

Redeeming vows Latest Edition

Redeeming vows is a profound concept that resonates deeply within many spiritual, religious, and personal development contexts. Whether these vows are made during sacred ceremonies, personal commitments, or life promises, the act of redeeming vows signifies a journey toward integrity, reconciliation, and inner peace. This article explores the significance of redeeming vows, the processes involved, and practical steps to fulfill and restore the promises once made, ensuring that one's commitments align with their true values and purpose.

Understanding the Concept of Redeeming Vows

What Are Vows?

Vows are solemn promises or commitments made by individuals, often within religious, cultural, or personal frameworks. They can pertain to various aspects of life, including:

- Marriage and relationships
- Religious or spiritual commitments
- Personal growth and self-improvement
- Professional or ethical obligations

Vows serve as a declaration of intent, reflecting one's dedication to uphold certain values, responsibilities, or behaviors.

The Meaning of Redeeming Vows

To redeem vows means to honor, fulfill, and sometimes restore promises that may have been neglected, broken, or forgotten. It involves a conscious effort to realign oneself with the original intent of the vow, often after periods of lapse or difficulty. Redeeming vows is not solely about obligation but about restoring trust—both with oneself and others—and reaffirming one's commitment to living authentically.

The Importance of Redeeming Vows

Restoring Integrity and Trust

When vows are broken or overlooked, it can lead to feelings of guilt, shame, and disconnection. Redeeming vows helps rebuild trust—both internally and externally—and restores a sense of integrity

and moral standing.

Personal Growth and Spiritual Development

The process of redeeming vows often involves reflection, acknowledgment of past shortcomings, and active steps toward change. This process fosters humility, resilience, and spiritual maturity.

Strengthening Relationships

In contexts like marriage or personal commitments, redeeming vows can heal wounds and deepen bonds. It demonstrates accountability and genuine care for the promises made.

Steps to Effectively Redeem Your Vows

Redeeming vows is a deeply personal journey, but certain structured steps can guide you effectively:

1. Reflect and Acknowledge

Begin by examining the vows you have made:

- Identify which vows have been neglected or broken.
- Understand the reasons behind the lapse?was it neglect, hardship, misunderstanding, or other factors?
- Accept responsibility without self-judgment.

Reflection creates awareness, which is essential for genuine redemption.

2. Reconnect with Your Intentions

Recall the motivations and feelings that led you to make the vow:

- Revisit the significance of the promise.
- Determine whether your current actions align with your original intentions.

This step re-establishes your commitment's relevance.

3. Seek Forgiveness and Make Amends

If your broken vow has affected others, sincere apologies and reparations are vital:

- Express genuine remorse.
- Take concrete actions to repair any harm caused.

Forgiveness?both seeking and granting?is central to healing.

4. Develop a Plan for Fulfillment

Create actionable steps to honor your vows moving forward:

- Set specific, measurable goals aligned with your commitments.
- Establish accountability mechanisms, such as journaling or support groups.
- Adjust your environment or routines to support your vows.

5. Practice Consistency and Patience

Redeeming vows is often a gradual process:

- Maintain perseverance despite setbacks.
- Celebrate small victories along the way.
- Reaffirm your vows regularly to reinforce your dedication.

Common Challenges in Redeeming Vows and How to Overcome Them

While the journey to redeem vows can be fulfilling, it often presents obstacles:

1. Guilt and Self-Doubt

Overcoming feelings of inadequacy is essential:

- Practice self-compassion.
- Seek support from trusted friends, mentors, or counselors.

2. External Pressures and Distractions

External factors may hinder your progress:

- Prioritize your commitments by setting boundaries.
- Reassess your environment to minimize distractions.

3. Loss of Motivation

Maintain inspiration through:

- Reminding yourself of your core values.
- Connecting with communities or spiritual practices that reinforce your vows.

Examples of Redeeming Various Types of Vows

Marriage Vows

If you've fallen short of your marriage vows:

- Engage in honest communication with your partner.
- Seek couples' counseling if needed.
- Make new commitments to nurture your relationship.

Religious or Spiritual Vows

To redeem spiritual vows:

- Participate actively in spiritual practices.
- Seek guidance from spiritual leaders.
- Engage in acts of service aligning with your spiritual commitments.

