

First and foremost, I would like to thank God for his never-ending grace, mercy, and provision during what ended up being one of the toughest times of my life. Playing an icon like Elizabeth Taylor was a dream come true.

To be considered for an Academy Award for this role is a great honor and a privilege, so thank you Academy.

Next, I would like to thank my brilliant and truly outstanding director, Christopher Fox, whose leadership and vision steered this project from day one. And to the amazing staff and cast. It was always a pleasure coming to work every day with such lovely and engaging people. I know I owe you all some money, so expect a payout soon. Next time, I won't bet against myself.

To my fellow nominees, I really thought it was going to be one of you. Before I went to bed last night, I said to my husband, "Either Meryl or Kate will take another one home tomorrow, you'll see." He simply patted me on the head and laughed.

Last and definitely not least, to my astoundingly supportive family, there would be no Grace Cruz without any of you. Mom and Dad, thank you for always believing in me and for driving me to all those rehearsals when I was a kid. To Jack, my darling husband, my most stalwart supporter and knight, your faith in me is what propels me to continue this work. I love you.

For those who have touched my life in any way since I started in this business, you all know who you are, and I am truly grateful for all you have done.