Dear Corrie,

**Foundation**

I want to start by saying that you were made with the X chromosomes of two phenomenal women. One being your mother, who is an independent, intellectual genius. And the other, my beloved late mother, who was in her own right, extremely well read, mentally strong and an All-State track star for her high school. So your genetic foundation has placed you in a unique position to succeed in whatever you choose to do in life.

**The Journey**

The diverse backgrounds that your mother and I bring to your life will give you endless options of knowledge and wisdom as you face a plethora of challenges throughout your life. Our polar opposite experiences once again place you in a very unique and distinct position that should only be advantageous to you throughout your life journey. But not only are our backgrounds very different, our visions for education, happiness and personal growth are very similar. This world is very complicated and there will be confusion throughout your journey. There is a lot of deception, hate, greed and jealousy in this world. But there is also good, which at times will seem gravely overshadowed by the bad. You must take the good that you see and experience and latch on to it as you charter through the bad. My hope is to cut your learning curve as much as possible, to save you from as much angst, frustration and pain as possible. There will be times where you may not trust our judgment and defy our guidance, but I ask that you learn from every mistake that we cannot prevent.

**Company**

One of the biggest pieces of advice I can give you is to ALWAYS be conscious of the company you keep. The people you put around you can determine your level of success or undermine your every goal. These people will either support and lend a helping hand to the endeavors you embark on, or criticize your ambition and stunt your growth. Your company can even become a matter of life and death in extreme situations. I ask that you always watch: watch your parents, watch your friends, watch everyone and observe. Gain an understanding for why people do the things they are doing. Always enhance your understanding for life. This will be one of key factors to knowing who is genuine and who is being deceptive with an ulterior motive. This will help you decide who to align with, who to refrain from and who to deal with in an associate capacity. Men lie, women lie, results don’t. What that means is, a person can say anything they want, judge them by their actions and nothing else. Are they doing what they say they would do when they said they would do it. If they don’t, take note, but you don’t always have to mention your observations. The best way to watch someone is not to look directly at them. Meaning, when someone knows they are being watched, they will always be on their best behavior. This will help you see the true character of a person.

**Success &Failure**

In regards to success and failure, you ultimately become the decider of what that means relative to you. But whatever you deem as happiness, I want you to attain it in proportions undefinable my mathematical laws. Know that no matter what you choose to do in life, the ultimate foundation for happiness is education. Knowledge is most potent when it is in the combination of formal institutions and general life experience. It is vital that learn how the rules of life work and how to play the game.

**Finances**

Access to finances are vital, no matter what anyone says. Your every decision in life does not have to be predicated upon money, but understand it is a bare essential to your survival. To generate money, you will need to be able to offer the world something of value. And the best way to find out what you can offer goes back to observation. First learn what you love; but also discover what motivates people, what they want and need then give it to them. Network and meet others who can help you provide what you will give to the world. This goes back to the friends and company I mentioned earlier. As you can see, the nodes of life are all interconnected. One lesson, one behavior will be linked to another. But ultimately, when you learn what you can offer the world and amass the resources to do it, there will be no stopping you. What this equates to is controlling your own destiny. You NEVER want another human being determining how much money you can make, where you can go or when you can do something. This is freedom you will need and want and the ONLY way to grasp it, is by controlling your own destiny and never having to ask anyone for anything.

Protect all of your assets, your mind, your body and anything else that is tangibly or physically yours. And if anyone ever attempts to take anything away from you, fight for it. Fight with your mind but if you must, be prepared to fight physically. Do what you can to avoid bad company as I mentioned before and you will greatly reduce chances of strife.

**Networking & Giving Back**

Initially, you will have to ask for help, but it should only be to aid and push your initiative. And in return, you must be willing to give back and help others. And in the process, do not always expect something back. Be willing to do things for people out of the kindness of your heart. Accept the fact that that some people you help may not appreciate what you did or ever return the favor. But if someone has helped you, expect a favor to be owed. Sometimes, you may help someone and it simply plants a seed for a return down the road. Everything you do does not necessary need an immediate return. Always think about the long term goal as you plan and strategize through life and keep an eye on the short term to make sure everything remains in order.

**Analyze**

Always be willing to have an objectionable view to things life. Know that many times, people will not agree with your views and maybe even hate you as a person because of your views. Try not to subject your self to this behavior. Remember that some people are evil and hateful because they are weak and insecure. Watch the people who are successful, watch what they do; then look at the people who fail and watch what they do. Steer away from the behaviors of those who fail and take from those who are successful.

Adapt to your environment and be a reflection of that environment. It will enable to build tremendous rapport with those around you and allow you to relate and gain the trust of your present company. This is important in maximizing the resources of whatever environment you are currently in. But always maintain a center of who you are throughout your adaptations and know who you are at your very core.

**Mental & Physical Fitness**  
Meditate and exercise so you maintain a healthy body and mind which is essential for optimal performance in life.

**Conclusion**

There are no shortcuts in life, hold yourself accountable at all times. Always give your all and never be afraid to fail.

Love,

Dad