

John Cale - Hallelujah



“Goodbye
and
Hello”

March 23

2013

"From: [REDACTED] **Sent:**
[REDACTED] **Thursday, 18 October 2012 1:47 PM**

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Do not contact me in any shape or form, stay away from me [REDACTED]. I don't want you in my life and I want nothing to do with you, please respect that. "

Your Final
Letter From
Me, Your
Dad

"Goodbye and Hello"

Dear [REDACTED]

I have struggled to accept your response above to what was really my last-ditch attempt to have some kind of personal discussion with you before you move on from secondary school. After all, we have not met in 9 years. You were 8 years old when everything fell apart. I am not even sure any more how you might remember me. I am not even sure if you would recognise me in the street. Would not that be strange if we passed by each other in the street one day without even realising that we were once father and daughter?

[REDACTED] And here you are, in your final year of secondary school, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and given that your response to me extinguishes the parent-child relationship between us, I have neither the capacity nor the responsibility to support you, in whatever state you are.

[REDACTED] So this letter cannot wait any longer. However, this is your issue, not mine for reasons that will become clear in this final letter to you.

Your decision has ended our relationship and you have enforced your decision by eliminating the capacity to communicate with each other. Our rupture, which I had always hoped we could repair, seems now irreconcilable and complete. This is your decision.

I have no mobile number for you. Every time I have called your mobile phone, you have hung up on me or changed the number. You have blocked me from your social networking pages (FACEBOOK). Your [REDACTED] e-mail address is the only way I have of contacting you and even this means has proven not to be private between you and me. I have your current home address but my mail to you is returned. It no longer matters by who, even though the handwriting gives them away, I am beyond all of that. I know that you will not live there forever, so I expect to lose even this last means of contacting you. From now on, it will be up to you.

"Goodbye and Hello"

[REDACTED] I contrast this with my memories of the first 8 years of your life when we were together. These are the memories of you that I will take with me to my grave; memories of your first smile at me, memories of changing your first nappy (yuck, sorry but there I said it), your first bath, memories of staggering down the stairs in the early hours of the morning to feed you.

I have more memories of you when you were [REDACTED] jumping on me in the swimming pool even before you could swim; memories of [REDACTED] taking you for walks and swims [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] Still more memories of taking you to kindergarten and school, and memories of teaching you how to ride a bicycle (although I remember that you were never a happy passenger, you always wanted to be in control), more memories of you at the Royal Melbourne Show, and of taking you every week to your swimming lessons. I watched you with pride as you learned how to swim. Do you remember [REDACTED]? I do because I was there for you. One of my most poignant memories is going to see the movie 'Finding Nemo' with you and [REDACTED]. You must have been about 4-5 years old. There is a scene in the movie where the other characters comment on what a great father Marlin the clown fish was for going to such an effort for his child. I still remember how you and [REDACTED] looked up at me with all that love in your eyes.

It seems that all that has gone now.

These are the memories I have of you. I will never forget those first joyful 8 years of your life that I spent with you, before your world and mine changed completely.

"Goodbye and Hello"

And this is where our history stops. This is where you have deleted me from your life, this is where you have deleted your paternal grandmother [REDACTED], Aunty [REDACTED] and Uncle [REDACTED], your cousins [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and of course, the only brother you have, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Why have you done this?

“Goodbye and Hello”

I do not know. You have never explained your decision to cut us out of your life to any of us. You have made your decision. I have made mine.

I feel that you are holding me accountable for something that I did not do or did not know that I did and which was hurtful to you. I can acknowledge the latter but not the former. It seems that you have judged and condemned me without allowing me the opportunity to hear you or to present my perspective.

Your situation must have been truly awful for you to have resorted to disengaging from the parent and family who love you and to have forgotten about our loving relationship. Nevertheless, the issue for you is that you will now have to assume responsibility for your part in all this. I am over justifying myself to you or anyone else.

I am not going to go over all the false accusations you have made against me in our Facebook conversation in [REDACTED], or rake over the bizarre coals of the “great [REDACTED] affair” of 2011 and the threats made against me at the time. There is no point going back 9 years ago, when I was forced to leave to protect [REDACTED], something I would have done for you too.

