



Writer and Editor [Tiffany Fontana](#)

Shining Hope

The "Shining Hope" newsletter offers valuable resources and support to families facing child abduction and parental alienation. Our publication provides uplifting and informative messages to parents dealing with the abduction of their children, fostering a strong and supportive community throughout their difficult journey. Stay informed and up-to-date with the latest news, events, and pressing issues through our comprehensive and timely newsletter.



Donate now at [STL](#)'s official website! Your support brings kids **HOME!**

Bi-Weekly Parent Support Zoom Call: Email contactshinethelight@gmail.com for dates and the link to join.

"Do You Remember Dad?" screening event at the Seattle Film Center on 03/21. Find out more [here!](#)

Reflections & Quotes

"Start marching forward, even when into the new and unknown, and don't be deterred by obstacles."

Daphne Koller

Do You Remember Dad?

by Tiffany Fontana

What could be more agonizing than being torn apart from your own child, suddenly plunged into a world of uncertainty, wondering if you'll ever see them again? For Jay Sung, a 43-year-old dentist from Washington state, this nightmare became a reality when his ex-wife, Minjung Cho, disappeared with their son Bryan on a supposed vacation to Korea.

It all began on April 16th, 2019, when Jay and Minjung signed a divorce agreement allowing her to take three year old Bryan on a three-week trip to South Korea. Little did Jay know that this would be the start of a harrowing ordeal. Days turned into weeks, and Jay's calls went unanswered. *(Continued on page 2).*



Letters From Mom by Lisa Baldwin (page 3-4).



STL Event Highlights (page 4).

Do You Remember Dad?

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It became clear that Minjung had wrongfully withheld their son, despite the couple's agreement explicitly stating that if she failed to return with Bryan, her actions could lead to civil contempt and possible criminal charges.

As Jay grappled with the separation from his son, he also took action. In July of 2019, a US court ordered the immediate return of Bryan and granted Jay temporary full custody. However, this marked the beginning of a series of legal battles and a prolonged and stressful waiting game for Jay.

Devastated, Jay pursued justice through the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, filing a petition in Korean court. Meanwhile, in Korea, Minjung evaded the legal process by blatantly ignoring court orders. Still, Sung persisted, requesting responsible action from the Korean government to enforce the return of young Bryan.

After five years, Korean officials continue to fail to enforce Bryan's return, prolonging Jay's agony and increasing the risk of long-term psychological harm to Bryan.

Research from the [National Institute of Child Health and Human Development \(NICHD\)](#) and the [American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#) has shown that prolonged separation from a primary caregiver can lead to adverse psychological outcomes in children, including increased anxiety, depression, and behavioral problems.

In his quest for justice, Jay turned to creative means to raise awareness and rally support for his son's return.



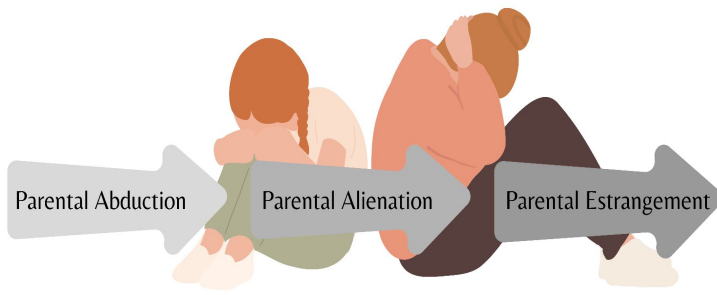
His animated short film, *Do You Remember Dad?*, won awards and recognition in various film festivals and competitions across Korea, Los Angeles, New York, and Italy, including categories such as "Best Experimental Short" and "Best Documentary Short."

The film follows a psychologist as she joins the Korean enforcement officers to meet Bryan and help reunite him with his dad. Unfortunately, Korean authorities' lack of support and enforcement led to an unsuccessful outcome.

Do You Remember Dad? illustrates the heartbreaking reality that countless left-behind parents face, shedding light on the emotional turmoil and challenges endured in the pursuit of reuniting with their children.

Today, Jay continues his advocacy for his son, even as the [United States Department of State](#) cites Korea as a Hague non-compliant country for the second time in their annual report for April 2023.

STL proudly stands by parents like Jay, ensuring they receive the necessary support on their journey toward healing and reunification.



Letters From Mom: A Loving Reach Into the Silence That Separates Us

By Lisa Baldwin

STL understands that few pains cut deeper than being separated from one's own child. Sadly, an abduction that remains unresolved for a prolonged period of time may develop into estrangement. Estrangement occurs when a child distances themselves emotionally and physically from a parent, often stemming from parental alienation.

