

10/31/03

Dear Dad,

I just got off the phone with Kathryn. She tells me you are all at Granddaddy's house, just sitting down to dinner. I am sitting in the hotel restaurant in Riverton, Wyoming. I wanted to take the time today to tell you personally how much I wish I could have been with you for today's ceremony, the celebration of Damama's life. The deepest sorrow I feel is from not being able to share time with you (my dad) specifically. I cannot begin to imagine what it would feel like to lose one's mother. All I can do is attempt to sympathize and to guess. I imagine it might feel like losing that which anchored you for a lifetime. I imagine it might feel like losing a part of your identity, to lose the one who gave you life, literally and figuratively. I can appreciate the depth and intensity of the sorrow, and the feeling of empty space that opens up in her absence. I can imagine that perhaps there are aspects of the pain that seem completely unexpected. I imagine some aspects are qualitatively different from any other kind of pain you might have felt up to now.

I can appreciate the magnitude of the loss, and it moves me to want to be at home to share time with you. I have thought about you a lot in the days since Damama passed away. I have sympathized for your loss and wished for your strength and peace during this time. But it was only last night, when it finally sunk in that I would not be home for the funeral, that I truly became present to how important it is, for me, to be there physically with you on this day. I would give anything to just give you a hug right now.

The road toward self-blame is tempting. It tempts me into scolding myself for failing to come home earlier, for being out on the West Coast, for isolating myself. I feel pain and sorrow to be physically separated from family today. But if there is a positive side, then the pain and sorrow I feel today reminds me of how

lucky I am to have a family that I care about, and miss, and long to share time with. Having you as my family is a privilege I appreciate fully. Were it not for this wonderful privilege, I would not be feeling the pain and sorrow of separation today. And so, I have ~~decided~~ decided to embrace and celebrate these feelings, because they grow from the love and closeness that I feel for you and for our whole family.

Dad, I just want you to know how much I appreciate you and all you have given me in my life: Your unconditional love and support, your sacrifices for family, the example you set through your actions, and your sense of humor too. I see that everything you do comes from a place of wanting the best for us, your daughters. I see that you have given a lot for us. I feel so grateful and I want nothing

more than for you to know that you are appreciated. I am fortunate to have you as my father. I am truly looking forward to the next chance I have to see you in person, on the week of November 16. I hope we can do something together on Monday or Tuesday of that week. Maybe we could get dinner. I would like that very much.

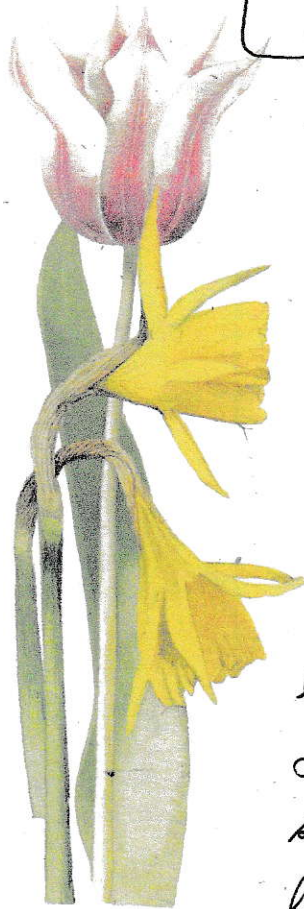
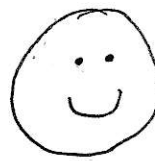
I hope your spirits are lifted, and that you feel renewed, refreshed and joyous by the time this letter reaches you.

With love, gratitude, & admiration,

Kyza.

P.S. Kat read me the insert you wrote for the program. It was beautifully written and very touching. Thanks! And good work! ♥

I love my
DAD



Sending lots
of positive thoughts
your way!

Dad-

Today is October
31, 2003. I am
thinking of you
and sending my
love your way.
I am with you in
spirit today. I
love you very much.
Love, Kysa ♡