

1 Commencement Address by Steve Jobs
2 at the Stanford University, 2005 (Part 2)

3 My second story is about love and loss.

4 I was lucky. I found what I loved to do
5 early in life. Woz and I started Apple in
6 my parents' garage when I was 20. We
7 worked hard, and in 10 years Apple had
8 grown from just the two of us in a garage
9 into a \$2 billion company with over 4000
10 employees. We had just released our
11 finest creation -- the Macintosh -- a year
12 earlier, and I had just turned 30. And
13 then I got fired. How can you get fired
14 from a company you started? Well, as
15 Apple grew we hired someone who I
16 thought was very talented to run the
17 company with me, and for the first year
18 or so things went well. But then our
19 visions of the future began to diverge
20 and eventually we had a falling out.
21 When we did, our Board of Directors
22 sided with him. And so at 30 I was out.
23 And very publicly out. What had been

24 the focus of my entire adult life was
25 gone, and it was devastating.

26 I really didn't know what to do for a few
27 months. I felt that I had let the previous
28 generation of entrepreneurs down -- that
29 I had dropped the baton as it was being
30 passed to me. I met with David Packard
31 and Bob Noyce and tried to apologize for
32 screwing up so badly. I was a very public
33 failure, and I even thought about running
34 away from the valley. But something
35 slowly began to dawn on me -- I still
36 loved what I did. The turn of events at
37 Apple had not changed that one bit. I
38 had been rejected, but I was still in love.
39 And so I decided to start over.

40 I didn't see it then, but it turned out that
41 getting fired from Apple was the best
42 thing that could have ever happened to
43 me. The heaviness of being successful
44 was replaced by the lightness of being a
45 beginner again, less sure about
46 everything. It freed me to enter one of

47 the most creative periods of my life.

48 During the next five years, I started a
49 company named NeXT, another
50 company named Pixar, and fell in love
51 with an amazing woman who would
52 become my wife. Pixar went on to create
53 the worlds first computer animated
54 feature film, Toy Story, and is now the
55 most successful animation studio in the
56 world. In a remarkable turn of events,
57 Apple bought NeXT, I returned to Apple,
58 and the technology we developed at
59 NeXT is at the heart of Apple's current
60 renaissance. And Laurene and I have a
61 wonderful family together.

62 I'm pretty sure none of this would have
63 happened if I hadn't been fired from
64 Apple. It was awful tasting medicine, but
65 I guess the patient needed it. Sometimes
66 life's going to hit you in the head with a
67 brick. Don't lose faith. I'm convinced that
68 the only thing that kept me going was
69 that I loved what I did. You've got to find

70 what you love. And that is as true for
71 your work as it is for your lovers. Your
72 work is going to fill a large part of your
73 life, and the only way to be truly satisfied
74 is to do what you believe is great work.
75 And the only way to do great work is to
76 love what you do. If you haven't found it
77 yet, keep looking. And don't settle! As
78 with all matters of the heart, you'll know
79 when you find it. And, like any great
80 relationship, it just gets better and better
81 as the years roll on. So keep looking!
82 Don't settle!