

I'm the one who
Blossom Brosi 6/4/14

I'm the one who worries all the time. I worry if you are taking the correct class load next semester, whether or not you are doing enough community service, and if you are can pull off an A in Honors Biology. I worry if your friends are good influences. I worry if you have a boyfriend and I worry when you don't. I worry if I'm giving you the right allowance, and if I spent too much or too little on your birthday gifts. I worry if I've signed you up for all the best summer programs, and I worry that I've missed some opportunity that will help you get into a good college. And, yes, I am the one who worries like crazy when you get behind the wheel.

I'm the one who checks up on you. Yes, when I call to chat with your friends' moms, I'm really calling to make sure you are where you said you would be. I'm the one who checks your text messages and your phone log. I'm the one who checks your room sometimes, for what? I'm not sure. I'm the one who— Oh, surely not!— checks your breath and your pupils when you come home from an outing with friends. And I'm the one smiles from relief when my crazy suspicions are proven false.

I'm the one who says no. No to prom your freshman year. No to getting your nose pierced, to more highlights for your hair. No to the late movie. No to going out with your friends until the essay is written. No to the sleepover the night before a swim meet. No to taking weightlifting next semester (I mean how can you get into college with that on your transcript?)

I'm the one who stays up late sometimes wondering, am I doing this right? All the things that could go wrong run through my head. And all the things I love about you flood my thoughts. Your smile. Your creativity. Your Critical thinking. Your quickness. Your willingness to try new things. Your artistry. Your ability to do so many things well at age 16 that many adults struggle with, like cooking and sewing and making courteous phone calls. And, really, how do you fit the amount of empathy one could usually find in an entire town into one small, cute teenager?

I'm the one who wants the best for you. A life filled with opportunities and meaningful relationships, and successes. And sometimes it moves me to tears, Daisy, how much I want for you.

I'm the one who loves loves loves, you Daisy. We've been together for 16 years now, and grown up together in so many ways. Having a daughter has brought me more joy and more worry and more purpose than I could have ever imagined. I'm the one who would give you anything I could and do anything I could for you. I am the one who is grateful that I have you, Daisy, as my daughter.