



As I parent my teenage boy, I'm finding a lot of things to be eerily familiar...


1. He doesn't always answer when I call him.
2. I know I can get his attention with chocolate chip cookies.
3. He mutters things I cannot completely decipher.
4. I'm afraid to look at what's on the floor in the backseat of his car.
5. I can't quite bring myself to bring up prom.
6. His bedroom is a realm of mystery to me.
7. I know better than to get too close when he's with his friends.
8. I go to events and activities with him that I would never in a million years choose on my own.
9. Some days I know he loves me. Other days I'm not so sure.

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10. It requires a lot of self-control to suppress suggestions about his wardrobe.
11. I think he is really, really, really adorable.
12. He probably reads the handwritten notes texts I send him, but I can't be sure.
13. It takes everything I have not to yell, "Just talk to me!"
14. He strikes me as an alien species much of the time.
15. I hoard anything he's bought for me—cards, dried flowers, gifts—as proof of his love.
16. He just doesn't want to go out to dinner, and I don't know why.
17. I know that I think about him much more than he thinks about me.
18. What is that smell?
19. I pretend to be interested in and knowledgeable about movies, music and games I know nothing about.
20. He says he doesn't want anything for his birthday, but I don't believe him.
21. I remind myself to give him space.
22. Sports matter more than me. A lot.

- 23. I never, ever, ever use my nickname for him in public.
- 24. I am stunned by the volume and selection of food he eats.
- 25. I talk about him with my friends a lot, trying to understand what he's thinking and feeling.
- 26. He hasn't figured out that I just casually *happen* to be places where he is so I can engage him in conversation.
- 27. I keep hoping someday he will realize how amazing I am.

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About the Writer



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Brette Sember is the author of more than 40 books including *Cookie: A Love Story: Fun Facts, Delicious Stories, Fascinating History, Tasty Recipes and More*. Her website is www.BretteSember.com and she blogs at www.PuttingItAllOnTheTable.com.

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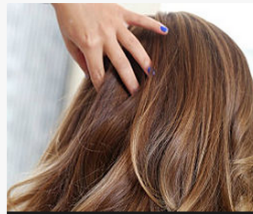
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