

August 13, 2003

[Maryann]
[Maryann's Address]

RE: Goodbye

Dear [Maryann]:

As you know, my life, my emotions and my head have been in turmoil for the past six weeks and, in many respects, for much longer. Last night the turmoil simply continued, as I tossed and turned, once again slept poorly, and kept thinking about everyone whose lives I have affected.

When our relationship began after our attorney-client relationship ended, both you and I were blindsided and frightened by what was happening. You and I both felt intense guilt about what it was doing to my life, particularly to [my wife] and my kids, and we shared differing concerns about the emotional status of yourself and your two beautiful children. [My wife] was hurting badly, as were my beautiful kids, and that was simply tearing me up inside because I was so unexpectedly responsible for it. I had always regarded [my wife] as my best friend and my family (and extended family through [my wife], whose mother and siblings have been terrific) as my life despite minor issues that arose from time to time as in even the best of families and relationships. After 20+ years of faithful marriage, I was much more vulnerable than I realized because of [my wife's] seeming, ever-growing disinterest in me attributed to her continual weight gain and lack of concern and effort as to whether that was affecting how I felt she felt about me, her related defensiveness, indignation and defiance regarding that issue, and her increasing views of me as being "fat" and too old for anyone else to be interested in me anyway.

Then you came along, and you made me feel like a completely different person—the person I wanted to feel like and knew I was, who still has a lot of life ahead of him and who [my wife] didn't seem to appreciate. It was wonderful, but it was and is wrong. Everything I have tried to stand for, for the sake especially of my kids and [my wife], let alone in the general community, throughout my life was tipped over. I became very lost and hopeless despite the things we discussed, the plans we contemplated and the times we spent together. I remain that way now, still very much in love with [my wife], ashamed of what I did, missing my children immensely, and feeling that I am very worthless to [my wife] and the kids beyond merely being their meal ticket and whipping post. I don't expect that those feelings will change for a very long time.

Much of what you said about [my wife's] priorities and character traits, in marked distinction to yours, is apparently true, as I have sadly come to learn during the past few weeks. I realize now that she doesn't feel and probably never has felt about me in all of the truly right ways, that she is unable to recognize and acknowledge those things and place them ahead of or at least on a par with herself, and that because of her views and the damage done there is no real

interest on her part to continue a marriage with me that would be the way a marriage should be. However, the fact is that I had a long, rather exemplary, in fact usually beautiful and wonderful, relationship with her that I will always hold on to and greatly miss, and that I want to and feel I must try, if [my wife] will do likewise, to save and build upon. I am convinced now that my conduct that ruined my family's beliefs in and love for me, and my tremendous unhappiness about what I have done to and how I will severely miss them all eternally, will plague any future you and I could otherwise have together. That would simply not be fair or good for you and for your kids. So I have concluded that I must walk away.

I will be living at my parents' home, until I sort things out further, subject to how [my wife] reacts. I may remain in Maine or I may move away to start over somewhere else. I don't know. What I do will frankly be entirely dependent upon [my wife] who, right now, seems to no longer have any interest in me in a truly meaningful way anyway.

I ask you not to call or write, and to simply move on with your lives and pursue the wealth of happiness each of you deserves and will definitely find, as I will try to do with my life. You need to continue dedicating your attention to your beautiful kids, wherever you choose to live and whatever you choose to do, free from the inevitable baggage that I would otherwise permanently burden you, me and everyone else with. I have thought long and hard about that and, despite your expressions that I am not a burden, I am realistic enough to know that I certainly will become one if I am not one already.

For my part, I need to and will more intensely dedicate my attention to my family, not only because they deserve everything I can give to them, but also for me. I will admit my adultery to [my wife] because that seems to be so important for her even though, despite whatever her lawyer may have told her, it accomplishes only bad things for her and our kids by demeaning me and nothing truly positive as a matter of law. I will continue to endure her efforts to embarrass me about it and her disappointing lack of concern for my own welfare for as long as I can tolerate it, but I will ask her to leave you and your lives alone and to concentrate her anger on me.

For all of her faults, I have nevertheless come to realize that my family, and [my wife] especially, means the world to me, and I must follow that feeling and accept whatever can and cannot be that will follow. I will dismiss my divorce case and move back in with [my wife] if she turns out to be genuine and dedicated to that concept and truly willing to reciprocate my commitments to her soon, or I will move on, if [my wife] continues to make it so that I should do so. I will retain my strength, pride and dignity under all circumstances, I will continue to try to make positive differences in people's lives, and I will strive to be happy and to ensure that my kids and, hopefully also, [my wife] will be happy.

Please do not wait for me anymore. It would not be fair to you or to your children. And, thank you for making me feel as wonderful as you clearly are, during our times together. I wish you and your children all of the best things that life can offer, and your continuing determination and confidence that you will have them.

Bob