

June 6, 2022

Friends,

Several of you have reached out recently suggesting different well-intentioned things to either rebuild or help my life. I truly appreciate that you care and that you are brainstorming as it is a way that people show they care.

I'm writing because I thought I'd give you some information as I appreciate thoughts, ideas, and alternatives – and I'm really at a loss myself and just don't see a high-quality of life of any kind ahead of me because somehow, it seems most people have information about me or my situation that I don't have and certainly didn't share – somehow the rumors are tough – and some of you likely (I'm told) even heard from Amy some very specific things, but I'm sorry to say that I can't be sure those are even true or related to true – I'm actually concerned that during Covid she had some sort of 'break' and also given her personality, one that is full of certitude that can be good in many situations and one that is unapologetic which I suppose might serve her well in some situations, she couldn't back track, ever... and part of the professional coaching for divorce (nasty industry, right) she received must have told her to never give anything freely or without going to court, no documents or information, and to promise to reconcile all along as a means of getting things – it isn't her, which is why I'm nearly certain that there was some sort of psychological event or episode during covid – I'll never know and I'm sorry for that.

Let me be clear, I don't think I was the easiest man in the world to live with, but I wasn't violent, or mean, or angry often, I loved and cared for the children, I never rested at home (or elsewhere), I worked multiple jobs, and did household things and chores any time I was home – I was an equal partner in the real sense and I considered Amy my best friend and partner – so this was all a shock – we weren't without problems, but my goodness....

To any of you ever considering a divorce – unless there is physical violence don't do it! It's the worst experience I've ever had including being raped and having physical violence in my world when I was younger. Don't do it – No matter how much it hurts if your spouse wants to take on a lover or ignores you or anything else – a divorce is signing up to let fairly incompetent Judges, lawyers, and others into your life, take all of your things and segregate you from your children – I wish I would have offered Amy more (at various times I had offered to move to another room in the house, to cease anything beyond a business partnership with her – business of running our family and kids) – and more, but this wasn't what she was looking for – I wish I would have offered that she could take on a lover (very French of me, I suppose), but the idea of that hurt me too much – I couldn't get my head around it – I couldn't understand why she might be able to love a stranger that way and not me... I still can't, but I suppose I have nothing to say about that now – So, don't get divorced if you can help it - it's not good, nothing about it is good, and for those of you married a long time - you lose all of your stories and more – for me, so many of my memories are placed based and so that hurts a great deal too. My favorite places are all tied to her and the kids – and that's rough, very, very, very rough.

This note was inspired by a dream I had where my high school friend Clare (and friend at one point in adulthood) had suggestions and since so many people have offered small advice, I'll see if you have anything more.

**Here's where you come in with some facts that may be helpful or ideas that I could use other thinking around – CAVEAT** – Please don't talk to one another but only to me – Triangulation has been the worst in this and has not helped one bit in any manner.

- I absolutely have some post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) over how this went down and the police and more – I'm working with some local people around this, but until all the court stuff is over and the manipulations stop, I'm told there is nothing to do for that – and we seemingly have months of court before us still.
- It hurts me to no end that my children have clearly been told something through implicit actions and direct words that is simply untrue and I don't really know how to deal with any of that nor do any professionals. I only see them for about 40-70 mins a week (if they show up and they don't always and sometimes without warning) – this kills me because we were close (but I can't really say much, because I'm not really even a parent anymore just sort of a bank and they don't even know that because they don't know, nor should they, that Amy gets money for them from me.
- I don't think many of you understand that academic jobs are not like business jobs and are not easily portable. In fact, the likelihood of me getting another academic job anywhere in the English-speaking world is very, very unlikely. I would have to write something very significant in my field to be able to even be considered and even then it would be a multiyear process to get a different job. I do on occasion get some nibbles or small-ish offers, but all the stars would have to align for me to get another academic job.
  - I do absolutely love teaching and I also enjoy writing and researching.
  - I have some terrific projects that I'm excited about but often cannot do because the trauma is so real.
- Given the nature of my jobs over the past 13 or 14 years I have actually not made appropriate friends in town. Part of this is because I traveled so much for Notre Dame and we had young children and so I didn't meet a lot of people, also my job at ND sort of put me 'on-call' a lot of the time for my teachers who lived all over the country. I also had another full-time job that was benefit eligible and took a lot of time and I also did several other side jobs.... It was a lot, but the point of it is – we had a few acquaintances, I kept up relationships with a lot of you, and the kids and Amy were my world (along w/ my students) ← I really don't have many local friends to turn to – and even they I think Amy got to and convinced of things that weren't quite exact or true and I think (worse still) this was part of the professional coaching.
- The way things went down left me with absolutely no money. I mean nothing. I don't want money, I wouldn't take your money (and even if I were to try and borrow money to go to Switzerland, I'd leave plans in my estate that you'd get paid back from the sale of my stuff) – so I won't take money – but just be super clear, I can't really 'go' or 'do'

much because I don't have anything of consequence – and have been selling some stuff to just make the regular stuff work (as I've lost a lot of employment of late and about 1/3 of my income too)

- I do not have any particularly marketable skills, but I am good at encouraging young people and introducing people to new ideas and also good at doing some coaching around teaching and learning - I am not a terrible writer (this is a sentence that my college book on writing Strunk & White would have absolutely abhorred).
- I have had a lot of cyber bullying that I think was crowd sourced, hopefully accidentally by somebody hiring somebody that they didn't understand the damage they could do... and so my digital world is a mess...
- I have financial obligations to the children that preclude me from just doing something small and I worry that courts and lawyers will hunt me down if I don't meet those (and I want to meet them)
- I have seriously considered delivering the mail or UPS and just shutting my mind off... but I couldn't meet my minimum expenses doing that – so that's tricky, but not out of the question.
- I probably need some sort of basic healthcare and currently the children rely on me for their health care. I would hate to give up the tuition benefit for the children, but I'm also not entirely certain that I'm not going to lose my job which would mean all that goes away anyways.
- I love South Bend, but I'm not opposed to leaving and starting again... but I just don't even really know how or what to look for or how...

Seriously, I welcome all ideas and thoughts and if I don't respond to you it doesn't mean I didn't like your ideas or thoughts, but that I'm having to make some decisions pretty quickly and having to do so with the most limited kinds of information I've ever had in my life. The only thing I ask is that you please don't talk to other people that know me at all because the triangulation has been just horrific.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

If you want to see what skills I do have... here is my [C.V. / Resume](#) – you can see it just under the main page header.