

## "Our 25<sup>th</sup> Year"

The floor has the constant feel of soil on my bare feet no matter how many times we vacuum,

But it's because we have three sweet, fluffy pups that make us smile multiple times per day and we can't imagine life without them.

There's a drip that's been getting worse in our bathroom sink, and sometimes the shower door won't open at all,

But it's because the time we could have spent fixing them was spent rescuing school projects that were due the next day, car shopping for cars we would never drive and packing lunches for picky eaters.

We could have been on countless trips around the world by now, but all our extra money was spent on new shoes for growing feet, field trip fees, action figures, craft supplies, movie theatre escapades, comic book conventions and Disney.

Our hair used to be dark, and our skin was vibrant, but the past 25 years have been full of times when money didn't stretch very far, worries about bullies at school weighed heavily on our hearts, new jobs began, old jobs ended, family relationships sometimes caused more tears than laughter, beautiful births and heartbreaking deaths took place, trauma came in all shapes and sizes, extreme joy gave us laugh lines, extreme sadness gave us frown lines, home construction began and home repairs came with it, new endeavors brought anxious concern, failed endeavors brought sorrow and defeat and too many times the grass seemed greener on the other side of the fence.

We used to have date night. We used to buy gifts. We used to plan more. Now our days are full, our nights are full, our minds are full, and we know that planned events often get replaced with necessary events.

As I sit here thinking about all the things we have endured together, the decisions we have made together, the tears we have shed together, I am also filled with gratitude. There is no one I would rather spend good times with than you. But it's also true that there is no one I'd rather spend bad times with than you. We have created a solid partnership over the past 25 years of marriage, one that I wouldn't trade for anything, one that I count on daily, that I am proud of and that I treasure with my whole being.

In our 26<sup>th</sup> year, I hope to add more to our marriage CV, I hope to continue to grow with you in every way, I hope we encounter some milestones, and plan for some others down the road. But if nothing new happens, I will still be content. As long as we are together, my life is complete.

I love you so much <3