

2017 December

Dear Lise-Anne and Scott,

Molly and I were shocked and saddened to learn of your marital situation. We envied you having a perfect marriage and family, living in an idyllic location. We spent a week in Chamonix several years ago with our family, and remember it as one of the most beautiful places we have ever visited.

Having had heard snippets of information of current events, we thought it might be helpful to share some of our thoughts about, and experiences with couples with marital difficulties.

First, we have always favored good-faith attempts for reconciliation, usually assisted by a skilled professional. There are always two sides to every story, and a reconciliation process is, if both sides participate honestly, a good way of finding and dealing with any burrs under the saddle, and removing them. Time and patience are often a valuable asset in this process and a period of separation without waging all-out war can be helpful for the parties to assess their situation.

If this doesn't work, and the parties cannot reach an agreement to restore their marriage, we have seen two paths pursued, either war or peace. Couples have agreed to disagree about the viability of their marriage and tried to amicably work out a separation agreement dealing with money and custody of children with the help of professionals skilled in the art of compromise in such negotiations. Alternatively they have waged war with professionals skilled in using all of the emotions, mistakes, and dirt of the past to make incendiary devices to throw at each other to advance a point of view. In the end, the biggest winners of this process were the lawyers representing them, whose interest was in prolonging and promoting litigation at great expense to the clients and great profit to the lawyers.

The biggest losers were the children who were put in the position of favoring or disfavoring a parent in the process, and suffered who knows what emotional and psychological damage. The aftermath for the couples was often everlasting bitterness.

That said, we hope that a couple as highly educated, smart and talented as yourselves will find a rational, respectful and peaceful way of resolving your differences.

We are praying for both of you.

- CHARLIE -