

12/09/05

It is almost the close of another day, a Friday. I find myself frustrated and confused Em about what it is that you want and expect of me. One moment you're in a good mood, happy, and we're getting along great. And within minutes, or even seconds, your mood has shifted and you're angry or upset. I feel as if I can never win, and I simply can not keep up with your pace. The truth of this all is that I feel as if I have failed as a mother - somehow, there is something I neglected to do. I don't know how to help you. My fear for you is that you'll be great in the outside world and unhappy in your heart. I have seen adults live their lives this way. Your father is like that. Everyone thinks he's just great. But with intimacy, partnership, a human relationship - that is still missing. The worst part about it is that I'm disallowing your brother the space

and opportunity to express how you are affecting him. I apologize for that Brandon. I don't want you to be a man that is short, mean, and cruel with women, and I don't want Emma to think that she deserves to be mistreated by men. But I think I need to begin to allow you, Brandon, to let her know directly when she is hurting the relationship. I do want you to be able to tell people, especially your partner, that harm is occurring in the relationship. I simply do not wish for your expressions to be angry or visceral - you will only bring embitterment to your self. My worries for the two of you are joint and individual. As brother and sister and as human beings. I don't want or wish for you to struggle in your relationships with people as I have.

I did not have the guidance of a mother, or a father and I've had to learn as I go. But, I do know what I wish for you, and it is nothing but an amazing, productive life. It seems Emma that we have a few amazing or positive moments a day, or perhaps every few days. I can not imagine you having this level of a relationship with someone you choose as a mate or someone who chooses you. It does not feel pleasant to walk on egg shells around someone you're "supposed" to love. I say suppose, because family love should just come naturally, it is built-in. It should not be earned, it does not need to grow through time, it simply is. Family is where you're "supposed" to have love without conditions, without the need to earn it, or worry about losing it. Family is practice for real life, for strengthening

that which we will need to begin with
someone else - to spread out, to share,
to grow. When we're ready, we find someone
of our own with which to compare that
which we've nurtured and made prosperous.
Both of you have to help each other through
this journey. That which one of you does not
understand or finds difficult accomplishing
the other must assist. You will need each
other, similar to how I need someone from
my family - someone that knows me and
understands where I have been. I'll never
have that. You two are this very thing for
each other. When you come to the place
where you can see this to be true I want
you both to be standing together, not
apart. Together, to understand it, to feel it,
and to appreciate that you are seeing it
together. As Always, Your mother.