

Re: Interaction with Your Daughter

To: Clayton Echard

Hi Clayton,

Have you heard from Laura today? She was supposed to be at the barn for an early appointment with one of the horses, but the vet called me to say she didn't show up for it. I checked my email and saw that I missed one she sent very early this morning after I went to bed. The content is private, but given the circumstances, I think it's important that you read it:

Mom, you've always said one of the best and worst things about me is that I look to what's ten steps ahead than enjoy what's right in front of me. The future has always given me hope and been something I look forward to, but that's not the case anymore. You know that initially, I only saw the pregnancy as holding me back in life, but with your help, I began to see it as something unexpected, but not unwanted. I thought that Clayton would come around to see it in that same light, but he hasn't, so as I try to picture what my life will look like next February and beyond, I feel a sense of panic. Sarah has emphasized how she feels like she couldn't raise Gavin without Christian's help, so how can I manage to raise two without Clayton's? I have pushed and pushed him to give me some sort of answer as to whether or not he will do joint custody or provide child support, but he won't get back to me. I thought that if we did paternity testing, he would step up to the plate so we could organize what the future would look like, but now, he doesn't even want to get back to me to schedule it. It's not like I am trying to hide anything from him or that I am refusing a test, so I don't understand why he is treating me like I am trying to trap him. I am terrified that I won't know what role, if any, he will play until they are born and that is making me dread the next eighteen years.

I have asked Clayton to "explore things" with me for a week or two so many times that the phrase has become cliché. It embarrassed me to ask him from day one, but it didn't feel right to never even give things a try considering the situation we found ourselves in. He doesn't know me well enough to know that I didn't seek him out and that he isn't a standout compared to my exes. He's not a billionaire like Garrett, not a famous singer like Dean [Lewis], and not an Olympian like Jeremy [Bloom], and if I ever told him, he'd never believe that I didn't seek them out, nor that I was the one to end it with each of them. He doesn't get that I wouldn't care if he were a garbageman as long as he was the father: that's what I care about. He doesn't care to know that I wasn't born with a silver spoon in my mouth just because of who dad is, nor that I had to start the horse business at sixteen to try to help the family make up for his gambling losses. Instead of asking me to hear more about what happened with Mike, he wants to ask him, as if he even has a side. He won't give me the time of day to explain what Andrew did to me and why the FBI's involvement meant I literally couldn't be with anyone until him and why the babies couldn't be anyone else's.

Clayton thinks I am an ugly girl who isn't worth his time, and I know that the babies will mean I won't be worth anyone else's. Who wants to date a single mom of twins whose dad probably won't even take them for a weekend here and there? I will spend years trying to explain to them why their dad couldn't try for a week to make things work with their mom when I will never understand it myself. I will spend their whole lives trying to explain to them why their dad wants nothing to do with them and I know they will feel guilty about that and have issues forever because of it.

I have given Clayton "outs". I have offered to have an abortion so many times because I don't want to interrupt his life. I know you've told me not to, and your reasoning isn't wrong, but I have told him so many times that I would go to the press if I didn't get in communication with him to game plan the future. I have meant it each time, but chickened out every single time because I know the impact that would have on him. I hate myself for threatening him with this, but I am desperate to know what next year and beyond holds and he refuses to give me clarity. I haven't wanted to tell you, but I have told him the two times I have felt borderline suicidal, which includes right now. He used the first time against me in his response to the court, saying that I had mental issues, and I'm sure he'd say that again, even though my reasoning is because of how unsure of the future I feel because of him. I have told him I would take back the complaint I submitted to the real estate board, even though I know it was justified, if he will just communicate with me. He'd rather get fired or lose his license than have to talk to me. He'd rather have the press know about the pregnancy than speak to me. Do you know how that feels?

You had dad when you had me and Sarah. Sarah had Christian when she had Gavin. I am having two and I have no one. I've reached out to his family and they haven't gotten back to me, and they probably think I'm nuts too, even though again, all I want is to know what the future holds. Clayton won't even respect the court and that he is required to communicate with me.

Who wants to feel like they are so worthless that they have to beg a man to give them a week of their time when they are pregnant with his children? Even with begging, he won't do it. Trust me, I wouldn't be desperate to date him if we weren't in this situation -- he has treated me like shit. But if he got to know me and I got to know him, maybe things would be different. If they weren't, then the possibility of us being together would no longer be an issue and we could focus on being the best co-parents that we could be! Doesn't Clayton realize that we could have eliminated the possibility of this months ago if he'd just given it a week? Or maybe he would have surprised himself and he actually would have liked me. You *know* that I am loyal and that I could have made him better, but he won't give me the chance to. That will never happen, and the eternal optimist in me has slowly become a pessimist.

I've come to realize that Clayton will always view me and the pregnancy as being the worst things to happen to him. Me having the twins would be his downfall. He supposedly has a mission to help those with mental health, and although he has proven that he doesn't care about mine, I would hate to be the reason that other people don't benefit from whatever message he has to spread. Despite the fact that I know he thinks I don't care about him, he's the father of my kids, and I do; I would hate it if we mean that he doesn't find the happiness he is looking for. Clearly, he can't picture a future with the twins in it, and I can't live in the present not knowing what the future with the twins holds (if that makes any sense). The anxiety I feel of not knowing what role he would play in their lives, if any, is crippling, because that would obviously impact any time I would have for my own hopes and dreams in the future. As a last ditch attempt to save both of us from this, I even offered him a late term abortion (now), but he didn't respond. Now, I just give up.

I emailed him shortly before I wrote this, saw he read the email, and didn't respond, so I know he doesn't care. His life would be better without me and the twins in it, and if he has the ability to feel any guilt for what he has done to us, I hope he does. If something happens to me, please find the nerve I didn't and share this with the world so they know I didn't suffer from any major mental health issues, but rather that I did everything I could to get Clayton to tell me what he saw the future with our kids looking like and that he refused to tell me. At the end of the day, it really is his fault.

I have called her several times and checked her house, but she's not there. My texts are getting delivered, but she isn't responding to me or her sister. I even called the police, who said you need to wait a much longer time before filing a missing person's report. Can you please text her? I think you would be the only one who would get her to answer if she is reachable and we are panicking. Regardless, please email me to let me know you received this.

Thank you,

JO

Jan Black Owens

Re: Interaction with Your Daughter

To: Clayton Echard

Yesterday at 1:49 PM

Hi Clayton,

Have you heard from her??

Jan

[See More](#) from Jan Black Owens

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JO

Jan Black Owens

Re: Interaction with Your Daughter

To: Clayton Echard

Yesterday at 4:42 PM

Hi Clayton,

We still have not heard from her. Did you write to her? If not, can you PLEASE write to her? Ronn and I would expect that since she is pregnant with your children, you would at the very least respond to us. If she has harmed herself, she has harmed your babies. This is extremely disappointing from a man who claims to be a suicide prevention advocate.

Jan

[See More](#) from Jan Black Owens

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Jan Black Owens

Re: Interaction with Your Daughter

To: Clayton Echard

Yesterday at 7:49 PM

Hi Clayton,

We still have not heard from Laura. Can you please let us know if you have spoken to her??? We are worried sick.

Jan

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