

3/25/81

Dear Sarah

I've been putting off writing this letter for quite some time because of the "volatile" nature of our relationship over the past few months. Perhaps this is going to sound clumsy but I'm sure you'll give me the benefit of the doubt. (I can't seem to spell today either!)

First of all, I care for you deeply - always have and I always will. I still don't think we ever had a good marriage nor do I think we would have ever developed one no matter how long we had tried. But, that doesn't change the fact that you are precious to me and that, however distant of one or "in spirit only," you are my friend. I am your friend Always.

I do not take what we shared and went through lightly. For what it's worth, I want you to know that I have wept more deeply, and bitterly and more often over us during these past four months

than I ever did before. The fact that you are a wonderful lady and that we are really friends makes it much harder to be divorced. It's much harder to admit that we failed at that relationship. It is strange and sad to find that the weight and tragedy of what occurred is only fully felt (by me anyway) in retrospect. ~~as I ~~stated~~~~ Maybe it's the fact that I'm starting a new life and that has "sealed off" the old forever that really brings it all thundering home to me at last. I do care and I am deeply and eternally sorry - for all of it.

I am also sorry that my re-marriage so soon after our divorce was painful to you. It was certainly not intended as a slap in the face to you and I'm sorry if it looked like I could just waltz from one life to another so easily... as I explained to you earlier in this letter, that is not the case. I ~~do~~ just really believe that for me it was the exact right thing to do and that conviction has been strengthened everyday.

You said that you wanted me to be happy. Well, I am and I can't deny it. I strongly suspect that I will remain this way too. His marriage was not a rash act (though I'm sure it looked that way to everyone.)

I hope that perhaps in some small way that knowledge will ease your mind. I also truly hope that you will be able to know the same happiness with someone the Lord brings to you. You certainly deserve it.

Since we are both "big kids" now let me continue with a subject equally as difficult. I would greatly appreciate your financial assistance with the back taxes that I had to pay for 1977, 1978, and 1979. I think I deserve it. I don't think the issue has to do with whether or not I signed a paper saying that I would cover those