



What I Wish I Knew

To My Children:

Last week, I was challenged to write a letter to you. To tell you what I wish I had had known, what I want you to stop worrying about so much, what I want you to keep in mind, and the most important thing I want you to know. I put this off because frankly, the thought of giving you that level of meaningful advice scares me. I have watched you grow over this last decade or so and I know that thoughtful, caring, loving, intelligent people you are. I also know that you have gained an independent spirit; your Dad and I love that. We know that in the long run, regardless of what we tell you, you are going to make your own way in this world. However, I wish I had known growing up that it is really important for you to find out who you are. Take time to listen to your inner voice. When it tells you to do something-whether it be try something new...or RUN, listen to it. You know what is best for you. Your Dad and I are here to love and support you, and, while you are a child we will do our best to prepare you for the world. We will also be standing ready to help you when you reach adulthood. Being an adult is hard and sometimes it sucks...know that we have been there and want to see you be successful at that part of your life too.

I want you to remember that just because you love someone, or they are close to you, doesn't mean you cannot tell them "no" if what they want from you doesn't fit into the life you are trying to build for yourself. You are responsible for your own happiness and that means you have to protect the boundaries you have set for yourself and make time to live and thrive in the areas you love. I promise you, they will get over it and move on. If they love you back, that "no" won't matter in the long run.

Most of all I want you to know that it is O.K. to mess up, to be less than perfect, to lose, to fail, and to suck. All of these are going to happen to you; all of these things have happened to me. It is part of the process of becoming you and it is what makes you human. No one is perfect, some are just better at hiding their failures than others. I want you to take those chances. I want you to fail. That is the only way you are going to really live. So please, don't strive for perfection. Instead just try. And if it is less than perfect remember what your Boompas said to you every day of your life while he was with you: "accept it, live with it, and get on with your life." I promise you, you will be all the happier for it.

**I Love you so much,
Mom**