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Consider Yourself

Dear <<First Name>>,

Acceptance...flaws and all

Welcome to 2011. I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and that you're feeling refreshed and inspired about the year to come.

I spent part of my holiday reading *Committed*, Elizabeth Gilbert's follow up to *Eat Pray Love*. In one chapter, Gilbert ponders the gift that we can offer somebody by accepting them fully and loving them almost despite themselves.

She elaborates that "...when I mention 'tolerance', I'm not talking about learning how to stomach pure awfulness. What I am talking about is learning how to accommodate your life as generously as possible around a basically decent human being who can sometimes be an unmitigated pain the ass".

What a fantastically amusing yet practical quote! In it, Gilbert is referring to tolerance within marriage. However, I reckon that we can very easily extrapolate it to motherhood. Doesn't motherhood have just a touch of "accommodating your life as generously as possible around a basically decent human being who can sometimes be an unmitigated pain the ass"?

What I love about this quote is that it reminds me to see the decency and beauty in my partner and my children and to be accepting of them as they are, not as I think they "should" be. Also, it reminds me that I'm not perfect either.

In fact, I'm pretty sure that I'm also a basically decent human being who can sometimes be an unmitigated pain in the ass!

So, I encourage you to spend some time reflecting on how you're viewing the people around you, as well as how you're viewing yourself. Have you got the tolerance balance right?

Warmest regards,
Janice

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