

**2002 Wedding Card From My Mom -
Miriam Manglani**

It's a simple card—
an embossed bouquet of pastel flowers.

A short note in my mom's
pre-stroke handwriting.

*We wish you a life full of happiness and health.
We wish all your special dreams come alive,
even the quiet ones you keep to yourself.*

With all of our love,

Mom + Dad

Reading it years later,
knowing my father
was slowly dying
in her care at the time,
those words expressed
what she wanted for herself too,
what was taken from her,
and what she didn't know
would be taken from her in the future.

I kept it as a reminder
to let my dreams out
kicking and screaming into the world
like a newborn.

