

*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

Don't take yourself too seriously, no one else does.

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

Never Accept NO from somebody that doesn't have the authority to say
YES

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

Be the kind of woman that when your feet hit the ground each morning, the
devil says, oh Crap, she's up.

People will forgot what you said, what you did, but people will never forget
how you made them feel

Achievement brings its own anticlimax

Know that you are a creation of God, but so is everyone and everything else

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

Make peace with the past so you won't spoil the present

Courage is the most important of all virtues, because you can't practice the other virtues without courage

When someone pushes your buttons, it's up to you whether they are activated

Be generous with praise and careful with criticism

Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.

Be careful of the toes you step on today, they may be connected to the ass that you have to kiss tomorrow.

No matter how you feel, get up, dress up, and show up

Make sure your best friend knows to clear your computer file when you die

There is nothing worse than the moment during an argument when you realize you are wrong

Bad decisions make good stories

Know the rules so you know which ones to break

Every person is born with talent

Don't personalize things that are not personal

Do not be bothered by the inconsequential

Be happy for no reason

Demand with all your might what you desire

Dance like no one is watching

Work like you don't need the money

Define your own life, do not let 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

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.

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.

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.

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 you.

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".

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.