Personal Promises

For personal vows related to self-improvement:

- Reaffirm your goals and intentions.
- Develop daily routines that support your growth.

- Track progress and celebrate milestones.

The Role of Forgiveness and Compassion in Redeeming Vows

Forgiveness, both self-forgiveness and forgiving others, plays a pivotal role:

- Helps release guilt and resentment.
- Creates space for genuine renewal.
- Encourages compassionate understanding of oneself and others.

Practicing compassion during this process fosters resilience and sustained commitment to your VOWS.

Conclusion: Embracing the Power of Redemption

Redeeming vows is a meaningful act that signifies growth, accountability, and authenticity. It is an ongoing process that requires intention, effort, and patience. By consciously choosing to honor your commitments, you not only restore trust and integrity but also cultivate inner harmony and spiritual fulfillment. Remember, every vow redeemed strengthens your character and deepens your connection with your true self and the world around you.

Whether your vows were made in sacred ceremonies or personal promises, the journey of redemption is a testament to your commitment to living a life aligned with your deepest values. Embrace this journey with humility and hope, knowing that every step taken toward redeeming your vows enriches your life and the lives of those you touch.

Redeeming vows is a profound concept rooted in the idea of restoring, honoring, and revitalizing promises made—whether those promises are personal commitments, spiritual vows, or societal obligations. When vows are broken or neglected, they can weigh heavily on individuals and communities alike. Redemption offers a pathway to healing, reaffirmation, and renewal, transforming past shortcomings into opportunities for growth and deeper connection. In this comprehensive guide, we explore the meaning of redeeming vows, the importance of honoring commitments, practical steps to restore broken vows, and how to approach this process with sincerity and integrity.

Understanding the Concept of Redeeming Vows

What Does It Mean to Redeem Vows?

At its core, redeeming vows involves restoring the integrity of promises that have been compromised or neglected. It signifies a conscious decision to acknowledge past failures, seek forgiveness or

reconciliation, and actively work toward fulfilling or reaffirming one's commitments.

Vows can be personal (such as promises made to oneself), spiritual (like marriage vows or religious commitments), or societal (such as oaths of service or loyalty). When these vows are broken, whether intentionally or unintentionally, the process of redemption becomes essential to restore trust, honor, and personal integrity.

The Significance of Vows in Personal and Cultural Contexts

Vows serve as a foundation for trust and social cohesion. They symbolize a solemn commitment, a pledge that binds individuals to their word. In many cultures and traditions, vows are sacred, often accompanied by rituals or ceremonies that underscore their importance.

When vows are redeemed, it demonstrates respect for oneself, others, and the commitments that underpin relationships and communities. It reflects humility, responsibility, and a genuine desire to make amends.

The Importance of Honoring Your Vows

Building Trust and Integrity

Honoring vows is fundamental to building trust. Whether in personal relationships, professional settings, or spiritual communities, keeping one's promises fosters reliability and respect.

Personal Growth and Self-Respect

Fulfilling vows reinforces self-discipline and integrity. Conversely, neglecting or breaking promises can lead to guilt and diminished self-esteem. Redeeming vows is a step toward self-respect and authenticity.

Restoring Relationships

Broken vows can cause hurt, misunderstandings, and mistrust. Redeeming them helps heal wounds, rebuild bonds, and restore harmony.

Why Vows Are Broken and the Need for Redemption

Common Reasons for Broken Vows

- Lack of Awareness: Sometimes, vows are broken unintentionally due to forgetfulness or neglect.

- External Circumstances: Unexpected events or hardships can interfere with commitments.
- Loss of Motivation: Over time, personal priorities may shift, leading to neglect of vows.
- Intentional Breach: In some cases, vows are broken deliberately due to change of heart or conflict.

The Ethical and Emotional Impact of Broken Vows

Breaking vows can lead to feelings of shame, guilt, and regret. It can also damage relationships and erode trust. Redemption allows individuals to confront these feelings and take responsibility.

Practical Steps to Redeem Your Vows

- Reflect Honestly on Your Vows

Begin by identifying the vows that have been broken or neglected. Reflect on:

- The original intent of the vow
- The reasons why it was broken
- The impact of the breach on yourself and others

Self-awareness is crucial before taking action.

- Acknowledge and Take Responsibility

Own your part in the broken vow. Avoid blame-shifting and accept responsibility sincerely. This step demonstrates genuine remorse and sets the foundation for redemption.

