

September 25, 2005

Dear Allie,

Here it is the eve of your wedding and tomorrow you will begin a new life. I know that for a while I will miss you more than I can say, but we will both adjust. As time goes by and you and your sweet Jerry become used to each other and your marriage, and as you begin your family, there will just be more love and memories to share among us all.

Before we begin our lives with less of each other, I want to tell you how much you mean to me. I can clearly see my life broken into segments. One of course was when I was a child. In another I went off to school as a young adult. The third was when I married your father. Then there was you. Before you were born I could hardly imagine what being a mother would be like; after you were born I could hardly remember any life before you. You added so much. You gave me a compass to follow, a reason to stay around even when everything was falling apart.

There were tough times, of course. Teenage years are always hard, but they are rewarding too. That was when I began to see the person you would become. It was interesting watching you sort out the person you wanted to become from the image thrust upon you by your friends and classmates. Some of the going was rocky. But eventually you became your own person separate from the group—an individual with a good moral base and a lot of common sense.

You know, if I was not your mother, I would still choose you as a young friend. I am so proud of all you've accomplished already. You've made some wonderful choices, not the least of which is your choice of a husband.

I wish you love, and happiness, and peace.

Your loving mother,

Mom Smith