

May 29, 2009

Dear Tom,

Except maybe for the last few years, I have been a terrible father to you. I spanked you when you were a toddler, didn't spend much time with you and Amy after your mother and I separated, and then moved 1000 miles away to New Orleans. When you came to New Orleans to live with me, I was pretty stingy. I hope my memory of this is wrong, but it seems like I once gave you used socks as a birthday or Christmas gift. Did that actually happen?

When I got the job in Baton Rouge, I left you to fend for yourself, without providing any financial help. And my new job turned out to be no better than the one I had – and lasted only one year.

You did nothing to deserve this. You were a good kid. I was insecure and selfish. I am sorry I didn't treat you better, and I'm sorry I didn't support you so that could have had an easier time in college. I do feel bad about it.

Nevertheless – have a happy birthday.