- Seek Forgiveness or Reconciliation

If others are involved, communicate openly and honestly. Ask for forgiveness where appropriate, and be willing to listen and understand their feelings. Reconciliation is often a vital component of redeeming vows.

- Make Amends and Take Corrective Action

Identify tangible ways to repair the damage caused. This might include:

- Restoring trust through consistent behavior
- Offering apologies or reparations
- Changing behaviors that led to neglect

- Reaffirm Your Commitment

Once you've addressed the breach, reaffirm your original vow or make a new commitment. This can involve:

- Rededicating yourself in a formal or informal ceremony
- Setting new goals to uphold your promise
- Incorporating accountability measures

- Practice Patience and Persistence

Redeeming vows is often an ongoing process. Be patient with yourself and others, and stay committed to living up to your promises.

Approaches to Redeeming Different Types of Vows

Personal Vows

- Recommit to self-improvement
- Set clear, achievable goals
- Establish routines or rituals that reinforce your commitments

Marriage or Relationship Vows

- Engage in open dialogue with your partner
- Attend counseling or couples therapy if needed
- Demonstrate consistent effort and honesty

Religious or Spiritual Vows

- Participate in ceremonies or rituals that reestablish your commitment

- Engage in spiritual practices that reinforce your promises
- Seek guidance from spiritual leaders or mentors

Societal or Professional Vows

- Clarify your responsibilities and standards
- Take corrective actions to fulfill obligations
- Maintain transparency and accountability

Overcoming Challenges in Redeeming Vows

Dealing with Guilt and Regret

While guilt can be motivating, excessive regret may hinder progress. Practice self-compassion and focus on constructive change.

Managing External Obstacles

Circumstances beyond your control may complicate redemption. Adapt your plans and communicate openly about challenges.

Staying Committed

Long-term commitments require perseverance. Keep your motivations clear and seek support from trusted individuals.

The Role of Forgiveness and Grace

Redemption often involves seeking forgiveness from others and oneself. Forgiveness is a powerful tool that facilitates healing and renewal. Embrace grace for yourself and others as you work through the process of redeeming vows.

Final Thoughts

Redeeming vows is a meaningful journey that embodies humility, responsibility, and a sincere desire for reconciliation and growth. Whether you're restoring a broken promise to a loved one, reaffirming spiritual commitments, or realigning with your personal values, the process demands honesty, effort, and patience. Remember, the act of redemption not only heals past wounds but also paves the way for a more authentic and fulfilling future. Embrace the opportunity to honor your commitments anew, and let your actions reflect the integrity and respect you aspire to uphold.

Question What does it mean to redeem vows in a spiritual or religious context? To redeem vows means to fulfill or honor promises or commitments made, often through prayer, actions, or ceremonies, emphasizing the importance of faithfulness and integrity in spiritual practices. How can one effectively redeem vows they have previously broken? One can redeem broken vows by sincerely repenting, seeking forgiveness, making amends if possible, and reaffirming their commitment through prayer, renewed dedication, or specific acts of service to demonstrate their sincerity. Are there specific rituals or ceremonies associated with redeeming vows in different traditions? Yes, many traditions have rituals or ceremonies to formally redeem vows, such as prayer sessions, confession, renewal ceremonies, or special offerings that symbolize the reaffirmation of one's commitments. Can vows made during difficult times be redeemed later in life? Absolutely, vows made during challenging or emotional times can be redeemed later by reflecting on their significance, seeking spiritual guidance, and taking deliberate actions to honor those promises with genuine intent. What role does community or spiritual leaders play in the process of redeeming vows? Community or spiritual leaders often provide guidance, support, and sometimes officiate ceremonies to help individuals sincerely redeem their vows, ensuring the process aligns with spiritual principles and fosters healing and commitment.

Related keywords: redemption, vows, marriage vows, wedding promises, vow renewal, commitment, reconciliation, wedding ceremonies, sacred promises, marital vows

Vows lavyrle spencer

Vows Lavyrle Spencer: A Deep Dive into the Romantic Masterpieces

In the realm of contemporary romance novels, few authors have achieved the enduring popularity and emotional resonance of Lavyrle Spencer. Renowned for her heartfelt storytelling, richly developed characters, and evocative depiction of love and commitment, Spencer's works have captivated readers worldwide. One of her most celebrated themes revolves around the concept of vows—promises made between lovers that underscore the depth of their commitment and the transformative power of love. This article explores the significance of vows in Lavyrle Spencer's novels, delving into her writing style, notable works, and the themes that make her a beloved figure in romantic literature.