This heart-wrenching reality is a daily struggle—a journey marked by unanswered questions, lingering pain, and a deep yearning for reconciliation. It affects mothers, fathers, the estranged child, and even generations that follow.

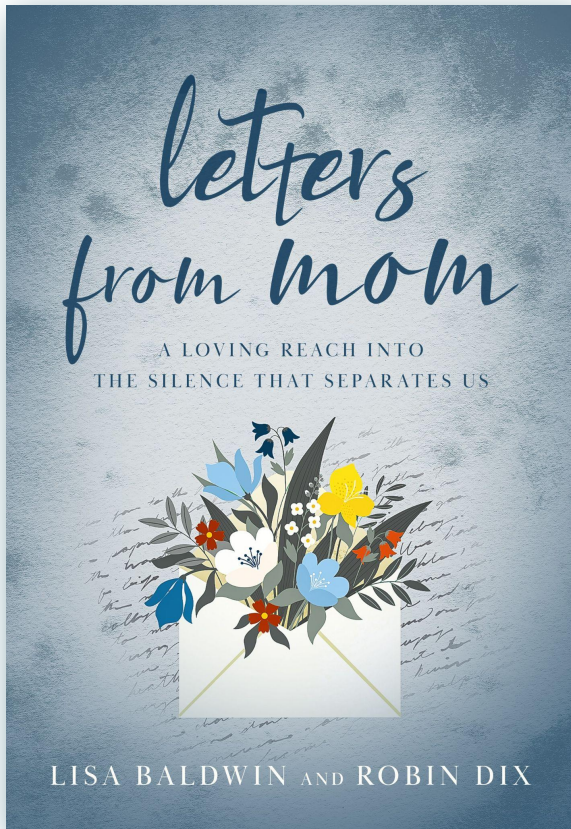
STL continually seeks new resources to support parents' needs and assists in understanding the complex emotions that come with the traumatic separation between parent and child. For this reason, I'm honored to share my book, *Letters From Mom*, with the STL community. The book speaks directly to the hearts of parents enduring the psychological toll of parent-child estrangement. I extend my gratitude to STL for spotlighting this critical issue, and special appreciation to the board member who contributed a heartfelt letter to her estranged daughter.

My book is written from a perspective of faith, and while STL is not affiliated with any particular belief, they recognize the significance of faith in the lives of their community. *Letters From Mom* focuses on mothers; however, it is a valuable resource for anyone grappling with similar emotions and challenges.

Thousands of moms are enduring the pain of adult child estrangement, a heartbreaking experience in which their adult children have severed all relationship with them. Even after years of no contact, an indestructible devotion remains, a love that refuses to go away. The circumstances that surround an adult child's absence from a mother's life become secondary to the deep soul yearning she experiences that aches to communicate her love with this treasured person who, at one time, occupied the center of her heart. *(Continued on page 4).*



For the month of March, STL would like to highlight Mandy Kelly's case, an Irish mother whose two boys were abducted by their Egyptian father. STL continues to advocate for their reunification, showcasing the enduring Irish-American relationship. As we celebrate Irish culture this March, let's support Mandy by writing encouraging messages on her [Facebook page](#) to let her know she is not alone in her fight!



[Letters From Mom: A Loving Reach Into the Silence That Separates Us](#) is a collection of first-person love letters from moms to their estranged adult kids that offers compassion and connection to hurting moms who are suffering the shame and isolation of broken relationships with their adult child. A woman's heart for her estranged child is as unique as the experiences that formed their relationship. Every letter is a single page torn from the book of her untold story.

Letters from Mom speaks beautiful, loving truth on behalf of the untold thousands of families who are enduring this suffering and creates a spacious place that gives voice to women who have been silenced by the shame and loss of estrangement. As a Christ-centered book, it also includes stories, devotions, and compassionate counsel for women to help them work through the painful emotions that accompany estrangement.

This book is available in eBook and paperback on [Amazon](#). You can also learn more at Lisa Baldwin's [Life Stories](#) website and blog or reach her directly at lisabaldwinwriter@gmail.com.

STL Participates in the [2024 Amber Symposium](#)

Shine the Light for Abducted Children (STL) proudly participated in the National AMBER Alert Symposium, held from February 27th to February 28th, 2024, in New Orleans, LA. This symposium served as a crucial gathering for over 200 State and Regional AMBER Alert coordinators, Missing Person Clearinghouse Managers, Tribal leaders, public safety, emergency management, and federal officials.



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Share your stories, ideas, or feedback with our Editor at info@tiffanyfontana.com. We value your input and look forward to hearing from you!