A_Short_Narrative.edited.edited.docx

by

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A Short Narrative

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A Short Narrative

Authentic leadership and character are most visible or absent in moments of crisis, as I have discovered throughout my life's wild ride. When my 16-year-old acquaintance Anne came to me and informed me she was expectant, I was calm and comforting on the outside, but I knew what "teenage pregnancy crisis" meant on the inside. Anne, like me, was terrified, perplexed, and bewildered by this situation. She considered termination because she was frightened of telling her family. Call it a social duty, friend-mode, divine inspiration, or lunacy, but something in me shifted. Something carried me through a period of my life that was hazy at the moment but is now extremely clear. I did not think Anne would go through and abort the pregnancy, but as she expressed her worries, doubts, and options, I told her that the most critical decision she would take would be to choose life.

Everything else would fall into place if she just concentrated on taking that one crucial step. In all respect, I had no idea how things would turn out, yet my comments and deeds seemed to follow a script. I realized I was out of my zone, but as a loyal family friend, I did what any close friend would do: I got creative. I recall thinking that Lindsay's child would be meaningful to her if she could see it on an image. So, before coming to any conclusions, I requested to accompany her to the community clinic. She consented to shorten a long anecdote for this essay. Throughout Anne's decision-making phase, this non-profit clinic’s resources and connections offered counseling, compassion, and encouragement for all of us.

My friend made a life-changing decision for herself and her unborn son: she opted to keep the child and tell her family about the situation. Anne’s family and friends recently celebrated her son's third birthday. I am confident the narrative would have turned out very differently if not for that first approach. This event helped me contribute to a charity that assisted

my acquaintance and her family at a difficult time. In response, I gave a keynote speech at their yearly conference, participated in fundraisers, and, most crucially, visited teenagers facing crises. This year, I have spent much time listening to adolescents who have been impregnated and are considering termination. Anne and I have become tremendous champions and resources for other girls who have gone through what she has.

Anne's son is blooming in the care of her family as she pursues her schooling. What I previously saw as a catastrophe has now turned out to be a positive thing. As a result, it has allowed me to connect with those in need and provide much-needed support. I have learned that the moments for us to stand up and demonstrate leadership potential present themselves, particularly in moments of emergency. However, this catastrophe has taught me tremendous leadership lessons that will be beneficial in the future.

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