Understanding Lavyrle Spencer's Literary Legacy

Who Is Lavyrle Spencer?

Lavyrle Spencer is an American author born in 1942, known primarily for her historical and contemporary romance novels. Over decades, her stories have been praised for their emotional depth, vivid settings, and complex characters. Spencer's ability to weave themes of love, faith, family, and personal growth has established her as a staple in the romance genre.

His Impact on Romance Literature

Spencer's novels often feature:

- Strong, relatable characters facing real-world challenges
- Deep exploration of emotional and spiritual bonds
- Themes of redemption, forgiveness, and enduring love

Her storytelling style combines lyrical prose with compelling narratives that resonate with readers seeking heartfelt, authentic love stories.

The Significance of Vows in Lavyrle Spencer's Novels

Vows as Symbols of Commitment

In Spencer's stories, vows are more than mere words—they are profound promises that define the characters' relationships. These vows often symbolize:

- The characters' dedication to love despite hardships
- The moral and spiritual values that underpin their union
- The journey towards healing and personal growth

Vows and Character Development

Spencer masterfully uses vows to:

- Highlight pivotal moments in the characters' lives
- Create emotional turning points
- Exemplify the themes of faith and trust

By making and honoring vows, characters often find redemption and strength, reinforcing the idea that true love involves commitment beyond words.

Notable Works Featuring Vows and Promises

Lavryle Spencer's novels often revolve around vows, either explicitly made or implicitly understood. Below are some of her most notable works where vows play a central role:

1. Morning Glory (1984)

This novel tells the story of a woman who, after a traumatic past, finds love and healing. Vows of fidelity and trust are central as the characters rebuild their lives together, emphasizing the power of promises made in the face of adversity.

2. Enchanted August (1984)

A story about women seeking renewal, where vows of friendship and support underpin their journey towards self-discovery and happiness. The novel highlights vows of loyalty and the importance of community.

3. Whitney, My Love (1984)

A sweeping historical romance where vows of loyalty, faith, and sacrifice are integral to the characters' enduring love. The protagonists' promises serve as the foundation for overcoming societal and personal obstacles.

4. Heart of the Sea (1988)

This novel explores vows of forgiveness and redemption amid a backdrop of hardship. The characters' commitment to each other and their moral vows forge a path towards healing.

Themes of Vows in Spencer's Novels

Spencer's portrayal of vows encompasses various themes that deepen the emotional impact of her stories:

1. Faith and Spirituality

Many of Spencer's characters make vows rooted in their faith—whether religious or personal. These vows often serve as moral compasses guiding their decisions and reinforcing their commitment.

2. Redemption and Second Chances

Vows frequently symbolize the characters' desire for redemption, as they vow to change, forgive, or

rebuild their lives and relationships after past mistakes.

3. Endurance Through Hardship

In Spencer's narratives, vows are tested during challenging times. The characters' ability to uphold these promises demonstrates resilience and the enduring nature of true love.

4. Family and Legacy

Some vows involve commitments to family, heritage, and future generations, emphasizing the importance of legacy and continuity.

Why Readers Connect with Vows in Spencer's Works

Readers find themselves deeply connected to the themes of vows in Spencer's novels for several reasons:

- Their portrayal of authentic emotional struggles and triumphs
- The emphasis on personal growth and moral integrity
- The depiction of vows as symbols of hope and perseverance
- Their ability to inspire readers to reflect on their own commitments and values

Spencer's storytelling reminds us that vows are more than words—they are commitments that define who we are and shape our destinies.

How to Appreciate Lavyrle Spencer's Vows-Themed Novels

If you're interested in exploring Spencer's works centered around vows and promises, consider the following tips:

- **Read in chronological order:** Many of her novels build upon themes and character arcs that develop across her bibliography.
- **Pay attention to character development:** Observe how vows influence decisions and growth.
- **Reflect on the underlying themes:** Consider how faith, redemption, and perseverance are intertwined with vows.
- **Engage with reader communities:** Join discussion groups or forums to share insights and emotional reactions.

