

Though the last few years have been increasingly difficult & painful ones for you, I hope you'll appreciate what a blessing you are and have been — the lives you've touched beyond mine. The joy you've brought. The beauty you've added to the world. I wish you could easily rest upon your laurels — you deserve to.

And not only your own achievements, but any of mine you must also claim rights in. None of them would have happened without you... and not just because you gave me birth.

I love you more than I can fully express... but I trust you know!

Mark

Dearest Mom —

You have been the central figure of my life for all of its 64+½ years. Not a day has gone by in which you have not been in my thoughts. And I'm confident in saying the reverse is true — that I have been in yours.

You're 86 years old today, and though there are a few people who have known you longer, no one has known you as well, or deeply, or clearly. And no one appreciates or loves you more.