

Mr. Les B. Frank: Your Guidance Counselor For Life

Hey, Mr. Frank!

My girlfriend has a habit that is nasty and, when she does it in public, it totally embarrasses me. I swear to God, I am actually blushing as I type this letter to you. What she does is she rubs herself all the time. It's kind of like the female equivalent of the athletes who look like they're always adjusting and kind of playing with themselves.

At first, I thought she had an itching problem that she needed like a yeast infection cream for so I asked if she was ok down there and she said she was fine and kept rubbing all around. It's not like I'm a prude. I am absolutely fine with sex and the sex we have is really good but I can't get past the rubbing and fingering around her vagina when we're out at the movies or in a restaurant.

I have tried to talk to her about it but she doesn't think it's a problem and doesn't really seem to be conscious that she's doing it. All I can say is it damn sure annoys and embarrasses me.

Signed,
Elise

Dear Elise,

Your girlfriend's rubbing clearly rubs you the wrong way. I can't say that I blame you, though it doesn't sound like she's doing it intentionally. Habits like that often spring from the simplest origins. Baseball players adjust their protective gear when it shifts or scratch an itchy spot where a jockstrap's movement has chafed the skin. The more frequently those scratches and adjustments are made, the more quickly they become part of the regular drill. Perhaps, a while ago, your girlfriend had an allergic reaction to some chemicals in laundry detergent or wore thong underwear and she developed some physical quirks, after dealing with the problem for a while. Over time, the impetus for the behavior may be gone but the habit is still there.

I was involved with a guy, a while back, who used to play pocket pool constantly. He figured that, as long as he wasn't exposing himself, he was completely within the bounds of propriety. And he enjoyed the solo stimulation and had no desire to stop doing it. Your girlfriend may have different standards of what she considers appropriate public behavior.

That could be the rub, in a way. I suggest that you talk to your girlfriend about how you feel and let her know what kinds of public behavior you consider inappropriate. Listen to her side of the story. If she still has trouble acknowledging that she's doing anything out of the ordinary, you might ask a trusted friend to videotape you and your girlfriend at a public event some time and show her exactly what she does.

Hey, Mr. Frank!

I'm not usually a drama queen but I have major drama going on, now. For the past two months, I have been having a relationship with an older man. Here's where it gets dramatic: The man is one of my dad's best friends. And he's married.

We didn't plan for it to happen at all. I know people say that all the time, but it's really the truth. I was supposed to dog sit for him and his wife, when they went on a trip with his wife's sister and her family. He ended up breaking his leg playing football with my dad and some of their friends and couldn't go on the trip. He asked if I would still come over and dog sit because he couldn't get around very well and couldn't walk the dog being on crutches.

So, I came over three times a day and walked the dog and hung out with him for a while and we talked about all kinds of stuff and he told me that he was always impressed with how well I handled coming out and not apologizing for being gay and, before I knew it, he was telling me that he wanted to have sex with me. I mean, that is like a really abbreviated version of what took days and lots of talking to get to. But, anyway, we did it and we did it, again, later and almost every day since then. Now, he wants to tell my dad and his friends and leave his wife and live together with me.

Even though I love him and want to be a couple I'm afraid of what will happen when everybody finds out. It's going to be ugly. Is there any way to make the situation any easier or better?

Signed,
Jacob

Dear Jacob,

No matter how civilized the players in this domestic drama are, people are going to be hurt. It may not be a trashy meltdown but it won't be a walk (with or without the dog) in the park, either.

Your boyfriend's relationship with your father is bound to hit some rocky terrain, as is your own bond with your father. The separate issue of your boyfriend's marital unraveling will give you clues into the way he will deal with you, if there are ever troubled waters between the two of you.

I encourage you to maintain a safe distance and not get caught up in (though you'll most likely be blamed for) the demise of their allegedly happy heterosexual coupling. Lay low. Focus on your own life and allow your boyfriend the time and space to sort things out. ▼

Mr. Les B. Frank offers guidance counseling to people of all ages. Some letters are edited for length, spelling or grammar. Send your questions and requests for guidance to HeyMrFrank@aol.com. © 2002

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