

Dear Viggo,

I have been thinking a lot about what I could write in a letter to you. I have been so worried that this being my fourth written to a child of mine it would end up sounding like a duplicate, like I hadn't put any effort into it. I realized, though, that in trying to make it too different I may miss a lot of the important things that I want all of you to know.

To start with, I want you to know how blessed I feel to be able to have you. You will hear yourself referred to as our “caboose”, our last one. There were times I didn't know if I would get to make it to you, but I knew my whole life you were meant to be. It may be hard to imagine now what type of child you will be. For the rest of your life, you will be the “baby”, so I'm sure it is expected by all that you will be spoiled. I can assure you that that holds true for all and none of your siblings in that we give what we can, but never run out of love and cuddles. You will be expected to be the one screaming to get noticed, but again, everyone seems to take their turn in that, so please be patient. I have a feeling you will be tough. I have come to learn that the pattern and strength of each baby's kicks has been an indicator of personality. You like to hold back for a while in between, as if to say “I'm just going to sit here quietly until I feel like doing otherwise.” And then you move ferociously to let me know that you will be heard. Although painful, I love these moments that I feel I'm getting to know you, and can't wait to hold you in my arms and calm you down. These arms will always be open to you. I am a place that you can always go for love, shelter, a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen.

I have lived what seems like a long time, and it has been somewhat eventful, so I have learned a thing or two, some not so easily. I would like you to learn what I have learned early on, to hopefully make you a better person, and maybe even save you some heartache. One of the most important things that I can tell you is to not be afraid to love God and have Him in your life. A belief in Him is nothing to be ashamed of, and there is no greater comfort in this world than knowing you are able to talk to Him no matter where you are, and for whatever need. He is always available. The other really important thing is to keep a close relationship with your family. We will all be here for you whenever you need us, and that is a resource that not everyone is so lucky to have. Then there is your father. I have known so many people in my life, and can count only a few truly good, respectable, selfless, and loving ones. Your father is one of these. To grow into a wonderful young man, all you have to do is learn from your dad. Watch the way he works, his commitment to his family, his honesty, ability to love, and sense of humor. It will lead you down the right path in life.

Important things I wish for you to know:

Your head and your heart can have equally important things to say. Try not to let one speak over the other.

Your brothers and sisters don't have to be your best friends, but as you grow up you'll see that they probably are. Value that.

Dream big, but don't walk with your head in the clouds. Try to attain all that you want, without hurting others or yourself or your future in the process.

Be honest. Always. To everyone. Including yourself.

Treat others with respect. If you don't, you don't deserve theirs'. Never assume that anyone should get any less than anyone else.

Every living being is important, including animals. Life is so delicate. Take care with your own and others'.

Always try to put yourself in someone else's shoes before casting judgement. Empathy is just as important as sympathy.

Don't waste time trying to be the center of attention. Just always be yourself and you're sure to stand out in a crowd.

Always let yourself feel, whatever it is, no matter what others say. You know your heart better than anyone.

I know I have already mentioned this, but I really want you to understand: I will always be here for you, I will always love you, I will always think you are one of the four best things in the world. And as a warning: I love to hug and kiss my babies, so be ready for lots of cuddles!

Loving you forever,
Momma