

MOM

First off I want to tell you before I get into all the mucky muck, I watched Stranger Things and I liked it. It reminded me a lot of "Stephen King's IT". Do you remember that movie? The one from the 90's?

Now, I LOVE YOU. Always have. Always will. If I have said or done things over the years that have hurt you, I'm sorry. I am not denying anything I just plain ol don't remember.

PENNY

Liar.

MOM

I have shown you nothing but love, or at least my version of it. I am not perfect. You need to let go and forgive me for stuff - like Dan for example.

He was a demon who poisoned everyone who ever knew him. Even his own family didn't like him much. I'm sorry you feel I used to side with him. I feel differently.

All he and I ever did was fight, and it was because I was defending us, especially you. I fought for you your whole life against neighbor kids, kids at school, mostly Dan and apparently to the point where you don't even want me as a friend on Facebook any more.

Please let all that crap go. You can't keep harboring it. I don't hang on to the Dan crap because he is dead and I am glad. He only wrecked three years for us out of the 30 years we've been a family. Our life - despite that bastard - was filled with laughter and love and happiness. At the end of the day, I love you and you love me. That's all that should matter.

Now, about your transitioning, Am I happy about it? Hell no. I am not happy. I feel like the Ben that I raised is dead. I am grieving here and am going to miss you terribly. I have always loved Ben the boy and Ben the young dude and especially Ben the man. But I have come to realize that all the crying and praying and wishing I'm doing over here isn't going to stop you.

Am I an advocate for transgender people? No. I won't be marching in any LGBT parades anytime soon BUT I am an advocate of you. If you are happy doing this then who am I to stop you from achieving happiness? I have never ever "hated" gay or transgender people. Do I love them? No. But I definitely do not hate them. I don't understand them. I am just not wired to accept things that have always been foreign and weird to me. But this

(MORE)

MOM (cont'd)

has for sure short-circuited my wiring. I will need time and lots of it. Just know - I love you (pssst... you're my favorite but don't tell Em I said that) and I am going to miss my buddy, Kidda.

I love you Mom xxoo

*Penny is not sure how she feels anymore.*

PENNY

XXOO.

MOM

p.s. This here postscript is strictly being said for comedic purposes as this family deals with stuff with humor... My mind is closed but my arms are open.

END-----

*Mom finishes and freezes. Penny looks as though she's been slapped, takes a moment to process.*

PENNY

She doesn't admit to anything. She names no specifics. She wants me to forget.

I will never forget.

"My mind is closed, but my arms are open"? Go fuck yourself. I won't be gaslighted into imagining I had a happy childhood.

I remember everything.

*Penny goes to watching spot. Ben enters and Mom unfreezes.*

BEN

Momma? Mom?

MOM

Yeah, hun?

*Ben doesn't know how to begin. He starts to well up.*

MOM

Don't cry! Don't cry! Shhh. It's okay. Don't cry.

*Ben fights the tears and keeps them at bay.*

MOM

That's my strong little man. Tell me what's wrong.