

Annie Hollingworth's Wedding Vows: Chapter 13. *A Lady's Heart and Soul: My Life as A Colored, Negro, Black, African American*

My wedding dress was a sleeveless ivory pin tuck jersey Boatneck sheath tulle three form fitted silhouette gown with sheer cut detail that graced my ankles. I held a fresh arrangement of: Ecuadorian roses, Casablanca lilies and English ivy. My ears were adorned with small freshwater ivory teardrop pearl earrings—and a soft white veil covered my face. My arms were covered with long white gloves. My black hair was heavily accented with small grey streaks resting on my shoulders, and was partially graced by a long curl hanging on each side of my face.

Annie states her Wedding Vows:

I turned slowly and faced Jimmy—I swallowed and tightly gripped his hands. “It has been said that love is the hardest thing to get right and the most difficult thing to understand. And perhaps this is why the wisest of sages aren’t able to give a prudent definition of love. Well, they should examine my heart and listen to me. I do know what love is, and it is right before me. . . . Jimmy Thomas McCoy, I can’t promise you a colorful rainbow every day of our lives, but rather, I *can* guarantee you that with every beat of my heart, I will be part of your dreams and desires, be it in happiness or sadness. You are the face of love. And right beside you is where I belong, and it is where I will stay until the last breath is siphoned from my body. You are the soft dreams I have envisioned a million times over. Jimmy, you are my miracle in body, soul, and spirit. I will be your sunshine on the rainiest days, and your moon on the darkest of nights. For I was merely a single pebble lying motionless on an isolated beach surrounded by turbulent waters, and then you found me before I was washed into the deep blue waters.” I was finding it very difficult to maintain my composure. I swallowed and inflated my lungs and then continued. “When I love you, I love everything you are, everything you have been, and everything you will be. I not only love you, but I am you. You live inside of me. I loved you yesterday, I love you today, I’ll love you tomorrow, and I’ll love you forever. Jimmy Thomas McCoy, as long as I believe in love, I will believe in you. And as long as I believe in you, I will give my love to you and share my joy with the world. For so very long, my heart had searched for a home and now it has one. And it will remain with you until it ceases to sustain life. *You*, my precious love, have shown me how to love with my heart and not just with my eyes or mind. . . . These are my solemn vows as I have stated.”

Jimmy savored and digested every word of my passionate covenant, his narrow face, pale and anxious. He was overwhelmed by my words—so much so, that I believe I could hear his heart pumping my words into his blood system. But now, it was his turn, and he would deliver all the years of stored emotions that he had harbored for me—his hands were moist and unsteady. I moved in closer, and if needed, he could lean on me for support.