

Testimonials for *Dear Austin*

"Dear Austin is a gem, and Austin is a very fortunate young man. Your words of wisdom and loving thoughts provide a priceless touchstone as you encourage him to find his way, not follow yours. The photos, though unique to your family, evoke memories and smiles of recognition in all of us who have raised children.

I wish you well with your book and hope it finds its way into the hands of many parents who are launching their sons and daughters – deepening connection while letting go."

Karen Levin Coburn, Senior Consultant in Residence, Washington University
Co-author *Letting Go: A Parents' Guide to Understanding the College Years*

"David Perkins' poignant, tender, wise love letter to his college-bound son is essential reading for all parents in similar situations. It's about holding on and letting go. This is not a 'how to write this letter book' but more importantly an inspired invitation to let your heart whisper what it most yearns to say to your departing children.

Read it, feel it and write your own love letters when it's time."

Carleton Kendrick Ed.M., LCSW
Family Therapist and Author, *Take Out Your Nose Ring, Honey, We're Going to Grandma's: Hanging In, Holding On and Letting Go of Your Teen*

"David Perkins expresses so poignantly what so many parents feel. It was an honor sharing the story of Dear Austin with my listeners, many of whom commented that the interview moved them to better communicate with their own children. The book inspired me to write a letter to my 18-year old son, one of the most important letters I will ever compose. From one Dad to another, thank you David."

Jordan Rich, Host - *The Jordan Rich Show*, CBS Radio Boston

"Taking parenting to a new level, this book expresses what we all should have heard from our Dads when we first left home. The author of this book shares with the reader a parting letter with his son, who's going off to college for the first time, and these are words of wisdom, brutal honesty, and encouragement in the stark light of reality.

I strongly recommend this – it's a perfect gift for anyone graduating from college or high school, or for any parent you may know who holds the reins a little too tightly on someone with great potential but who's not blessed with enough freedom to learn to fly."

Ruth Buzzi, Actress - Comedienne

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"In this little book, filled with pictures that reveal the history and intimacy of a relationship gone 'right,' we are reminded of just how important and how strong the bond between father and son is - and always will be. David has said what I wish I'd heard from my father and what I wish my son had heard from me.

He has managed to advise without preaching, show concern without fear and, most of all, give the encouragement that only a loving father can and should supply. Thank you, David. You've made me think. You've touched my heart. You've helped me be aware of how important a few words fitly spoken can be. Just maybe, you've helped me be a better father by showing me how it's done."

Barney W. Ash

"This book is a MUST HAVE for all parents and for the children they love. It is so beautifully written... really straight from the heart. The first time I read this book it moved me to tears. It was exactly what I wanted to say to my own sons, but could never find the right words. I recommend it as a keepsake for yourself and everyone you know."

Peggy Lohr

"When I read this, my first thought was what an amazing gift to a child. And then I realized that it is a gift to us all - the opportunity to read a parent's loving advice, given without the usual pompous authority, but words that are straight from David's heart. Yes, he has a definite viewpoint, but it comes from experience and the sincere wish for his son to do well.

We all need this genuine desire for our success in our lives."

Karen C. Mead, "A Peaceful Path"

"Thank you for sharing the letter to Austin. I have one son, who is completing college applications now, and your letter felt like reading a summation of the thoughts I have as I contemplate his leaving home for this next phase of his life. As you said, such a bittersweet time. I wouldn't deprive him of it for the world, but ... he has been my world for so long that it's pretty hard to just say, "Goodbye." and watch him walk away. But, I remember that my mom let me go, and I know that good parents don't hang on longer than what is right.

Like the butterfly that you release, it comes back to you, right?"

Janie Nall