

# Write Auntie Pearl

Dear Auntie Pearl,

My parents are coming to visit me for the first time in 10 years, and I'm really looking forward to it. But there's a snag. I'm not out to my parents, and my lover refuses to "straighten up" our house or himself for this brief visit. There's no way I can come out to my parents, and I can't believe my lover can't understand this and won't consider my needs. We can't be the first couple in this situation. What do you advise?

Robert

Dear Robert,

Your right to invisibility ends at your own closet door. Carpentry rates are too high for you to transform your little closet into a walkin for you and your lover. You cannot tell your Auntie Pearl that you expect the folks to have a peachy time in your tension-filled house. As long as you need to protect your privacy, your home is an inappropriate place for your reunion.

Your Auntie Pearl

Dear Auntie Pearl,

After 6 years together, my partner and I have decided to separate. Our break-up

has been calm, and considerate with one big exception: the cats. I came home one day this week to find that "Glo" had simply taken them to her new apartment. Now we can't talk without one of us yelling or in tears. I know the cats can't get the kind of time and attention with her as they would with me. Dear Abby would probably tell me to get a new kitten and let my "old roommate" have the cats, but you know better, Auntie Pearl. I will show Glo your advice. Please help.

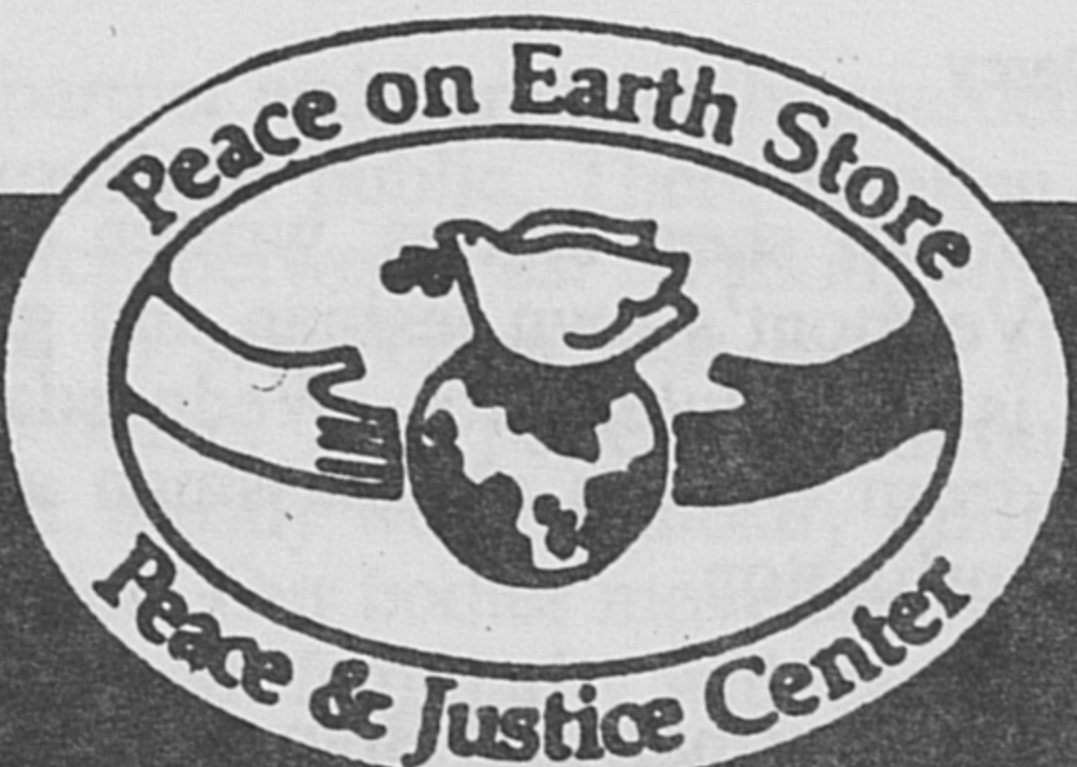
Heartbroken

Dear Heartbroken,

If you've performed this break-up without so much as a sniffle to the idea of Glo leaving, don't take out your submerged grief on the cats. If you two can't have a good fight or cry without bringing the little darlings into the picture, they're better off in foster care. Put your passion where it belongs. You're in tears? Finally! Let it out, and let Glo AND the cats go. Then use your calm, considerate approach to set up visitation. Let me know how it goes.

Your Auntie Pearl

Send your questions for Auntie Pearl to Auntie Pearl, PO Box 4156, Burlington, VT, 05406. ▼



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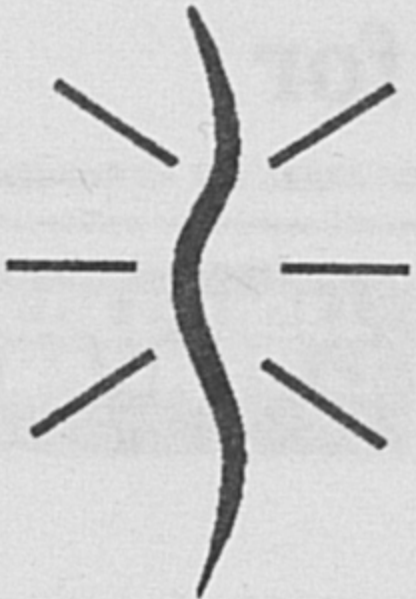


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