



CHAPTER FIVE



ON GRATITUDE

AFTER MY dear friend Alex was diagnosed with metastatic Ovarian cancer, she told me that she was deeply grateful for her six grown children. Over the years she had kept all the letters her children had written her, from the times they were young, right through to adulthood. She made copies of all the letters, bound them, and gave the collection to each child. “My children are my legacy,” she told me. “By sharing each one’s thoughts with the others, I feel that I can step aside as head of the family. I want them to be able to connect with each other more deeply and what better way than to read what each sibling wrote to me? This way they all possess a written history of our life together. I’m so grateful that I can do this for them.”