Conclusion

Lavyrle Spencer's novels offer a profound exploration of love, faith, and commitment through the lens of vows and promises. Her storytelling weaves these themes seamlessly into compelling characters and narratives that inspire hope and resilience. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to her works, understanding the significance of vows in Spencer's stories enhances appreciation for her mastery in romantic fiction. Her novels remind us that true love is built on promises kept, and that enduring bonds require faith, dedication, and the courage to uphold one's vows no matter the challenges ahead.

Vows Lavyrle Spencer: An In-Depth Exploration of a Literary and Cultural Phenomenon

In the realm of contemporary romance literature, few authors have achieved the enduring legacy and widespread influence of Lavyrle Spencer. Her compelling narratives, richly developed characters, and heartfelt themes have captivated readers worldwide for decades. Central to her oeuvre are her vivid portrayals of vows—those sacred promises that define and shape the journeys of her protagonists. This article delves into the significance of vows within Spencer's work, examining their thematic importance, narrative function, and cultural resonance.

Understanding Lavyrle Spencer: An Overview

Biographical Background and Literary Career

Lavyrle Spencer, born in 1935 in Minnesota, emerged as a prominent figure in the American romance genre during the late 20th century. Her career began with her first novel in the early 1970s, and she quickly gained acclaim for her authentic storytelling, complex characters, and emotionally charged plots. Over the years, she published numerous bestsellers, many of which have been adapted into films or inspired spin-offs.

Spencer's writing is characterized by a keen understanding of human emotions, moral dilemmas, and the power of love and commitment. Her stories often explore themes of redemption, forgiveness, and the transformative power of vows—whether romantic, familial, or spiritual.

Thematic Focus on Vows and Promises

Vows are a recurring motif in Spencer's novels, symbolizing more than just romantic commitment; they embody personal integrity, cultural values, and moral responsibilities. Her characters' vows often serve as pivotal turning points, challenging them to confront their fears, past traumas, and societal expectations.

The Role of Vows in Spencer's Narratives

Vows as a Symbol of Commitment and Transformation

In Spencer's novels, vows frequently mark the beginning of a character's journey toward self-discovery and emotional growth. These promises—be they made at the altar, to oneself, or to loved ones—are portrayed as sacred, binding commitments that demand loyalty and sacrifice.

For example, in *Vows*, the eponymous novel, the protagonist's vow to protect her family leads her to make difficult choices that ultimately reshape her destiny. Such vows serve as catalysts for character development, pushing individuals beyond their comfort zones and fostering resilience.

Vows as a Reflection of Cultural and Moral Values

Spencer's stories often delve into the cultural context behind vows. Whether set in historical America or contemporary settings, her characters' promises are rooted in societal norms and personal ethics. This grounding lends authenticity to the narrative and emphasizes the importance of integrity.

For instance, in *Thurston House*, vows made during periods of social upheaval highlight the tension between personal desires and societal expectations. Spencer explores how vows can serve as anchors amid chaos, providing stability and a sense of purpose.

Conflict and Resolution Through Vows

A common narrative device in Spencer's work involves vows that are broken or tested, creating tension that drives the plot. Characters' struggles to uphold or redefine their promises often mirror internal conflicts and external obstacles.

In *Vows and Valor*, a story set against the backdrop of wartime, soldiers' vows to protect and serve are juxtaposed with personal promises to loved ones. The resolution of these vows underscores themes of sacrifice, honor, and redemption.

Analytical Perspectives on Vows in Spencer's Literature

Psychological Dimensions of Vows

Spencer's portrayal of vows taps into deep psychological themes. Promises made in moments of vulnerability or passion carry emotional weight, influencing characters' behavior long after they are spoken. The internal conflict arising from the tension between personal happiness and duty is a recurrent motif.

For example, in *Morning Glory*, a vow made to preserve family honor leads to emotional suppression and internal conflict. Spencer explores how such vows can both empower and imprison individuals, highlighting the complex psychology behind commitment.

Vows as a Reflection of Societal Expectations

Spencer's novels often depict vows as social constructs, shaped by cultural norms and gender roles. Women's vows to uphold family honor, men's vows to provide and protect—these societal expectations influence character decisions and story outcomes.

