



Dear Barry,

I am a 52 year old woman. My husband and I have been married for 25 years and we have 2 wonderful children in college. My husband works in the movie industry. Until recently, he has never had trouble finding work.

I have been employed by a major company for 19 years. I have moved up the ladder with hard work, dedication, and as a team player. I have always felt secure in my position. My job provides a steady income and health insurance for our family.

Recently, I got notified, that the entire department that I work, is being outsourced, and that our positions are being eliminated. We were told that we might be contacted by the outsourced company for work, at a substantially reduced salary, and limited benefits.

The company always promoted that we needed to be a team player, and commit for the betterment of the company. I feel betrayed, scared, hurt, and angry. Now I am forced to compete with people 20 years younger for half the salary and little experience.

Signed Betrayed by Corporate America

Dear Betrayed,

My heart goes out to your family. You worked hard to provide for your family and now you feel as if there is not future.

You have a right to feel scared, angry and betrayed. You played by the rules. Getting a good job when you are in your 50's is harder than in your 30's or early 40's today.

It has become all about the bottom line and we are just waking up to the fact that life will never have the kind of job security as our parents experienced.

Finding a job is hard work. It will take the kind of dedication, networking and commitment that you gave to your company. It is hard to watch the heads of these companies get the salaries and bonuses for creating more profits at the expense of the workers who made these companies what they are.

Stay positive, don't buy into the age issue, and be open to relocating if necessary. Talk to your husband about getting some schooling to start a new career that has a steady income.

If you get the job offer from the outsourced company, take it, and then start a new job hunt.