

*Remarks given to Renaissance Weekend  
Monterey, California Labor Day Weekend 2005  
Aspen Institute, Labor Day Weekend, 2008*

## **LAST WORDS**

### **THESE THINGS I KNOW**

Parents are people who believe in you for no actual reason.

Friends are people that love you, that don't have to

When my daughters were 15 they thought I was stupid. I depended on that. That way I could move stealthily through their lives in an ambush mode, moving about freely.

Be very careful...not all the crazies are locked up in the nut-house.

Don't go looking for a dove in a buzzard's nest

When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.

Women are like apples on a tree. The best ones are at the top. You just have to wait for the man who is brave enough to climb to the top of the tree.

When you are blue, wear red

Be generous with praise and careful with criticism

Know the rules so you know which ones to break

Don't personalize things that are not personal

Dance like no one is watching

Work like you don't need the money

As often as possible, skip rather than walk

Define your own life, do not others write your script

Whatever someone has done to you in the past has not power over the present

What you believe has more power than what you dream or wish or hope

The happiness you feel is in direct proportion to the love you give

Love does not hurt. It feels really good

Every day brings a chance to start over

Today's mighty Oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground

The higher you climb up the tree the more people can see your ass

When you are standing in a long line, turn around and look at those people behind you and you will feel better.

Every woman should have one old love she can imagine going back to and one who reminds her how far she has come.

Make sure you have a past juicy enough that you look forward to retelling it in old age.

When you want to play ball but no one throws you the ball, just take the ball and run with it.

When you are hunting elephants don't get distracted chasing rabbits

You need one friend that makes you laugh and one that lets you cry.

You should know how to quit a job, break up with a lover, when to try harder and when to walk away.

Know how to live alone even if you don't want to.

Messy bed means messy head

Men make women messy

Know who you can trust, whom you can't, and why you shouldn't take it personally.

Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.

At the Drive Through tell them it's TO GO

It's important to spend more time on how you see than how you look.

Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.

At least five people in this world would die for you

Dream Loud

Thank you notes on paper, please

Every night someone thinks of you before going to sleep.

Don't ever suppress a laugh or smile, it causes heart disease.

Laugh as loudly as you want including in libraries and museums.

When someone is committing suicide, you do not have to kill them

You mean the world to someone

Acknowledge the beauty and wonder that is in everyone while at the same time staying centered in yourself.

Silence is the best substitute for brains

Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.

When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good comes from it.

The truth is always an option

Don't ever disbelieve a compliment, fight your instincts and believe it.

When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look: you most likely turned your back on the world.

Be aware of your power so that you can wield it with purpose and a good heart.

Don't ever disbelieve someone who says "I love you", it's too hard to come by and it just might be true.

Work as hard on your dreams as you do on your work.

Don't be too sad for too long, you can get stuck there.

Widen your view and shorten your anger.

Don't ever use the word "but" in an apology.

Spread magic wherever possible, love whenever possible.

Don't use the words "should" or "shouldn't" in a sentence with the words, "feel", "think", or "be".

Stop buying so many shampoos, looking for the perfect hair care product.

Don't finish reading a book if you don't like it.

Keep trying to lose weight but see how your body is beautiful

Don't think in small numbers.

When you make a business call and the secretary says "will he know what this is in regard to?" tell her "not unless he is clairvoyant!" Or if he is a real pain say "the paternity suit!"

There are times in life that are like a bad shoe season. You just have to let them pass and hope for better styles next year..

When someone shows you themselves, believe them, the first time.

If people tell you that “you are a dreamer, not in touch with reality, and too optimistic”, tell them to go away. The world needs you, so be there.