In *Vows of Honor*, the societal pressures faced by the protagonist influence her vow to maintain her family's reputation, even at great personal cost. Spencer critically examines how societal expectations can both uphold and undermine personal authenticity.

Vows and the Theme of Redemption

Redemption is a central theme in Spencer's work, frequently linked to vows. Characters often seek forgiveness and renewal through their promises, which serve as symbolic acts of atonement.

In *Vows of the Heart*, a character's vow to forgive a past wrong becomes the foundation for healing and reconciliation. Spencer demonstrates that vows are not merely words but commitments that can lead to spiritual and emotional renewal.

Impact and Cultural Significance of Vows in Spencer's Work

Influence on Readers and the Romance Genre

Lavylle Spencer's portrayal of vows has resonated deeply with her readership, influencing not only the romance genre but also broader cultural notions of commitment. Her emphasis on honesty, sacrifice, and moral integrity elevates vows from simple promises to profound life choices.

Many readers cite her novels as inspiring examples of the enduring power of vows, encouraging real-world reflection on personal commitments and values.

Vows in Contemporary Society

The themes explored in Spencer's novels remain relevant today, especially in discussions about marriage, fidelity, and personal integrity. Her nuanced depiction of vows underscores their importance beyond romantic relationships, extending to familial bonds, friendships, and personal convictions.

In an era where commitments can sometimes seem fleeting, Spencer's work reminds us of the enduring significance of vows rooted in genuine love and moral responsibility.

Legacy and Continuing Relevance

Although Lavyrle Spencer's peak publishing years were several decades ago, her work continues to influence contemporary writers and readers. The concept of vows as pivotal life elements remains central in modern storytelling, testament to her lasting impact.

Her novels are frequently studied for their insights into human nature, morality, and the social fabric that shapes vows. They serve as a literary mirror reflecting society's ongoing negotiation between individual desires and collective responsibilities.

Conclusion: The Enduring Power of Vows in Lavyrle Spencer's Literature

Lavyrle Spencer's exploration of vows offers a profound commentary on the human condition. Her characters' promises—whether made in moments of joy or despair—highlight the complex interplay between love, duty, morality, and personal growth. Through her storytelling, Spencer elevates vows from mere words to powerful symbols of identity and transformation.

Her work remains a testament to the idea that commitments—when made with sincerity—can serve as guiding lights through life's challenges. As readers continue to seek stories that celebrate the resilience of the human spirit, Spencer's novels stand as enduring exemplars of how vows shape and define our lives.

In summary, the concept of vows in Lavyrle Spencer's literature is multifaceted, embodying themes of love, morality, societal expectation, and redemption. Her nuanced portrayal affirms that promises are not just words but foundational elements of human relationships and personal integrity. Her legacy endures in the way she masterfully weaves these themes into compelling narratives, inspiring generations to honor their commitments and recognize the transformative power of vows.

Question What is the main plot of 'Vows' by Lavyrle Spencer? 'Vows' by Lavyrle Spencer centers around a heartfelt story of love, sacrifice, and redemption as two individuals navigate their pasts and forge a new path together through commitments and vows. Who are the main characters in 'Vows'? The novel primarily features characters such as Kate and Jamie, whose lives become intertwined through love, challenges, and the promises they make to each other. Is 'Vows' by Lavyrle Spencer a standalone novel or part of a series? 'Vows' is a standalone novel, allowing readers to enjoy the story without needing to read other books by Lavyrle Spencer beforehand. What are the common themes explored in 'Vows'? Themes in 'Vows' include love and commitment, overcoming past traumas, forgiveness, and the importance of trust and loyalty in relationships. Has 'Vows' by Lavyrle Spencer been adapted into any other media? As of now, 'Vows' has not been officially adapted into a film or television series, but it remains popular among fans of romantic fiction. What makes 'Vows' a trending book among romance readers today? Its compelling characters, emotional depth, and timeless themes of love and redemption have kept 'Vows' relevant and highly recommended among contemporary romance enthusiasts. Where can I find copies of

'Vows' by Lavyrle Spencer? You can find 'Vows' in most bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, or at your local library, often available in both print and e-book formats.

Related keywords: romance novels, Vows, Lavyrle Spencer, romantic fiction, love stories, inspirational romance, heartfelt novels, American authors, emotional storytelling, marriage themes

Read the full article online: [vows lavyrle spencer](#)