

Dear Mom and Dad,

This letter is one of the things that I struggle to find words. This letter represents my gratitude for you both, your efforts, your support, and your faith in my potential. You know about my struggles to fit into the hearing school system, my glimpses of the deaf community, and most of all, the day I went to the deaf school. I remember the tears you had, both of sadness and joy. I also remember the tears you had when I graduated high school.

I also know you could have done many other things. You could have had me implanted; you could have forced me into speech therapy or oralism. You didn't. You left all those decisions; all possible paths open to me for my choosing. I had my ups and downs in both educational settings: mainstreamed and deaf school. You also picked up sign language so I could communicate through the best method available. Of all the programs, all the medical possibilities, all the communication methods out there, you made the right decision(s). Look at me. I'm almost done with my college degree. I'm aspiring to be a lawyer with a passion in cooking.

You gave birth to me at the right time, despite waiting nearly ten years to have somehow get sick and me losing my hearing. We are in the forefront of great technology breakthroughs, especially in communications. I also have the potential to reach out and help many other deaf people succeed as well. All the lessons you have taught me, all the homework help you gave, all the corrections you made, it wasn't for nothing.

All in all, I thank you for being there, for being who you are, for standing strong when I failed. I hope that this letter finds you at a good time for I do not know when I am ready to give this letter, for today.

With much love,

xxx