

Dear Mom,

Even though we've lived under the same roof my entire life, I've sometimes felt that we weren't as close because you were often busy with work. If you ever feel guilty about that, I want you to know that I believe you made the right choice. After years in a typical white-collar job, I think it's perfectly reasonable to pursue a career that genuinely brings you joy.

Despite our arguments over small things, I've cherished the moments we spent together. I'm not sure how I'll handle being on my own, and I'll likely face stress or challenges in the future that might lead me to say something foolish. Whatever I might say in those moments, it's probably just a mix of ignorance and frustration—nothing that should be taken to heart.

You didn't play the same role in my life as Dad, and I think that was for the best. I'm not entirely sure what that means for me yet, but I guess I'll find out in the coming years. I'll do my best to take your advice to heart and not shy away from opportunities as I have during high school. I'll make sure to come back more confident and capable than when I leave.

Thank you for everything, Mom. I love you.

Your ever-pragmatic son,
Matthew