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Truly fresh perspectives on long-discussed subjects are rare. For almost half a century, scholars, memoirists, poets, film-makers, and family practitioners have been expanding our knowledge and interpretations of separation and divorce for families. When sent *Broken Circle*, I expected another example of this pattern. Little did I know that I would be as engaged emotionally as cognitively by this impressive volume.

Karen Klein is a photographer. Seven years after a divorce in 1980, Klein began photographing young adults who had experienced an earlier parental divorce or separation. She also asked them these questions to put with their photos: How are you (note the present tense) impacted by your parents divorce? How does it affect your perceptions, plans, goals, hopes, and aspirations regarding relationships, commitments, and thinking about your own future marriage and children? In 2011, she revisited the earlier project; *Broken Circle* is the result.

Klein is a creative portrait photographer. Her color photos are sufficiently natural and real that as I

read the narrative on one page, the person in the photo on the opposite page seemed to be telling me their story. I imagined the voice coming through the words and faces. This medium of haunting, lovely, troubled at times, and revealing photos caused me to respond differently, more emotionally, than I did, for example, reading Constance Ahrons' well-done account of her two-decades of research, *We're Still Family: What Grown Children Have to Say About Their Parents' Divorce*. I have used

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this book and Ahrons' earlier *The Good Divorce* in courses and workshops. I tell you this only to make clear my appreciation for Ahrons' perspectives and research on families of divorce. Klein's book will now be added to my resources for such families. And I predict *Broken Circle* will be especially powerful. The young adults' narratives are wise, poignant, and informative.

A further point: Klein reverses the typical placement of words in her subtitle: *Broken Circle - Children of Divorce and Separation*. After reading the one page narratives of 48 young adults of various cultures, backgrounds, and divorce experiences, I will now alter my own place of words. I may write separation/divorce/continuing separation to emphasize the continuing impact for children of divorce, even in the best of circumstances. The Chinese proverb came to mind while reading:

Children are like a piece of paper and each passerby leaves a mark. Divorce

and separation leaves marks, even when done very well. *Broken Circle* reminds readers of lives living with loss, not after loss.

To purchase go to: Brokencircleproject.org for information about the volume and way to purchase. It is a paperback, \$29.00.