

Me and my stepmother

Five years ago my father, John Fieldman, left my mother for another woman. I wish my father could have remarried a nice, decent person, but unfortunately he didn't. His wife, Catherine, is a manipulative, money-oriented woman who shows no love for my father.

Of course this is his problem, but unfortunately his wife went on a hate campaign against me. I tried to smile back and be pleasant, but she uses every opportunity to insult me. She won't let my father do me any favours. At my birthday, he gave me a present; but said I shouldn't tell her.

My brother and I went on a weekend trip with them and **walked on eggshells** the whole time. My father said not to make any noise because "she needs her beauty sleep" and "she noticed you always lie in the best deck chair." I'm the sort of person who looks for the best in everyone, but this is terribly upsetting.

I am lucky my father lived abroad, and I didn't see much of **them**. Now he has moved back, and **she came back with a big bang!** My baby was sick so I couldn't pick them up at the airport. They took a taxi. She told me I was a horrible person and scolded me like a small child.

Enough is enough. For the first time in five years I exploded. My father apologized on her behalf, and asked me to do the same for not picking her up. He said she has never apologized to anyone in her life and "if you don't apologize we won't be able to have a normal relationship."

I didn't cede. I thought if I don't stand up for myself she will keep acting like this. She told my father, "It's her or me." Although my father drops by to see me and his granddaughter, he's never invited me to his house, and true enough, **she** never apologized. This is the first time in my life I have experienced such behaviour. Sometimes I wonder if there is something wrong with me. Do I have to accept that this woman has damaged my relationship with my father forever? Alison

1) These statements are false. Correct them with information from the text.

a) Alison's father remarried because his wife died.

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b) Alison was against her father getting married again.

c) John made the right choice when he married Catherine.

d) John is now living abroad.

e) Alison didn't go to the airport because she was sick.

2) Answer the following questions

a) According to you, what is the reason behind the clash between Alison and her stepmother?

b) Did Alison apologize for being rude to her stepmother, Catherine? Why?

c) Do you consider John as an ideal father? Justify your answer using arguments from the text.

3) Circle the right option to explain the following expressions.

a) "walked on eggshells" means:

- ⊕ Find it difficult to walk.
- ⊕ Making too much noise while walking.
- ⊕ To be careful with people who easily get angry

b) "she came back with a big bang" means:

- ⊕ To come with a bag full of goods.
- ⊕ To show too much concern about an unimportant matter.
- ⊕ To come with a child called: "big bang"

4) What do the underlined words in the text refer to?

✿ "Them" refers to/She" refers to

5) Find words in the text meaning the following:

■: (adj) clever at deceiving people to get what you want.(paragraph 1)

■: (adj) making a person feel unhappy or worried.(paragraph 3)

■: (verb) to criticize someone for something he has done.(paragraph 4)

■: (verb) to defend yourself as much as you can.(paragraph 5)

6) Find sentences in the text expressing

● Disappointment:

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● Satisfaction:

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Topic :

Write a letter to Alison trying to help her overcome her Stressful relation with her stepmother while giving her some tips on how to improve her relationship with her father.

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