

Richard's wedding vows to Barbara

So, Barbara Rose Beitch. Here we stand, at a climax of a whirlwind romance in the wake of separate griefs that we once feared would shape the remainder of our separate lives. But we met. How many times have we said, with awe, how lucky we are to have found each other and to get the chance to fashion a new life that will keep us flourishing as we age together.

So much good, both practical and intangible, already exists in our new lives that it's hard to know what else to vow. I can say this. Everything already good between us will continue only more so. I will continue to work on myself and with you to be a good partner. I will continue to work with you to pursue a life that keeps our minds and bodies active and sharp. I will continue to seek to be supportive of your needs, anxieties, fears, desires, aspirations. When, inevitably, I don't get all of that right, I will continue to own my mistakes.

I will learn to love you more and better as the days and years pass. We both deserve no less. I place my love and life in your powerful hands.

–June 3, 2012