The Commitment: A Social Science Fiction Fable

After considerable discussion, and some days of counseling the Rabbi says, “It is a big commitment, you understand? You want both of them? ...You’re sure? …Well, you have known them for a long time, seen them at their best and worst, and most boring. But, they are still young, who knows what kind of help they will need when they are older... Yes, you can always abandon them, but if you make this commitment, that will not be easy, it will weigh on you. If you are not sure, you can wait to decide. You get the option once a year... Yes, when they adopted *you* they said it was forever, and they will still know you are their child, whether or not you consider them your parents, or just loving caretakers, or whatever. But, when they made that commitment to you, you had not asked for it, you were too young to make an informed choice. Now that you are thirteen you are morally entitled to adopt them back. OK, if you are sure, just sign here, and we can go out and start the ceremony.”

H Lipke

3.1.17