

WRITE YOUR
AUNTIE PEARL



Write Your Auntie Pearl
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Dear Auntie Pearl,

My lover and I have been together for 4 years. In the last year we've made love about four times. At first it bothered me, but now I'm worried, because I don't even want to anymore. But obviously, I think it's a problem, or I wouldn't be writing to you. My lover knows I'm writing, and she's concerned too.

I know things slow down after the honeymoon, but this is ridiculous. It's not like either of us have abuse histories that would cause a problem like this. My lover and I have a great relationship otherwise. Both of us feel strongly that we need to respect each other's right to control our own bodies. So we've agreed that we won't have sex unless it feels right.

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I know that love and respect are more important than sex, but we both want a sex life of some kind. I hope you can help us understand why this is happening and what we can do about it. Thanks.

Nearly a Nun in the South

Dear Nearly,

Auntie has been patient. You've brushed your teeth, and said your prayers. Enough stalling. Go to bed! Stay in there together until your minds shut up and your bodies take over. If you wait until it "feels right", you'll never have sex.

A sexless partnership like yours is about control. Take an overdue gander at Auntie Pearl's Power Checklist: Who takes responsibility for the bills? Who sets up your social calendar? Who decides what's for dinner?

If you answered anything but "Either of us" to any of these questions, you've got a power imbalance breeding ground. Stop acting out your resentments in bed.

You do not have Auntie's permission to continue to conduct a sexless relationship. Love and respect are most certainly not "more important than sex". They're precisely as important. Now go to your room.

Dear Auntie Pearl,

I'm 41 and my lover, "Colin" is 28. We've been living together for three years, and we've been very happy. But now something is threatening everything. Colin has a very close lesbian friend who wants him to be the sperm donor for her to get pregnant. She and her lover live just down the street, and

they're all excited about having Colin and me involved in raising this child. Colin is all for it, and now he admits to me that he always wanted children.

Auntie Pearl, I have an 18-year-old daughter from a previous marriage, who lives a few miles from me, with her mother. As far as I'm concerned, I've done my child rearing. I've loved every stage of my wonderful daughter's development, and I'm finally enjoying spending adult time with her. I have absolutely no interest in starting over again.

Colin says that I'm trying to deny him what I have. He says that because he has given up our weekends together when my daughter stays with us, that now I should want to be involved with a child of his. I'm afraid that this may be the end of us. It may be too late for us, but please tell your readers to talk about children before they get involved. There's no guarantee anymore that a man who is childless when he comes out will stay that way. I learned the hard way.

One-Time Dad

Dear Dad,

Your advice is sound, especially in this day when creative parenting options abound. You know from experience how strong the need to breed can be.

This may be an irreconcilable difference, but don't give up until you two discuss specifics. Determine if any amount of compromise is acceptable to either of you. A few sessions with a couples counselor will help. Good luck.

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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