

Dear Parent,

Thank you for all you have done for me and the family. I know that I probably don't show my appreciation as often as I should.

I want so much to have a healthy and growing relationship with you. I admire what you have sought to sustain and build. And I value the time I have with you. But sometimes **I don't think you quite understand my experience of growing-up in the shadow of our family's success. I've been brought into something I'm not sure how to navigate.**

You have worked hard to instill good values in myself and my siblings, for which I am grateful. But that hasn't protected me from being influenced and at times, challenged by the presence of wealth in my life. **I struggle to understand what our family values mean for me—especially when it seems you grew up in a very different context and world than what I'm encountering today.**

From a very young age, I knew that our family was different from those of my friends. And I quickly learned that I could not share certain things with most people. I've continued to hide aspects of my life because people treat you differently when you come from generational wealth. To them, it's often a negative thing. Or something to be gained from. That has made it hard to have friends. **I often feel alone and isolated.**

It's hard to not internalize the negative perceptions of the rich. I feel extremely guilty for the ease of life I've had. **And I feel ashamed that even though I have an abundance of opportunities and access to nice things, I don't feel happy or content.**

I know you say that we need to work hard and that it will be my responsibility one day, but I am terrified I will mess it all up. No one's said it's all riding on my shoulders, but that's how I feel. **And I am so scared to disappoint you.** Sometimes you say things that you think are empowering to me but really, they make me feel overwhelmed.

**You say we need to use our resources for good, but I don't know where to start.** I want to have a positive impact on the world, but how? I'm so confused about what I should do. I feel stuck. There are so many options, I don't know how to pick. **I'm still trying to figure out who I am. And often it doesn't feel like I have a choice in that.**

To make it worse, things in the family have been contentious. And I don't feel like I would be received with understanding or empathy if I shared any of these things with them.

**I hope you will understand. This is harder than it may seem. I am really trying.**

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