

Now this is Love

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Love has been defined **throughout history** as being many things. *///* It is unexpected, scary, and patient. *///* It challenges you to be a better person, and it appreciates the smallest details the most. *///* But if you've ever been *in love*, I'm sure you'll agree that words do not do it justice.

I think a well-known singer *said it best* though, when he once sang the lyrics, "it doesn't take much, *///* when you get **enough** *///* just livin' on love." Two of the only people in my life who understood this concept that Alan Jackson sang of, *///* are my grandparents. [identification]

My grandparents have a *uniquely* special relationship; the love they have radiates brighter than a *shooting star*. I'm **sure** many people here tonight feel they have heard a love story that is **truly incomparable**, *///* but my purpose here *///* is to tell you why their love is on a whole other level.

[LOVE IS UNEXPECTED]

On a dreary day in Chicago *///* a big sister introduced her eighteen-year-old brother to a **gorgeous** sixteen-year-old girl who had **NEVER** *///* had a simple or carefree life. *///* It was *immediately instant infatuation*. [narrative]

[BUT LOVE IS SCARY]

Less than one year later, this love was tested /// when my grandpa got his orders to ship out for World War II. These two young adults **realized** that their chances of success were *tiny*; /// but that their **absolute certainty** in each other was *immense*.

Before his departure ... my grandma scraped up **barely** enough money, /// *went to a photographer*, and had a professional picture taken of herself. /// A picture my grandpa *could take with him* inside his wallet **overseas**.

He was gone for **FOUR!!!** years, and he wrote my grandma a letter /// **every ... single ... day**. Not only were these letters of “daily happenings” ... they were letters *of love and of promises*.

[AND LOVE IS PATIENT]

My grandma **hung** on to his *every word*, and **saved** *each one of his letters*.

And /// *she waited ..*
she waited ..
and ///
she waited.

Those *four years* of eternity passed, and **nothing** between them changed. The now *twenty-two-year-old man* proposed to an *even more gorgeous* *twenty-year-old woman*. /// And they soon became ... husband and wife.

[LOVE CHALLENGES YOU TO BE A BETTER PERSON]

In the years to follow they had four wonderful children, *///* and my grandpa **began** his own business. It was a day-to-day **struggle** for awhile, but seeing my grandma stand outside *///* and wave with the children ... **every morning** until his truck was *completely out of site and work-bound*, he was able to manage.

Everyone who knows my grandparents have probably heard bits and pieces of that story...

///

[BUT LOVE APPRECIATES THE SMALLEST DETAILS THE MOST]

My grandpa still puts the toothpaste on both their toothbrushes every morning.

///

My grandma still hangs a towel on the rack for my grandpa every day after he gets in the shower.

///

And they still slow dance together every night in the living room before they go to bed.

///

If that's not **even more exceptional** than true love, *I don't know what is*. But there is something I do know ... *I want a love like this for me*.

I have been LUCKY ENOUGH to have seen a love that is truly **tested** and **timeless**, and at the same time learned what is true.

Here's what is true... **TO THIS DAY, AFTER 54 YEARS,** MY
GRANDPA **STILL** HAS THAT PICTURE *///* IN HIS WALLET *///* OF
THE SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL HE FELL IN EXTRAORDINARY
LOVE WITH!!!

/// /// ///

And **TO THIS DAY,** my grandpa will **carefully** pull that *delicate and
yellowed* picture out of his wallet and ask you to look at the **most beautiful
woman in the world.**

///

Now this is love.

References

Ernst, S. (April 15, 2009). Personal Interview. (Mrs. Ernst is my aunt, and my grandparents' oldest daughter)

Jackson, A. (1994). Livin' on love [Recorded by Alan Jackson]. *Who I am* [CD]. Nashville: Arista.

Steiner, P. (April 15, 2009). Personal Interview. (Mrs. Steiner is my mom, and my grandparents' youngest daughter)

Awe and Nostalgia

brighter than a *shooting star*

It was *immediately instant infatuation*.

These two young adults **realized** that their chances of success were *tiny*; *///*
but that their **absolute certainty** in each other was *immense*.

And */// she waited ..*

she waited ..

and ///

she waited.

My grandpa still puts the toothpaste on both their toothbrushes every morning.

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My grandma still hangs a towel on the rack for my grandpa every day after he gets in the shower?

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They still slow dance together every night in the living room before they go to bed.