

11/98 1:24am

Hey Baker,

I just got in a few minutes ago. I dropped you off at daddy's for one more day of vacation (Christmas). We were visiting grandma and the family this evening. You are probably most likely aware that there is a problem between your father, Barbara, the Nishinagas, and myself. Unfortunately you are too young to understand the complicated, silly, unending details of why these problems exist. The bottom line is that once there was a lie that was told. It was a tiny little silly insignificant lie that nonetheless it was a lie. Well, in order to not look bad, in order to not saddle someone's pride, another lie was told to cover the little lie. Pretty soon these were a whole lotta lies being told and so today

your father is in a very difficult, up-the-creek, mistaken smelling situation with the family. He, for some reason, tries to convince the world that the world is against him, he tries to convince complete strangers that his family, his friends, his ex-wifey, everyone is out to do him harm. The sad part about the whole thing is that the only person who continues to hurt him is he himself. Why, no one in the family can figure it out. No one knows why. But now the damage, setbacks to your health, his convictions and notions are stretching their very little hands out in your direction. And I refuse to let him reach you with his delusion, Emma, you in particular are being hurt by your dad and for some reason you



do not want to acknowledge  
that he is whose much of  
your pain stems from.  
You need to begin by being  
honest with yourself. Secondly,  
you need to ascertain the  
truth from reliable sources.  
You need to remove all  
doubts from your mind  
about anything. Please be  
afraid to ask for the truth.  
I will always give you that.  
Brandon, you appear to be  
holding up well against all of  
this. You are, in the extreme,  
so resilient. I truly hope,  
pray, that you are okay.  
I wish with all my strength  
that you are able to work  
through your dilemmas and  
or be able to find the  
strength to ask for help  
when you need it.  
(Siblings), I can not give  
you all of the answers. I  
wish I could just put  
everything right in front of

you and let it sink inside,  
melt all around you and  
never leave you. But I  
can not. I can only give  
you what I can, I try for  
it to be as much as I  
can carry at a time. I bring  
a load here and there and  
try as I might. I had a  
late start, but I don't plan  
on stopping or slowing down  
as we should be staying on  
no matter how long a good  
life you both see the  
future of the multiple  
generations of Midwinters.  
The line must be carried  
on, and you must do it  
around your mind and heart,  
full of peace and love,  
truth and righteousness.  
No less than that. You owe  
it to your grandma. You must  
show her that her strength  
continued in you.  
Respectfully,  
Mom  