Finding a Mother’s Day card for my mom (transcript)

Every year I struggle to find a Mother’s Day card for my mom.

I mean the first problem is my mother is Mom, not Mother, so all those cards that say “Dear Mother” I have to pass by. That’s gotten a little easier in recent years. There are more cards for “Mom” rather than “Mother.” But mine has to say “Mom.” That’s her name.

So I pick up a card and find it’s “Mother” I move on. So then if there’s one for “Mom,” I’m in the territory, right? The problem is my mother doesn’t exactly fit what the Mother’s Day cards represent as “mother.” So I’ll pick up a card and it’ll say, “Thank you, Mom, for all you did around the house and for taking care of me and giving us a home and making our lives easy even though we were never grateful enough and I thank you for that now.”

The problem is that doesn’t fit my mom. She didn’t actually spend a whole lot of time doing that. She was out either taking classes, going to school, or working herself and wasn’t home a lot, paying a lot of attention to that kind of work. So that’s not the kind of mom she was and so those cards don’t fit.

So moving on.

I pick up other cards and another kind of card I’ll pick up says, “Thank you, Mom, for always being there for me. Thank you for listening to me, for kissing my booboos and making them better when I was little. Thank you for being there for me now and listening to me and I’m so glad that now we’re friends.”

Yeah, that’s not my mom either. So that doesn’t fit.

So there just aren’t a whole lot of other choices. There aren’t cards that say, “Dear Mom, thank you for being a great role model of what an independent working woman can be.” “Thank you, Mom, for showing me that the world didn’t revolve around me.” [laugh] There are plenty of things to thank my mom for, but they just don’t fit into the Mother’s Day cards.

So often as not I end up picking the card that says something like, “Well, have a great day!” Or if I can find one that says, “I love you,” and that’s where it stops, then that’s good, too.

What I end up doing is writing a note in the card. I’m sure you all do, but I have to write more of a note to say a little more about what I’m grateful for her for. And the founder of Mother’s Day—or the woman who claims that she gets credit for it—Anna Jarvis would be pleased because she hated Mother’s Day cards. She thought it was terrible that we purchased a card rather than writing to our mothers on Mother’s Day card [sic].

So if you, like me, maybe all of us have a little hard time finding a Mother’s Day card that fits your mother just right, just remember the advice to write a note, personalize it, and go from that broad conception of what a mother is supposed to be to the individual picture of what *your* mother is.

So that I can say to Mom with a card, in some genuine way with my note at the bottom, “Thank you, Mom, and Happy Mother’s Day!” And Happy Mother’s Day to all of you.

For those whose mothers aren’t around, I’m sorry. And for those of you who have wonderful mothers and great relationships with them, I’m happy for you. And for all of us, Happy Mother’s Day.