

Crystal,

May 24, 2013

FIRST, LET ME SAY THAT I AM WRITING THIS LETTER AS I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU & I WILL EVER BE ABLE TO SPEAK OPENLY WITH ONE ANOTHER. I RESPECT THAT IT MAY BE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR YOU TO SPEAK CANDIDLY ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS BUT I AM NOT COMFORTABLE WITH LETTING MY FEELINGS GO UNTHROATED.

SECOND, I NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT I AM GAY & THAT THAT IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE. DESPITE WHAT YOU BELIEVE, THIS IS NOT A CHOICE OF MINE & CERTAINLY NOT ANYTHING I WILL APOLOGIZE FOR. I GET THAT YOU MAY BE EMBARRASSED BY THIS & ALL FEELING OF ANY "QUESTIONS" THAT MAY ARISE BUT THAT DOES NOT CHANGE WHO I AM.

I HAVE BEEN IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP FOR 13 YEARS NOW & MY FAMILY IS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN ANY HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIP. I FACE DISCRIMINATION & BATTERY EVERY DAY BUT TO HAVE TO EXPERIENCE IT FROM

(1)

My sister is more painful than you know. For years  
now, I have refused to ignore my family so you  
can be comfortable around your friends. It has  
not gone unnoticed that you blatantly refuse to  
invite me and my family to gatherings ~~that~~ meant  
to celebrate Astley & Anny's while you simultaneously  
invite Jerry & Diane, David, etc. with open arms.  
I also know that you play off questions about  
my whereabouts by blaming me for not attending.

I refuse to beg you for a sincere relationship. If  
we can't be close & happy let us know we  
are not, so be it. I am resigned to accept that  
planning. Please know that I do love you but as long  
as you continue to choose <sup>to</sup> ~~ignore~~ <sup>or ignore</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> family  
of who I am, we are no type of family. Family is so  
much more than blood. It requires respect too!

I AM NOT ASKING YOU TO COMPROMISE YOUR BELIEFS  
ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIP. YOU ARE ENTITLED TO BELIEVE  
WHAT YOU WANT OF AMI. I ONLY ASK THAT YOU  
FOR ONCE STOP SATURATING MY FAMILY AND MY ALIYAN &  
ANNY'S LIVES. FORTUNATELY, THEY ARE BOTH OLD ENOUGH  
NOW TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS. THIRTEEN YEARS IS TOO  
LONG TO WAIT FOR THE "FIRST TIME".

I WILL NOT BE DISTANCED BY WHO I AM SO YOU CAN BE  
COMFORTABLE & AVOID ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS. BESIDES,  
ALL OF WESTMORELAND KNOWS THAT I AM GAY SO I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT YOU ARE AFRAID OF. YOU DIDN'T MAKE ME  
GAY & WHO I AM IS NO REFLECTION OF YOU. FURTHERMORE,  
YOUR IGNORANCE & JUDGEMENT ARE NO REFLECTION ON ME.

I AM ALWAYS READY TO TALK & HOPE THAT SOMEDAY  
WE CAN. I'D PREFER, I FEEL, TO HAVE HONEST CONVERSATIONS.  
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

- CHARLES