

Letter to My Baby Brother Zachy,

You have definitely raised the bar for me to become the best brother, best friend, and best role model that I can be for you in life. My main concern for you is not knowing what awaits us in the future. I hope that it's a much better place than it is right now. There's so much happening right now that I can't wrap my mind around it. There is an endless list of things impacting those that we love. Hay mucha gente desamparada. Today in history, we are fighting against the Coronavirus pandemic that has killed most of our people in the community because of lack of resources and denied services from the government. Then, suddenly, turning and calling our people essential workers to maintain the health and well-being of others while they are exposed outside to this virus. These are individuals that have long served this country receiving the very minimal as they struggle day to day even before this pandemic, but are now looked as important. At this time, it's not an option but a necessity to survive and support the family in the midst of this pandemic.

To add to this nasty environment, people in San José are always in a hurry. They don't have time for each other, or to listen to what people have to say. Some of this comes from them always having to work in order to pay their bills. Other parts of why this is includes the fact that many people only care about money and prestige, but not about the wellbeing of people. The more I learn from others and see what they are doing, I know that this selfish way is not the only way, and it's this that I want to share with you: There are people in this world who do make time for others and care for their needs. These people see injustice and do something about it, which motivates me to get involved and contribute to the struggle for justice. I'm not sure how that might look when you get older, but taking action matters, no matter how "small" it may look. I hope that when I tell you stories about how you were born in a time of pandemic, it includes the goodness of people that got us through. One thing I will be sure to share with you is how the support of your loved ones made sure you survived this emergency. For instance, our family endured and prevailed many months of separation in our journey to the US. Our unbreakable love for each other has kept us alive even in the long distance. Although the world you were born into is tough, I am optimistic that our family's love for you will make sure there are paths of opportunity for you.

Talking with our mother, I told her how I wish for you a world where you are free to be yourself, free to follow your dreams, and free to live an unapologetically passionate life without barriers or borders holding you back. This means that we must always keep our eyes open for opportunities to take action to undue hate, prejudice, and the destruction of our communities because to be free in this society that we live in never comes without a push. Our mother always said to me that you will have a better support system and a big brother to protect you. She said that no matter what happens you will be in good hands and will have a great brother as a mentor in your life.

Zachy, you are only an infant, but you have taught me so much. You have changed the way that I understand love, the way that I see life, and most importantly, you have taught me lessons of forgiveness. Standing the bright light that emanates from you, I came to forgive people who have hurt me, and I came to also forgive myself for things that I believed I should have done and for things that I have done. Reflecting on who I want to be in your life, I came to understand that we all have an opportunity to move in different directions, to change our actions for the better. It's a challenge and a blessing to have you in my life. Don't forget, I was there when mamá gave you birth y voy a estar allí para siempre. Cuando crezcas estaré a tu lado. Cuando estés en problemas,

estaré allí. Cuando quieras ayuda, estaré allí. Cuando necesites hablar, llorar, desahogarte, definitivamente voy a estar allí.

Love Always,
Your big brother Cristian.