

Dear Mom + Dad — 2002

Most years, I write you each a card for your birthdays + Mothers Day + Fathers Day. But this year, as we're celebrating Mothers Day + Fathers Day together, it occured to me that it was an opportunity to write to you together — as Parents Day.

It really began when I wrote you the the thank you in the books acknowledgment. I really had to stop and think about how you both raised me, what you gave me, and how my life has been guided and effected by that.

It shocks me when I realize how young you both were when we started on this journey together — approximately twenty years younger than I am now. You were children yourselves. In an odd way, I got to watch you grow-up and mature together. I remember how your tastes and interests evolved. Though there have always been constants —

your morality and sense of what was right and wrong; the importance of intellectual and artistic pursuits; your striving for excellence and wanting it for your children.

It's hard for me to imagine how different my life would have been with other parents. One thing I'm certain of, it would have been shallower.

Both of you have made me: happy; proud; exposed to the best; secure in being cared for, appreciated and loved; laugh; think; nourished physically, emotionally, and psychologically.

I guess the point is, I am a very lucky fellow, and if I don't always express it outwardly, internally, I am continually grateful to you both.

Love,
Mark

I only have this tiny space left to tell you how happy it makes me to be able to share you on Mother's & Father's Days — thank you! love Jole