

This is what Emily wrote at the front of the present she gave me:

This is my 50th birthday present to you. It contains a life's worth of memories about you, written by your family and friends. It is here to remind you of what an amazing person you are. I love you

For the first 20 minutes, I didn't, I couldn't, get past this first page. I was completely overcome; it was so unexpected and so flattering. Many strange and wonderful things have happened to me in my first half century and a lot of them are now contained in Emily's present.