

Hello Dave,

My name is Emily Palmer. I am currently studying to complete the Master of Journalism program at the University of British Columbia. I had taken a course on Feature Writing with James Mackinnon last term, throughout which I had developed a feature of just over 3,000 words regarding the topic of estrangement, loss and disenfranchised grief.

I chose to write on this topic following the recent death of my father, as him and I were estranged for over a decade — meaning that our communication had been cut and our relationship was left impaired. This loss made me feel different, alienated, abnormal, and I felt confused about how my grieving process would unfold. As I navigated this event, I began to realize that as a society, we have failed to understand estrangement and the odd relationships that we have with once-considered-loved-ones. Despite its taboo-like perception, estranged relationships are actually more common than we would like to believe. This is especially so given a wave of estrangement that has rippled around the globe, due to the divide over mask wearing, vaccination and the validity of COVID-19. My feature is centred around my quest to better understand estrangement and to provide readers ways to grasp the concept, with the hopes of making this concept normalized.

I have attached my final feature to this email. Please let me know if The Tyee would be interested.

Warm regards,

Emily Palmer, BA (Adv.)
She/Her/Hers
Graduate Candidate
UBC School of Journalism, Writing and Media