

September 2, 2007

Dear Jerry,

This is my last letter to you. I don't really know where to begin so I'll begin by telling you how much I love you. That's over 41 years of "I love you". We've loved each other since before high school. I used to watch you with your golf clubs and green scooter and think how neat it would be to know somebody like you. I never thought it would happen for me, though.

But then came that magical night on the porch when you gave me my first kiss. I was playing a real grown up game...hide and seek. I was hiding on the porch and you scared me to death. Since I'd never been with anybody before (or since) you had a lot of educating to do. I'd expect that most boyfriends wouldn't have to explain to their girlfriends that it takes more than a thumb in your bellybutton to get pregnant. I know this sounds like a

pretty dorky letter, but we were pretty dorky for our time. That part hasn't changed much.

It's hard to believe that you could be with one person your whole life and be completely happy and satisfied, but that's how I feel. I've never gone to bed mad.

I imagine that today. People have asked me how we've stayed together for so long. I don't have an answer... I just know that it seemed natural. Being with you was always a real natural thing to do and it always seemed right.

Remember, we've known each other since we were five years old. I know you and you know me and we still truly love each other anyways. I know that people don't see you as I see you. They see you as intimidating and they don't see the softness and the sweetness that I know. They don't see you when you are cleaning my bowel movements or waking up all night with me or taking care of me. They don't see you rubbing my hand or crying with me.

Jerry, you have always been my protector. Whenever anyone has dared to hurt my feelings, especially doctors, you were by my side to stand up for me. You have never said no to me for anything I ever wanted; never denied me anything, especially since this happened to us. A neurologist once told me how fortunate I was to have a husband like you. He said that when dealing with M.S., most men wouldn't stick around. I do know just how fortunate I am to have you as my partner in this life. I know that God blessed me with you. He has given me so much and I can't thank him enough.

I wish that our children will continue to grow in their relationships with God and that they have a relationship like we have together with him. I pray that our children have all the blessings that God has given us. Perhaps they someday will.

The Eucharistic Minister says she always feels the presence of God here. Thom recently has said that he

feels the same thing when he's with us, a sense of prayer and peace. I truly feel that this is because of our marriage and our relationship with each other. Together we have made this journey in love. We have had a beautiful marriage and three wonderful children. You are my soul mate, Jerry. We think each other's thoughts and share each other's feelings. I hope and pray that God will bless our children with the kind of love that we've had in our marriage.

I want to thank you for turning that shy, timid high school student into who I am today. You forced me to go to dances and to ride on motor scooters. You allowed me to experience life in a way that I would not have on my own. You've encouraged me to be adventurous and independent. I am now a woman who loves to kayak and ride hot air balloons. I am not afraid to stand up in a German restaurant and ask if anyone speaks English. I can't imagine who I would be or what my life would be like without you.

I want to end by telling you what a great man you are to me. You have the ethical and moral fiber of Atticus Finch. You have the sympathy and compassion of Forrest Gump. You have the faith of Samuel to answer the call of God. All these things make you the man that I have loved and cherished all these years. All I can say is, "I love you, Babe, and I always will." As the infamous VCR tape says, I belong to you. I do belong to you, Jerry, and I always will.

For all eternity - Babe

Love you Always

"T"