Kendra Williams

28 October 2010

English 1020

Final paper

 To my parents

Dear Mom and Dad,

Nowadays American television shows more households where either the mother or father are absent from the home. It’s rare that you see families together, but when I do see those families together it always makes me think what happened to our family? Ever since I was 12 years old I’ve been being raise by both you guys separately which is very frustrating; you and dad never agree on anything. So if I tell you and dad the same story you both have different answers and I’m still stuck with the problem I presented you with. Despite the fact I always looked up to you guys, I never understood why you guys got a divorce after over 20 years of marriage. Now that I’m grown I’ve noticed that the way you guys raised my siblings and I was all wrong. A parent shouldn’t lie, take us through crazy situations and most of all you guys should’ve not let us know how bad the blood was between you guys.

The first thing I want to touch upon is asking why did we always get punished all the time for lying. I mean now I know that lying is bad but when we were little we didn’t know the difference. It got to the point that we were scared to tell the truth because of a whooping that’s why we lied. According to Betsy Hart a well-known syndicated columnist and also a mother of four states “if parents know their child is lying, they shouldn’t accuse the little one of any wrong doing” (Hart introduction). I think what she is trying to say is that you shouldn’t blame your child for anything, ignore it so that they stay happy. It translated to me that I should let Cameron lie all the time and not teach her wrong form right.

You guys taught us wrong from right but just because we lied all the time didn’t mean we always had to get a whooping for it. With Cameron I’m going to explain to her that lying is not good and she shouldn’t lie. That way I won’t feel bad for whooping her and she will not be crying and not understanding what she is being disciplined for.

Another thing is that you guys shouldn’t have token me, Jazmin and Renzie through crazy situations. As I got a little older, things started coming out about you guys marriage that I had no idea about.I think society would see a parent as being a mother or father providing their child with a roof over their head, clothes on their back and keeping food in their bellies.When I was twelve years old I remember like it was yesterday when Jazmin and I have been at home all day with dad. Dad we hated being at home with you because you didn’t let us do anything you slept all day because of work.

The only thing Jazmin and I did during the day was watch all the other kids play outside wishing we can go out and play too. That day mom you promised to take Jazmin and I to the drive inn if we were good and let daddy sleep, we anticipated your arrival from work that day. Finally the night sky had fallen and dad was up getting ready for work when you came home from work. Renzie was a bit over one and I remember we had to get him dressed so that he could come with us too. Dad was catching the bus to work that night because we only had one car at the time and you were taking us to the movies, so he left early to wait at the bus stop.

When we were all ready and leaving out the door you remembered you had to get some gas. We drove around the corner to the neighborhood gas station/ while we were there we took the chance to also to say bye to dad for the night since that’s where his bus was arriving at. When we got there mom you went right into the gas station while I looked around for dad. I noticed he got into a green van. I couldn’t really so who were driving until they was getting ready to pull off. Mom you got to the car just in time for me to tell you that dad had just gotten into a car with two women.

We went on a high speed chase so that you could catch dad in the act of his dirty deed while we all cried and asked what was going on in the back seat. After the chase I remember us going home and you throwing all his belongings out the windows and changing the locks. Ever since that night we didn’t see dad for a long time. I was okay with that because when dad was around we didn’t have any fun at all.

Now lets’ fast forward a couple months to like October. When all the drama and things died down we started going over dads’ house for the weekend to spend quality time I suppose. We hated going over his house because he didn’t have any cable and all he did was make us go outside while he slept all day. After visiting a few times we got used to the routine.

One day while we were in the car you explained to Jazmin and I that you had a “friend” at your house. Jazmin and I looked at each other and we mouthed friend? I shrugged it off because you and mom haven’t gotten a divorce yet so I knew she was just that, a friend. We arrived to your house we walked in, there was the “friend” turns out her name was Sheila. She was sitting on the couch like she owned that bitch laughing and talking on the phone barley acknowledging Jazmin and I. We just looked at her and proceeded to make our way to the back room mad as hell. I guess you felt the weird vibe or something because all of a sudden y’all wanted to go to the mall.

At the mall you left us with this complete stranger to go with Renzie to build a bear workshop. In the department store we all parted ways to look for clothes. After what it seemed like forever you finally came back for us. Sheila expressed that she wanted to go to build a bear workshop to get her a bear. You or Sheila didn’t even bother to ask us what we wanted to do; it felt as if she was taking over already.

