## Tori Larer

## ENG 100

## Formal Assignment #1

##  October 12th 2017

## **Is Blood Really Thicker Than Water?**

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## “I do not want her here, could you imagine having her PLUS a newborn. This house is already going to shit, we don’t need to add to it”

## My family does not come from money, my mother, step-dad, brother and I live in what my mom calls a “fixer upper” yet we have lived in this house for ten years and nothing has been fixed. All the renovation that were once started have yet to be finished. My bathroom still screams the 60’s, pepto bismol color tiles and a pedestal sink made for a toddler. So when we found out my aunt was pregnant and was in need of a place to stay, our house was not first on the list. My aunt Amelia – My mother’s younger sister has had a difficult life. Back in 2005 while she was worker as a product stocker for QVC, a coworker was trying to pull a TV from the top shelve, the box slipped from their hands and came crashing down on Amelia’s head. The accident ended up damaging her back leaving her unable to work as far as we knew. Since then Amelia has not worked a single day, she made little money off the lawsuit but not enough to keep her out of work for almost a decade. With that being said, Amelia has been supported by her husband Tom of ten years, whom now works three jobs to make ends meet. As the years went on Amelia became less reliable, she would never show to family outings the one chance that she did, and she was overemotional and manic. Her excuse for never being around was her back, she complained about her back more often, then none. We all believed her and didn’t think much of it before my mother got a call from our family doctor. The call was to inform my mother that she could no longer continue seeing Amelia, to warn her that the past few years Amelia has been “Prescription shopping. This is when the realization that my aunt has become addicted to prescription drugs finally hit us. Amelia’s behavior changed dramatically a few years after the accident and the thought of her being an addict has crossed our minds. My family tried to help Amelia, but she pushed away all help. All my mother could do was call her a few times a month and make sure she was alive.

##  Months passed and things with Amelia seem to be getting better although there has been signs that she is still using, she started to except some help from my mom and uncle. Until one day my mother walks into our living room where I was hanging out on couch, she walks in while still looking at her phone, I could feel her stress as she enter the room I looked up from my phone and said “what’s up?” she replies

“Well… I just got off the phone with Amelia. She told me she is pregnant but it’s not Tom’s baby”. I looked at my mom with confusion. I questioned what she just told me “Wait, what?!” My mom said with no emotion, “She told me that the father is some bipolar junkie that she met through an old friend.” I replied “Well, does Tom known?!” My mom said “Apparently he has no clue” I was dumbfounded by what I was just told. I asked “So what is she going to do?” My mom responded still with no emotion “She said she is just going to hide the pregnancy until she has the nerve to tell him”

That day never came. Six months goes by and we saw Amelia quite often at this point due to her hot water heater breaking at the house she shared with her husband. She would come over to take showers and every time we saw her we would ask the same question “So has tom figured out you’re pregnant yet?” and every time she would respond “no, not yet.” She would wear big oversized clothes so he would not notice. My family become very numb to Amelia’s secret pregnancy, although she was obviously pregnant, none of it felt real. There was no planning of a baby shower, no gender reveal. We didn’t even know the baby father’s name. Amelia told my mom little to no detail so the situation became out of site out of mind. The times my mom did reach out to help, Amelia pushed her away.

In four short months Amelia would have a newborn baby with no supplies and nowhere to live. There was talk of letting Amelia stay at our house but my stepdad wanted no parts of that. He was so passionate about not helping Amelia that my mom believed that he would leave her if she let Amelia stay. This put my mom in a tough position she was put in between her husband and her sister. Ultimately she said no to Amelia, that she would have to figure it out on her own. My mother’s decision filled me with confusion and anger, I could not understand the logic behind not allowing a family member, let alone your own sister stay at your house until she got on her feet. At this point it wasn’t about Amelia, it was about her baby. This baby is going to born into an unstable life and my mom is deciding to just stand by and watch. I decided to go against my parents. I argued that their decision was not morally right. My stepdad raised his voice and stated “I don’t not care. She is the one who got herself into this mess, she cheated on her husband with some low life, and so now that she made her bed she can lay in it.” Nothing he would say would change my mind, I stood by my opinion. I don’t believe its right to continue to punish someone for their past mistakes especially when it involves someone who has no say. Why kick someone when they are already down and looking for help. So I reached out to my aunt on my own. I told her I’ll be here whenever she needed me.

Amelia’s water broke a few weeks later, I was the only one from my family that went to visit her. She stayed in the hospital for a few weeks after the baby was born, this gave her time to figure out life. Surprisingly her husband still had no idea what was going on. I was shocked, how does one not notice that their wife has been gone for weeks. Amelia expressed that Tom hasn’t paid attention to her in years, she couldn’t remember the last time they actually talked. She has been sleeping on the couch for a years and since he works three jobs she barely sees him. So it wasn’t much of a surprise to her that he hasn’t realized that she has been gone. Thankfully the father of the baby’s family took in Amelia. They gifted her a room in their home stocked full of baby supplies. A day after Amelia and her new baby boy were discharged, tom her husband receives a call from the hospital that was meant for Amelia. This was the moment Tom discovered Amelia was pregnant and now is a mother of a newborn. Tom was in disbelief, he went through denial then anger and now acceptance. As Amelia and Tom work through their problems, Amelia is mostly focused on her baby boy and just trying to figure out motherhood. My aunt is an amazing mother, she has become a complete different person and I am very proud of her.

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