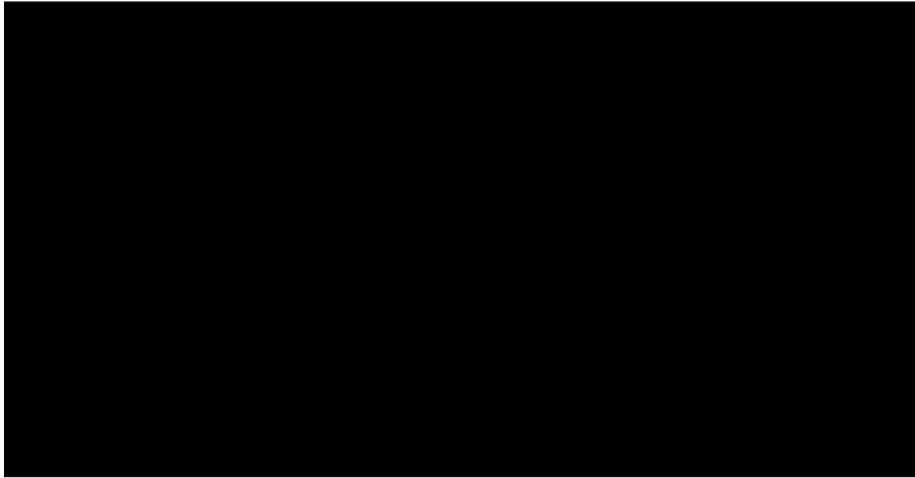
There is no longer any point in going back over independent reports in which someone is held accountable for rupturing the relationship between you and me. I could lament, I suppose that you, [REDACTED] and I could have had a very different future even whilst you lived with your [REDACTED], if the family consultant, [REDACTED] had explained the final orders in 2008 to you and [REDACTED] as ordered by the family court. It is a matter of court record that this did not happen. After 9 years down the track: so what?

We will never know now what might have been possible for you and [REDACTED]. Now, I do not know who you are, you do not know who I am.

Interesting how the moment I refuted your accusations of me, you ‘de-friended’ us! Hmmmm.... There is a lot for you to reconcile later on in your life, especially when you realise that I am innocent of what you have accused me. I will not be there to tell you “I told you so”; I will be there to say to you “I understand how you might have formed your views” but I will not be there while your accusations continue.

There is nowhere for our relationship to go because I will not accept guilt for something I simply did not do.

"Goodbye and Hello"



Frankly
, I am
not going
to play
this
judgement game
anymore. You
have made a
decision for which
you will have to
accept

responsibility and I have made mine.

You have chosen to deny that you have memories of you and me in a prior loving relationship. At the same time, you have rejected me completely in a harsh, unreasonable, irrational way. People cannot live with this kind of conflict without repeating the same conflict in other parts of their lives. It will be interesting to see what happens for you as you develop your life and perhaps find a partner and have children. I can only hope that you will do your own work on this in your own time and in your own way. I also know the consequences if you do not. I worry that you may pay a very heavy price for this indeed. However, that will be your problem, not mine.

Wait! I have changed my mind! I think it is worth raking over the still glowing embers of the "great [redacted] of 2011". It is a recent event in your history and perhaps one that encapsulates the remarkable manner in which someone sabotaged an opportunity for us to meet or at the very least for you to obtain what you needed. This is the sort of thing that has been happening from the moment you were born to sabotage our relationship. You will have to determine the true motivations of the people involved for yourself.

Brace yourself because it is a hell of a story! The truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

In 2011, I received a letter from your solicitor in which the solicitor advised that you had written to me in a sealed envelope to request that I approve your application to obtain a [redacted]. Ignoring for a moment that nobody ever told me for what purpose you were obtaining a [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], imagine my surprise (and your solicitor's) when instead of your letter in the sealed envelope requesting my approval, there was a letter from someone telling me to keep away from you!

