

redefining divorce

From A Child's Perspective...

"Dear Mom and Dad,

Today, I struggle in my own relationships because I had to deal with the chaos of yours. I fear being "trapped" in a marriage that appears more destructive than beneficial and not being able to escape because "I made a commitment to my spouse."

I hate that instead of looking at you as parents, I see you as children.

I understand you were afraid of judgment from your God, family, friends, and community, if you pursued a divorce, but what about judgment from your own child? I am the only one who has to deal with the consequences of your egos, no one else.

I believe my life today would be much less tumultuous if you had split up and remained amicable. I believe I would have learned how to deal with conflict in a healthy way by watching you two communicate

effectively. I believe I would have faith in the sanctity of marriage if I didn't see the destruction of it through you.

I wish you would have split, regained respect for each other, learned how to communicate, dealt with your own personal issues, found new partners who were a better fit, and raised me under those circumstances. After all, having two different families who appreciate, love, and respect each other would be much more beneficial to me than one family that destroyed each other.

I love you both because you are my parents but your selfishness made my life more difficult than it needed to be. Staying married was not the best decision. It didn't teach me about "commitment" or "working through things." Your marriage taught me how to avoid this relationship in the future.

Although I am an adult now, you still

have
to raise
my brother
and sister. Give them a fighting chance at being healthy people so they can enjoy successful relationships."

Sincerely,

Your son.

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Zina B. Gleason, J.D.

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