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Dear Ex

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Dear Ex

Cover Page Footnote

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Dear Ex

I hope this letter finds you well, that
after all this time you are happy

Somebody asked me the other day where you were
I don't know, I said

Ohio? Pennsylvania? I shrug.

I heard he moved in with his mother-
in-law but I don't know, I said
(because I don't)

Oh, he's married?

Yeah, a few months after I had the baby

Wow Does he send money? they asked
(everybody asks that)

No, but his parents write us checks at Christmas &
birthdays, I said

(That makes me feel bad, you know, but I need the
money)

Does he see the baby ever?

No, I wouldn't let him if he tried

(And I'm glad you don't)

It took months for the nightmares to stop, you know
I used to wake up with a closed throat and too much
blood in my veins, in my neck and ears
some nights twice, three times, more
Because you bragged to your friends that you
were going to take my baby away from me
He sleeps in my bed, even now, because I needed to see
him there, safe
as soon as my eyes opened
Every night
Every time

The fear has abated now

