

## Timeless Transformations

### *Majestic Love*

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It being Kendall and Derek's 6th year wedding anniversary, I believe the greatest gift I can share is my perspective about marriage. It will be 2024 before July 16th is on a Sunday again. Dahl will be seven years old. Going on 34 years of marriage with your Dad, I can think of lots to say about marriage. Today I am inspired to focus on unconditional love and acceptance in a majestic kind of way.

There are lots of meanings for unconditional love. I like to think of it as loving someone for who they were, who they are now and who they will become in the future. I don't agree with the definition of caring about the happiness of another person without the thought of our own happiness. I believe it is far more complex. It requires that we stay focused on the bigger picture of the partnership to find ways to maintain the health of the relationship so that love can grow. I believe that is best reflected when the relationship is based on unconditional acceptance. Unconditional love can thrive when we are thoroughly accepting of one another.

We get into a relationship based on a point of time in our lives when a true love connection is made. I went back and found Kendall and Derek's wedding interviews. Click on the YouTube link to step back six years and listen to what they had to say in 2011. Both ended by saying, "I can't wait to spend my life with you."



Derek talked about how strong Kendall is. In reality, the question come down to, are you strong enough to get through anything in your relationship and are you strong enough to accept each other's behavior? How do you do that? Those are the tough questions that no one talks about.

As parents, giving your daughter's hand in marriage to her new husband is one of the most difficult experiences. All the years leading up to that day, she's had your last name and was your most immediate circle of family. It's a marker in time where she officially starts her own family. I remember me and your Dad took a nap that afternoon in our beautiful Icon hotel room, patiently waiting for the excitement to begin. We were both quiet not really knowing what to expect. I remember feeling empty knowing our family would forever be changed. Once the time came to start getting ready for the wedding and we saw Kendall in her wedding dress, she took our breath away! I will never forget standing on the terrace of the Icon penthouse suite taking this picture. There's not a time that I drive by downtown Houston and look for the red Icon penthouse canopy. It was truly majestic.

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Then after we all five were ready and we moved to that small, eloquently decorated wine room for this picture, a sense of peace came over us and we knew the wedding and the evening was going to be perfect. This is one of our best family pictures etched in my mind.



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My favorite moment of Kendall's wedding day was the time we spent in the hotel room as a family, right before we got in the car to leave for the Majestic Metro. It was majestic moment. I knew our family had changed forever. Then when we walked to the Icon car to leave for the wedding, "the swan" could barely fit. She was a bird of paradise. That scent is still my favorite today. No wonder I have it in Dahl's room!



Snapping this picture in the car right before Kendall stepped out for the wedding was special for me. I thought at the time that your sister relationship would change. I expected that you wouldn't be as close. I believe my greatest fear was that our family relationships would change. But that wasn't the case and hasn't ever been the case at all. Derek has been so accepting of our family. I am so grateful for that!



So what is a **majestic love**? I believe it is a beautiful, inspiring feeling that is based on unconditional love and acceptance. I'll do my best to describe it. It comes down to managing expectations. The only reasonable expectation that we can have for the other is they will respond and behave according to their highest values. It's not based on what one partner wants and the other doesn't. Individually, we will always do everything that supports our highest values. We may sacrifice. We may give in for a while but eventually, instinctively, we will come back to what we value most. There's no getting around it. We can't change that. That is the essence of who we are. That's the reality of the relationship.

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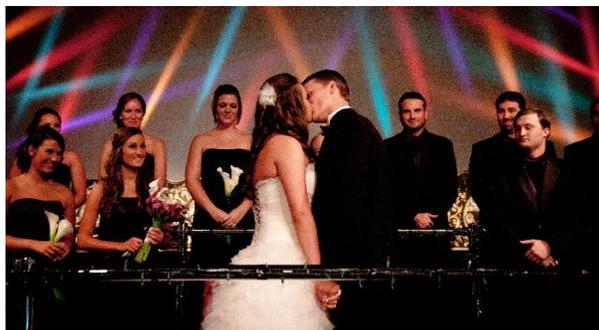
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I've talked about values on several occasions. Here is the last one that I shared: [Determining Your Core Values](#). For example, my core values are inspiration, wellness, family relationships, career success, fun, and family generations. These are the things that are most important to me. If your dad asks me to sacrifice those things, I start to feel uneasy. The tension increases. I start to feel challenged. Or, the second that he's not around, I revert back to the things that I value, e.g. go on a run, work on inspirational messages and read inspiration books, spend time with Mom, focus on my career, etc. I probably won't work in the yard or do housework because those are not my highest values. Why should your Dad expect me to do those things? Why be something that I'm not?

What happens when the other in the relationship finds out? We have to come back around and face the consequences. Then that's where we get into the whole idea of apologizing. For example, I know I should have cleaned up the house but I didn't. Or, I know I should have painted the cabana poles but I didn't. Why do we have to apologize? Why do we have to apologize for being ourselves? If the other person feels they need an apology, their feeling is based on their values. Their values are their values. You girls know mine and your Dad's relationship. How many times have we argued because I didn't do what he wanted me to do? Or, he didn't do what I wanted him to do. Or, he didn't agree with how I want to spend my time and our money? I can tell you.... more time than you girls even know.

