

WRITE YOUR
AUNTIE PEARL



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Dear Auntie Pearl,

I'm in a dilemma and I'm turning to you because I don't want to talk to anyone - especially a doctor - about this. Besides, you always have all the answers and I know you'll say it as it is.

I've performed anal sex but never been penetrated. I'm curious about it and want to try it, but I heard it's very unhealthy. Is it true that it's not only extremely painful, but it leads to hemorrhoids and/or can cause the anus to lose its elasticity, resulting in uncontrollable bowel movements? What are the facts? Am I destined to limit myself as a top forever and feel that I'm missing out on some fun, or should I just do it and live with the consequences later on? What's a gay guy to do?

Half A Virgin

Dear Half A Virgin,

If those are your only concerns, go for it. Yes, it can be painful for a novice, but if you follow Auntie's advice, you'll know the ins and outs of this in no time.

The key is to relax, which your body will gladly do once it learns how much fun relaxation can be. You're going to be the teacher. When you masturbate, insert a lubed finger. Increase insertion time and depth at your own pace with each session. Work up to a small soft dildo. Use a condom on the dildo - rubber can emit toxins. And don't put anything in there that's small enough to slip out of sight.

Rest assured that this won't loosen up anything but your possibilities. Those happy little muscles are designed to expand and contract. They can actually get stronger with use. Hemorrhoids happen when you strain, but you're learning to relax. Aren't you.

Your first top must be someone you know, whom you trust to stop when you ask. Tell him it's your first time. Be sure he's been a bottom too, and you'll avoid the cowboys who just want their saddle horns shined, regardless of your comfort. Always use a lubed condom.

Now Auntie must express her dismay that you've had these concerns, yet you've been a top yourself. It's beyond your Auntie Pearl how you were able to perform acts which you thought might do damage to a lover. Never assume a partner knows more about safety just because he knows more about sex.

The best information for you is in *Anal Pleasure and Health* by Jack Morin (Yes Press 1986). Have fun!

Your Auntie Pearl

Dear Auntie Pearl,

I've been dealing with this problem every year for the last 4 years. My lover, "Janis", refuses to go home with me to my parents' for Thanksgiving and Christmas. She says it's because I'm not out to them, and she can't be "fully there".

It's not like my relationship with my parents is close. All we do is watch t.v. and eat, so it's not like there's any chance to even talk about our personal lives. I need Janis there to keep me sane. Janis always wants us to do holidays at our place, without my family, but if we did that, I'd have to explain, and I can't come-out to them. So I always go home, and Janis goes to big lesbian community meals for all the stragglers that have no place else to go. I don't see why she would choose to be away from me, when my parents wouldn't question bringing a friend home. My brothers and sisters bring friends home all the time. I want Janis to have faces to put with all the names. It would bring us closer.

The argument is starting again this year. Please give me your opinion.

Tired of It All

Dear Tired,

Alright. Auntie will read this back to you: You want Janis to spend her holidays lying to boring strangers instead of feasting with all the available dykes in town? What was the question?

It's obvious to Auntie - and surely to Janis - that you don't care a spit about

spending Thanksgiving and Christmas with your partner. Because whether she's home alone or at your folks', she won't be with you. Your reasons for wanting to be together are selfish.

If what you really want is to share these holidays with Janis, your family can't be in the picture unless you come out. If you can't be out, face the fact that you're among the many who must repeatedly choose between family and a lover. A wise closet manager divides her time. But in your case, the family always wins out. How long do you think Janis will take this?

Auntie isn't telling you to come out. She's telling you to grow up. It's time to admit that you can't have it all, and that it's not Janis' job to fix it. Continue to treat Janis as second best and one day she won't be there to help you eat the leftovers.

Your Auntie Pearl

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

Outright Vermont

In many traditions, this time of year is marked with celebrations of light, a symbol of hope and possibilities. We at **Outright Vermont** work to help bring that hope into reality by **creating safe places for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning young people**. In this season of giving, we hope that you value the work that we do and that you are willing to contribute your financial support so that we may continue to do this important work. **If you are able to support us in this way, please call us, or send your check to:**

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