

Mother: Helen Brown

Setting: Home of Helen Brown

Thanks for coming over. I really appreciated Ms. Miller's input and I'm glad there's another CASA/GAL volunteer working on this now. I was sad to see Ms. Miller go. I'm about to run out to Group, but I wanted to be sure we had time to meet and talk.

Honestly, I really don't know what I would do without my co-dependency group. We meet for an hour three times a week, and we call each other in-between for support. I joined the group two months before I finally got the courage up to tell Wayne he had to get out. Group has been pretty empowering.

Wayne was a good provider; he made really good money and was generous with it at first. He fixed a lot of things when he moved in and looked after the house like my husband used to. Wayne was a good dad to Jessica for the first few years. Things would have been fine if Jessica hadn't decided to be all strange and weird. She can be so stubborn! She was a really good little girl until she turned 11. Then she just started changing. Now I don't know what she thinks she's doing with all this lesbian nonsense.

Wayne started to get rough with me after we were together about a year. It wasn't that bad the first couple years. I tried to kick him out a couple times before, but he always convinced me to take him back. But recently, his Internet porn habit got way out of hand. He started to spend a lot of time in the basement looking at sick, disgusting stuff! I was afraid of what he might do to me next so I filed on him. He's gone for good now.

He and Jessica had that fight when Jessica ran away, and I guess he broke her ribs. Even with Jessica in foster care, I let Wayne stay here for another year before I finally got rid of him. I don't know what I was thinking! Angela said I can get Jessica back now that I kicked Wayne out. I think Jessica should be with me, her mother. She's my daughter for crying out loud! I know she's confused, but she's in therapy now so I'm hopeful.

I'm telling you this lesbian stuff is getting on my last nerve! I will be so glad when she gets through this phase of her life. I guess it's an identity crisis—that's what the shrink will call it and I guess that's "normal" for teens, but I'm so tired of it!