

Re: seeking information

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- *From:* "JCav" <j35cav@xxxxxxxxx>
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Sandi wrote:

"My mother divorced my father only months after he was born, and she had a really hard time for a lot of years. As a result, she wasn't the most pleasant person to be around, but she wasn't the raging harridan he now apparently has convinced himself that she was, either. Also, my mother has a very outspoken personality, on subjects that are her business and subjects that are not, and that is just the way she is. I don't think that having an imperfect personality is grounds for what he has done, and I would hate to think that after I sacrificed so much in my life to raise my son alone for years, which I did as well, that my son would now decide to throw up in my face some unkind comment I made or some school activity I missed, and cite that as his reason for having nothing to do with me. My mother is heartbroken even years later, and so am I, and I don't believe there is any excuse for what my brother did. She is his mother. End of story."

My mom divorced my dad too when I was very young, like 3 or 4. I don't think any of us blamed her for doing what she had to do or even for the fact that after she remarried and divorced the second time, she was often an intolerable person and acted like we didn't exist. I will give her some credit for putting a roof over my head, clothes on my back, and food in my mouth, but most of my raising I did on my own. Her idea about telling me the facts of life was to give me a booklet about menstruation. I guess she did something. I won't even fault her terribly for not knowing or caring where I was most of the time or even for several days consecutively. I guess what really chaps me is that to this day, she never has said, "I did the best I could which probably wasn't all that great; I wish I had done things differently." I don't even have to hear "I'm sorry." I, too, raised my 2 oldest children for the better part of 6 years between my first and second marriage, probably wasn't the easiest to be around at times, but I made sure to tell my kids that I was sorry for the things I did wrong, and that they deserved better. Your mom doesn't sound like the kind who refuses to admit any wrongdoing or say, "You guys were just rotten kids." Even now, I know I can be difficult and flawed, but will still be the one to take the greater share of the blame when the dust settles. I love them and I want them to know that they are magnificent just the way they

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are. I guess what it comes down to is that one person can't take on all the responsibility for establishing and maintaining reconciliation all of the time. It really is a two-way street. There's nothing sweeter than hearing from your 4-year-old (or 17-year-old for that matter) after telling them you're sorry, "Mommy, I'm sorry too."

I, too, hope he doesn't have to sell his house. After my grandmother died, my grandfather decided to sell the house and go live with his oldest son. My brother bought it and it has a lot of sentimental value, especially since grandpa passed away a couple of years ago. They lived in that house for 30+ years. The ironic thing is that my mom was listed as one of the beneficiaries of the sale of the house, made out like a bandit, and now basically gets to have her cake (the house) and eat it too (no bills). She blew that money a long time ago and my brother never made a stink.

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