

September 25, 2005

Dear Allie,

You may think this letter is coming for no reason, and possibly you will suspect my motive. Please be assured that my motive is clear and intentional but without expectation of comment or return.

I just want to tell you how much I appreciate you.

You are my daughter and of course I love you. But that isn't what this letter is about. I appreciate that life is harder for you than it is for others. You have your own strict moral code that keeps you from being false to others. While from afar this is an admirable trait, nearby it can feel like a destructive element. This part of your personality has caused you to lose many false friends quickly. Even that may sound like a good thing, but the truth is there are very few true friends. Quite often people get through life with no true friends at all. At best they have acquaintances whose interests do not compete with their own.

I also appreciate that you have a hard time saying "no" to yourself, especially when you are under any kind of stress. When you were little I managed some of that for you by not having tempting items around. As you got older and had money at your disposal you were able to obtain some of these tempting items for yourself. Then the struggle really began for you. Not only did you sometimes overindulge in food, you also ran up credit. As you have gotten more experience, you have managed an impressive amount of mastery over all your temptations.

I know your life has not been easy. I know you suffered in school. I know that you must have had massive wars with yourself at night wishing or wanting what seemed impossible to get. Somehow you have managed to grow into an able, mostly kind young woman.

I am proud of you. We are all proud of you and we want you to know it.

Love,  
Mom Smith