

## TEN YEARS LATER, (ZOE) \* \*

Now that I'm older I only live in one place and I *still* don't know where all my stuff is! When I think back on my parents' divorce, apart from the frustration of losing and forgetting stuff it was actually fun to have two different houses to do different things. For example, my dad's house was a little calmer and I got more reading done there, but I really enjoyed having my friends over to my mom's house to hang out, where we had a pond to go skating. In some ways, having stuff at two different houses actually gave me more possibilities of what I could do. And if you still don't know where your stuff is, don't feel too bad, because even people who only live in one place don't know where all their stuff is either!

## TEN YEARS LATER, (EVAN) \* \*

The title of this chapter says it perfectly: You're Not My Father/Mother. That will never change. However, that doesn't mean that you can't accept, love, or at the very least coexist with this person. Both of my parents have dated and had relationships. Some of their partners I have liked, some I haven't. In the process I've learned it's about how I choose to relate to them and the experiences we create together. The advice I have now is to try your very best to realize that these people make your parents happy—that's why they chose them. They aren't out to get you; they are there to relate to you, love you, care about you, and add to your life.

## TEN YEARS LATER, (EVAN) \* \*

Here's the deal: When I was younger, I was totally against therapy because I didn't want to feel bad. I had pain and anger and knew that those feelings would come out in therapy. Who wants that? But now that I've done some therapy, I'll tell you that it really can pay off—if you step up to the plate. See, the thing about therapy is that you're in charge. You talk about whatever you want, and get advice where you need it. If you want to talk about the divorce, that's cool. If you want to talk about other stuff, that's fine too. If you feel put on the spot, you might try going with one or both of your parents. That way, therapy can be a conversation between you, and an acknowledgment that the issues affect all of you.

## TEN YEARS LATER, (ZOE) \* \*

It's not abnormal to worry, after seeing your parents go through a divorce, that the same thing will happen to you. And it might, but like Evan said earlier, I'm willing to take that chance. Love is a powerful thing, and divorce isn't hereditary. Take it as a lesson: what have you learned about relationships and marriage from going through this experience? I've learned to be picky, to identify things that make a partnership work and to know what's important to me in a partner. I'm excited that I still have the opportunity to create my own marriage experience.