

Dear Candy,

As a high profile mother of a high profile daughter, I have watched as the feud between you and your daughter has played out publicly via books, websites, and television shows. I know that you want so very much to re-establish a relationship with Tori and your grandchildren. You say that you've tried to contact her, by calling, emailing, and even writing open letters to her, but you say that she hasn't responded.

Although I have never met you, my heart goes out to you. I hope as we approach Mother's Day that you do not consider it presumptuous of me, as one mother to another, to offer you some thoughts.

Candy, keep trying. Never give up trying. Never give up hope that this relationship can be healed. A mother can never give up on her child, no matter how old that child is, nor can a grandmother ever give the hope that she can play an active role in her grandchildren's lives.

My daughter and I have had our battles too. We are two strong-willed women, but we both believe that our relationship is more important than any disagreement. Love comes first.

Maybe it's time to try something new: a neutral peacemaker, someone you both know and respect. Perhaps your son, or another family member or friend would be willing to step in and mediate.

I am sure that you've found that you can fill all of the many rooms of your mansion with beautiful furniture and collectibles, but you can't mend the hole in your heart until you get your daughter back. As a grandmother myself, I can only imagine how painful it would be not to see my grandkids. Every mother wants her daughter and grandchildren to be part of her life!

As Mother's Day approaches, perhaps you could bridge the divide by communicating to Tori that you appreciate the challenges she faces as a young mother and that you would like to be there to support her as she meets those challenges. What daughters often want most is to be heard. Offer to meet her when and where she likes, on her terms, and promise to hear her out. Tell her you love her and you want to understand how to eliminate the pain of the past and focus on the future. Tell her how proud you are of her and her achievements. Focus on the positives and forget the negatives. Life is too short.

Let her know that you will always be her mother, and that Tori is

always welcome to come home to you.

This Mothers' Day my daughter and I will be having brunch. We extend an open invitation for you and Tori to join us. No cameras, no drama, just a couple of mothers and daughters committing themselves to continuing the great adventure of the mother-daughter relationship with mutual love and respect.

Sincerely,

Gloria Allred