

Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:

buck downer on board fallout
determined bereft patch

Every week Philippa Perry,
a psychotherapist and a writer,



addresses a personal problem
sent in by a reader.

My sisters fell out, but our parents won't get involved

The question: I'm the eldest of three sisters; but my younger two sisters have fallen out, and haven't spoken for more than 18 months. It's a real 1)_____ at family events, because we used to enjoy all getting together, and now it's one or the other of them and their families but not both.

The trigger for the 2)_____ was, I guess, something to do with money and whether our parents had advantaged one with financial gifts more than the other; but I can't help feeling there's more to it than that, and this argument has its roots deep in their/our childhood. I think our parents should take the initiative and talk to them both about it, but they seem 3)_____ to distance themselves from it, saying my sisters are adults (clearly true – they're both in their 40s) and that the row has nothing to do with them. It seems to me that it has everything to do with them – but I can't force them to take it 4)_____ and talk to my sisters.

Meanwhile, I feel slightly 5)_____: I have a good relationship with both of my sisters, and we used to do things together that I miss. It's also annoying me that my parents are passing the 6)_____ , when I think they could make a real difference here. How can I help to 7)_____ things up between my sisters?