you are open to growth. I am not only referring to trying new things, or going along with whatever new gross-sounding recipe I want to make. I mean that you are not afraid to continue working on becoming your best self, as difficult as that sometimes may be. When I think about the 20-year-old

that I started dating in 2010 and the woman I see before me today, I have seen incredible growth, and I hope you feel the same way about me.

Fifth, you are my chief counsel. I don't only mean that you help me pick out my clothes or guide me toward the correct heaviness of coat to wear before I go outside. I mean that you are the first one to tell me that things will be ok. You know my thought patterns better than I know my own, and you have a unique ability to address my (sometimes excessive) worries or problems that I bring to you.

Finally, you are incredibly resilient. I am not just alluding to your ability to recover after an early deficit to beat me in our old racquetball matches. I am referring to your talent for not making any excuses in life. For not letting setbacks define you. And for believing in yourself, and believing in us, when you or we run into an occasional bump in the road. I truly believe there is nothing in this world that can hold you, or us, back.

These traits are only some of the things that I love and adore about you. Simply put Brooke, you inspire me. You have made me a better man. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all that you are. Becoming your husband makes me the luckiest man in the world. And I love you more than I can express in words. Love, Brett