In build a bear workshop I was bored out of my freaking mind because I wasn’t getting anything and I was ready to go back home to momma. I watched you guys, y’all were all over each other and it was disgusting. You and mom weren’t even divorced yet just separated but so what the point is you were still married! Ever since that day I lost a little respect for you. The ride home was awkward because Sheila kept asking us questions like she knew us or something all I was thinking was shut the hell up lady! She talks too much I thought and still think so to this day.

A few weeks later you were coming to get us as usual to go to your boring ole little house. This time you were asking all the questions. Questions like “how did you guys like Sheila? And if we can see ourselves being around her”. I’m like what’s your point of asking all these questions? Then that’s when you ruined my life. You showed us pictures of you, Sheila and a wedding ring. I said “so I’m guessing you’re going to marry her right?” you said yeah and all I could do was cry. You didn’t even bother to ask me why I was crying; you acted angry with me and brushed me off like you didn’t care.

Next thing I knew you and moms divorce was finalized in October and you were getting re-married in December. Now being the smart child I am I put two and two together, you were having an affair the whole damn time you and mom was married. So is that why you took so many trips to Oklahoma and New York? To see this woman that your marring that we know nothing about. Now that I’m grown I don’t really care about what happened to our family because I think it was for the best.

By me recapping these stories from my point of view I hope you two realize where you messed up in my eyes as parents. By me not having any freedom as a child, when I got a taste of freedom I didn’t know what to do with myself. Dad you will notice that it is kind of your fault because you never let us do anything. I think that we all would be closer to you if you just took the time out to get to know us and find out or likes and dislikes. Mom you messed up by having us go with you on that high speed chase all over the west side just to catch dad. I think that you should have taken us back home and handled it differently on another day. Hopefully by Renzie still being young you guys don’t repeat the same mistakes. So far the only mistake that I see being made is that y’all always talking about each other in front of him, y’all need to stop that.

Another thing is that you two shouldn’t lie so damn much. Why didn’t find out that I had an older brother until I was sixteen years old? And mom you’re not off the hook either. When are you finally going to tell me out of your own mouth that Jazmin and I have different fathers? I mean it’s pretty obvious anyway, she looks nothing like us. What pisses me off the most is that you dad been hiding you other children from mom, me, Jazmin and Renzie for 15 years. So if you ever get mad on how me and Thomas relationship is just remember you can’t get mad because what goes around comes around and karma is a bitch.

When I have my daughter my parenting skills are going to way different from how you guys raised me and my siblings. One thing I’m going to change is the whole lying thing. When I was younger I used to lie all the time but that was because I was scared of telling y’all the truth. The reason being is that we got a whooping for every little thing that we did when we were with dad.

Cameron will not ever know how bad it is between me and her father. I just want Cameron childhood memories to be great ones, not of us arguing and cursing each other out. I want her to be able to say that she had a childhood and great parents. All that will have to start by the way I discipline her. Dad I know that you were raised in a strict household and mom I know you were raised in a household with screaming and yelling. I want to raise my daughter in a “Scream free household”. I know you guys might think it is impossible but according to Hal Edward Runkel a well-known speaker says “Not all of us (parents) scream at our kids. Not all of us struggle with keeping our cool” meaning you can get through your child without yelling and I believe in his statement.

According to Bruno Bettelheim a child psychologist “there are no agreed upon rules between child and parent they follow their own rules” (Bettelheim pg.5). Meaning that if parents tell their child what they should or shouldn’t do we’re not going to listen. I totally disagree with this statement because all the advice and rules that you guys gave us we did follow and still do. Now that we are older yes we did drop some of the rules like do your homework when you first come in from school bull crap. The rules that we do still follow is making sure we get an education so that we can take care of our families how we want to.

All in all I just want to let you guys know that y’all parenting skills need to be evaluated. I think that if we didn’t go through these series of events while we were younger, we wouldn’t act the way we do towards y’all now. Hopefully by y’all reading this you would change a little bit as far as raising Renzie. Raising him should be easier since both of y’all are in your forties and over the years grown wiser. I’ve learned and I know that I don’t want Cameron to be raised like I was; I want to raise her better. A parent never let the children know how bad the blood is between you two and don’t play the children against either one of the parent; you protect them from the drama so that no child blame themselves for what has happened between you two, and I plan on raising Cameron by my definition as a parent.

 Work citied

Bettelheim, Bruno *A Good Enough Parent A Book on Child Rearing.*1987.New York: New York.2010. Print

 Hart, Betsy *It takes a Parent.*2005.New York: New York.2010.Print

 Runkel, Edward Hal *Screamfree Parenting.*2007.New York: New York.2010.Print