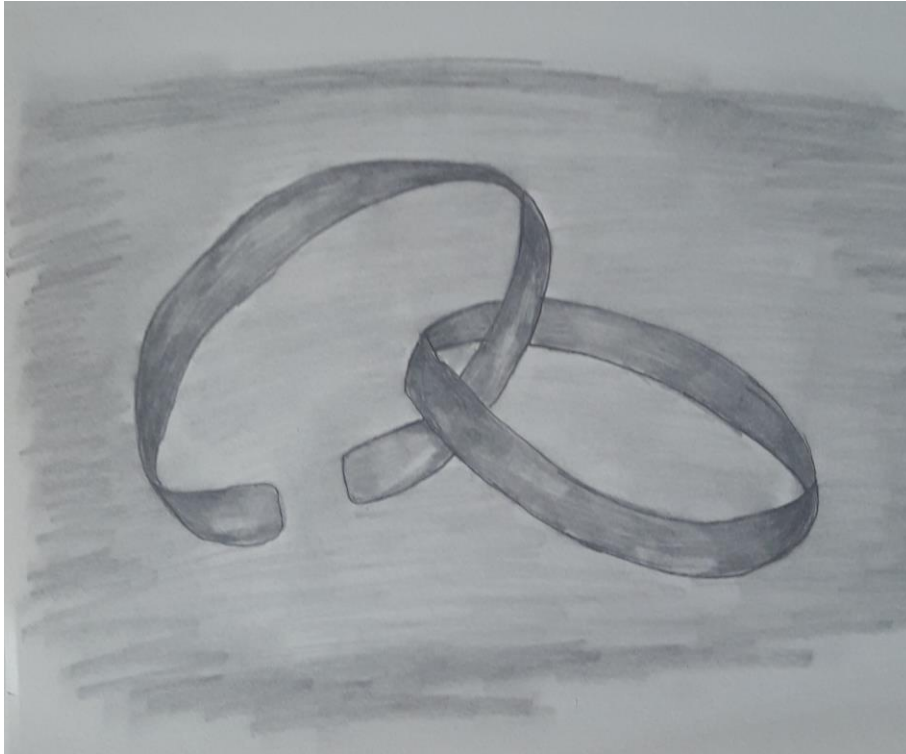


One of the most significant experiences of my childhood was the divorce of my parents. I was around seven years old when they separated, and then divorced a while later. I decided to draw a picture of two interlocking rings, to represent their marriage of twenty four years, but one ring has an open gap, to represent how unfaithful my father was to my mother. They divorced because he was having an affair with another woman, though he and my mother had been together for many years and had two children together.

Of course when I was young, the divorce had a major impact on my life. Many of my friends still had parents who were married, though some divorced a few years later. For a while, I was one of the only kids who came from a split household. I always felt uncomfortable talking about the divorce, as some of my friends who did not know about it would ask where my dad was when they were at my house. I always told them he worked late and had to be back to work early in the morning to avoid talking about the split. One of my best friends did not find out they were divorced until one or two years afterwards, as I was afraid to tell her. As I have gotten older, I am not afraid to talk about it and it does not make me uncomfortable anymore. However, I feel as if the divorce has affected me in different ways as I have grown up. The divorce has made me very hesitant when it comes to dating, as well as apprehensive and untrusting. I have worked through those hardships over time, but I still cannot help but have those feelings anytime I start to get close to someone.

Going through my experiences with divorce of some aspects of myself, I find that these values can be both cultural and individual. I find the overall experience of the divorce to be cultural, as almost half of the marriages in the United States end in divorce. It is not uncommon to hear people say their parents are divorced or they have been divorced themselves. I find that you are less likely to hear that someone's parents are still married after twenty years or more, as divorce has become so common in the United States and this century. I find how I dealt with the divorce and how I have felt over the years is more individual than cultural. All children react differently to divorce, and some may have reacted similarly to myself, while others may not have, such as my brother. Everyone reacts differently to situations that are common or prevalent in their culture, such as divorce in the United States, yet many of us continue to relate to each other with what we have experienced in our lifetimes.



I attended an arts high school for four years, but have not done much drawing since graduating. Since it's been almost four years, I would say that I did not do too bad drawing the rings.