This is the crux of this inspiration. This is where the **majestic love** comes in. Here's where the unconditional love and acceptance can thrive. You have to link your values. How do my values support your Dad's values? How does your Dad's values support my values? We can manage expectations when we understand how one another's values impact their behavior. For example, wellness isn't your Dad's highest value. As much as I would like him to get up and go for a walk or do something athletic with me, he's not going to do it because he doesn't value wellness like I do. Why should I expect him to? It is my responsibility to manage my expectations of him and accept him for who he is. I can think of a dozen examples. You probably can too with your relationships, regardless of the type of relationship. That doesn't mean that I can't encourage him to see the value of my values but I can't expect him to value my personal values. I just can't. Forcing him to do it just won't work. It creates an uninspiring atmosphere and **majestic love** turns mediocre. I love and respect him the most when he says, I know how important "xyz" is to you so that's how I want you to spend your time today. Wow, what a breath of fresh air! That's inspiring! Allowing the other person to be who they are and forming a relationship that causes you to be in a place of connection, a place of peace, and a place of beauty is a **majestic love**.

Everyone wants to know what the magic formula is for being in love. In a 34 year relationship others ask, what do I need to do? If I do this, then this, then the relationship will be better. The formula is to be you and accept you and know where you are going and act from your values toward that. Same for your partner. That's it. That's the formula for a **majestic love**.



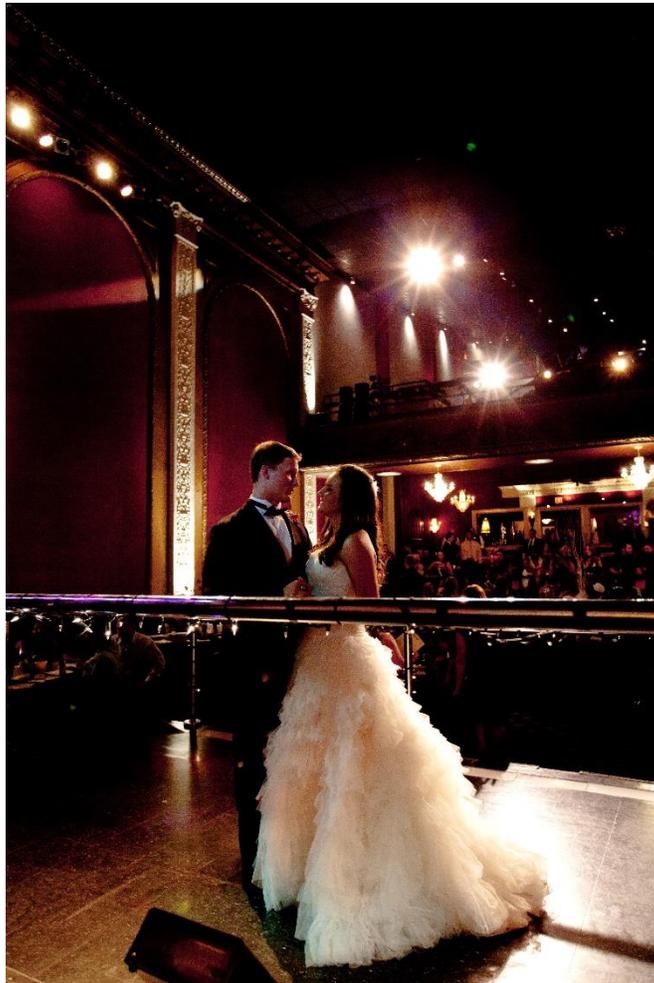
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Do you love the MAJESTIC" sign in the background? How appropriate for this inspiration.



Kendall and Derek, may your love be inspiring, unconditional and accepting!



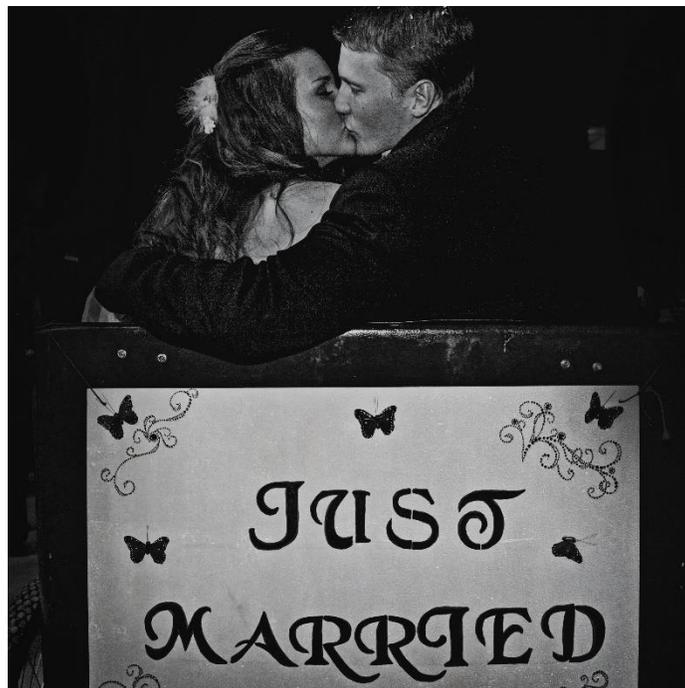
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May your love thrive and grow to set the best example of marriage and family for Dah! May you always feel like you want to spend the rest of your lives with each other!



May your relationship forever be a **Majestic Love!**



I love you more than all the wedding anniversaries combined in the generations of our past and future families - Love Mom!