"Goodbye and Hello"

I made it clear to all concerned at the time and make it clear to you again [REDACTED], that I would approve the [REDACTED] application in a personal meeting with you. The reasons should be obvious, the least of which is that this is the only way I know that the request actually comes from you in the first place! How outrageous and bizarre is that! However, this was not enough for someone.

Once I sent this letter to your solicitors, I received a telephone call in which the caller threatened to tell you that I hated you, unless I approved the [REDACTED] application. You know who that caller was and needless to say, I did not and do not respond to threats.

I guess I will say that I was a bit stunned at the audacity of this fraud, and frankly stunned at your silence about a matter that so violated your trust. Do you want to have your life lived for you? And I have kept all the evidence, just in case that caller wants to try something else.

Yes, it would be good to fan these coals into flame because a certain person involved in this tawdry affair should be ashamed of themselves and you should be judging them and not me. They could even face criminal charges for attempted fraud.

All of this is what makes what I am about to write to you even more remarkable. So now, we come to my decision.

I do love you [REDACTED]; this is why I have kept trying to reform a relationship with you until now. And now I am wondering if it is best for both of us if I simply stop trying so hard and let you make your decision and deal with the consequences. After all, despite my attempts, it seems that you have made your decision about whether you want me as your father in your life.

Your decision is a resounding "no", you do not want me in your life, as far as you are concerned there is no longer a meaningful parent-child relationship between you and me, and furthermore, you do not want there to be one.

I want you to be clear that this is your decision, not mine. You have rejected me; you are absolutely unreasonable and hostile to me. I have never received an explanation from you face-to-face why you want this and why you have this attitude toward me. I do not believe you are able to offer an explanation certainly not one that is coherent to you so you have to base your rejection upon false accusations or misunderstandings. As I said before, your situation must have been truly awful for you to feel this was your only option. Nevertheless, at your age it is within your capacity to make your own decisions about your life.

“Goodbye and Hello”

My decision is different from yours. My decision is to let you go. I come to this decision because of your unchanging rejection of me and your unwillingness or inability to meet with me face to face to help me understand your views. I have also come to this decision because I am fundamentally content with my life. I would like us to be in each of our lives but I do not need this to feel any better about myself. I am satisfied that I have done more than could reasonably be expected of me as a man, a person and a father. Others will have to be accountable for their behaviour. I am satisfied with mine.

Letting you go means fulfilling your wishes to have nothing further to do with me. Although I will no longer make regular attempts to contact you, I may try from time to time provided I know how to find you. Obviously, you will not hear from me if I do not know how to contact you. That will be your decision and your responsibility. I could keep trying to send you birthday cards and Christmas cards but since you return my mail to you and because you are already changing your contact details to exclude me, how will I know where you live? Therefore, I think on balance I will no longer send them to you. I am not going to play that game anymore. You will have to take the risk that you may not be able find me in the future when you need to or want to.

Maybe at some point in the future, you may want to seek me out, or at least watch me from afar. Well, for now I still have my mobile telephone number [REDACTED] but I cannot guarantee that I will continue to have the same number. If I change it, I may have no way of letting you know. You could do an Internet search using my name. I am pretty much splashed all over the Internet now, like everyone else. I will leave my Facebook page ready and waiting for you to unblock me.

I am not shutting the door; I am enabling you to launch yourself into your adult life and for you to accept responsibility for your decisions, even if that means we will never see each other again. I am on the other side of the door. It is closed from your side, not mine. I will stop knocking but that does not mean that I am not there.

As you become older, I hope that you gain a deeper appreciation of who you have rejected and why. My decision is to let you go to discover this for yourself in your own way. All I can do is wish you all the best and trust that your decision to have ended your relationship with me, reversible only by you, brings you all that you hope. Whether it does or not is a consequence that you alone will have to accept. I will be there, when you are ready.

"Goodbye and Hello"

What will never change is that part of me is you and part of you is me, even if it is only at a genetic level.

And so it is goodbye for now, [REDACTED] with the hope that there may be a hello at some time in the future. I just hope that we will be able to recognise each other.

[REDACTED]

Love Dad always.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]