

Write Auntie Pearl

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Dear Auntie Pearl,

In the past year, my lover of 5 years, "Jenny" has gone from fit to fat. She used to have a volleyball game every week, and she'd go to the gym regularly. She'd also make big organic vegetarian meals with me. Now she hardly wants to do anything but rent videos and eat junk food. I figure this is her option, but the truth is that I'm not attracted to her this way. I know I'm P.I., but I can't help it.

We used to have great sex, and not just in the infatuation stage. And now I have detailed fantasies about all the jocks I see around town. I'd never breakup our home over sex, but I'm more worried about this all the time. It would be selfish and useless to just tell Jenny I don't find her attractive. I have to find a way to live with this. How do I do that without letting on?

Southwest Shallow Jerk

Dear Southwest,

Darling, there are no secrets in the bedroom. As sure as I'm your favorite Auntie, Jenny knows she doesn't flip your flannel nightie like she used to. If Jenny's new weight did not accompany a lifestyle change, we might assume that she is simply maturing into her body. But Auntie suspects there is more to this than natural physical blossoming. It is your job to find out the facts.

Instead of distracting yourself from the real issue by focusing on your guilt, think about Jenny. What's different about this year? How does she feel about herself?

About her life? About you? It's time to re-acquaint yourself with your lover.

Romance this woman. Auntie doesn't care if you want to or not. Depending on finances, take her to Aruba, or shut off the t.v. for a week. Once you two break free of your daily routine, you'll remember why you fell in love with her, and she'll let you know if anything's troubling her. If the vacation goddess' magic doesn't fix this, it will be time to call in a professional couples counselor. Jenny deserves your loving attention, not your avoidance.

And for Auntie's sake, don't kick yourself for noticing pretty things. Fantasies are healthy and fun as long as they don't demand a monogamous commitment.

Your Auntie Pearl

Dear Auntie Pearl,

I've been wild for my boyfriend since the second I saw him two months ago. He's gorgeous, brilliant, and a real gentleman. One problem. Sex. Next to him, Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm looks kinky. I made the mistake of mentioning this to my friends. You know that "Shave and a Haircut" knock? My so-clever friends call my lover "Hug and a hand job, two cents." Trouble is, that about covers our sex live.

Sex aside, I think this guy's the one, so I don't want to say something to ruin it. But I have my needs. Help a boy stay true!

Randy in Dixie
Dear Randy,

Your mouth does have a secondary purpose: talk! You cannot tell Auntie this is the love of your life before you have the What Do You Like discussion. For all you know, Rebecca has spent these months wondering how a fine catch like you can be such a sexual dud. He may have notions you never imagined.

On the other hand, if your hero faints at first mention of your favorite practices, it's best you find out you're incompatible now — BEFORE you call the bridal registry at Williams and Sonoma.

And, dear Randy, surely it crossed your mind that this gent may think this is the only safer sex technique. If so, get thee to a safer sex pamphlet and read it together. If he still feels secure only with the barber's basics, you must respect that and then consider whether it's enough for you.

Regardless of his response to your KIND AND PATIENT discourse, Auntie reminds you that SOME people use sexual dissatisfaction as a handy shield between them and intimacy. You decide: do you want a life with Mr. Right, or a lifestyle of looking for him?

Your Auntie Pearl

Write Your Auntie Pearl appears in publications nationwide. Send your questions or comments to: Auntie Pearl Box 4156 Burlington VT 05406.

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