

SON,

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME. I KNOW THINGS HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN THE BEST BETWEEN US, AND I IMAGINE YOU STILL HAVEN'T FORGIVEN ME FOR TRYING TO GET YOU PULLED FROM FLIGHT SCHOOL. BUT I PRAY YOU'LL KEEP THIS LETTER LONG ENOUGH TO READ IT. I NEED TO SAY SOMETHING TO YOU. NOT AS YOUR FATHER, BUT AS A MAN.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I TOOK YOU TO SEE *FACES OF WAR*? YOU WERE ONLY EIGHT, BUT EVER SINCE THEN, YOU'VE WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN TO FLY. I THOUGHT YOU'D GROW OUT OF IT, BUT YOU DIDN'T. TEN YEARS LATER, YOUR ACADEMY ACCEPTANCE LETTER ARRIVED, AND I FELT THAT FAMILIAR FEAR SWEEP THROUGH ME.

I KNOW I'VE BEEN LESS THAN SUPPORTIVE OF YOUR CAREER OVER THE YEARS. I ONLY WANTED YOU TO REMAIN WITHIN SAFETY'S REACH. BUT I WANT YOU KNOW THAT EVEN THOUGH I FEAR LOSING YOU TO THIS GOD-FORSAKEN WAR, I'M DAMNED PROUD OF YOU. I DIDN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO FACE DEATH AND EMPTY SPACE, BUT YOU DO. AND ALL I CAN DO IS PRAY YOUR NAME NEVER APPEARS ON THAT LIST THAT SCROLLS AFTER EACH NEWSCAST.

YOU DON'T KNOW THIS, BUT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S DYING WISH WAS TO SEE ME FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS AS A PILOT. BUT I JUST COULDN'T. I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE YOUR MOTHER A WIDOW — LIKE HE LEFT MY MOTHER. MAYBE SOMEWHERE HE'S WATCHING YOU, AND FORGIVING ME.

TAKE CARE,
DAD

To the Love of My Life — Happy Anniversary

Christopher, I am so sorry we can't be together on our special day. Be assured that you are always in my heart. I do not often express my feelings for you ... yet you must know how deeply you have fallen into my heart.

When this war is over, I want us to ... how is it said? ...escape the hell out of a city called Dodge? I long to be free of these regulations and battles that keep us apart. I want to forget about this god-forsaken war and take your hand on a small, isolated world somewhere, on a farm, by the sea, wherever, it does not matter.

But for now, man amour, I must be content with holding you in my mind. Until we can be together again, remember my love for you runs true.

— Angel

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OF
ANGEL**