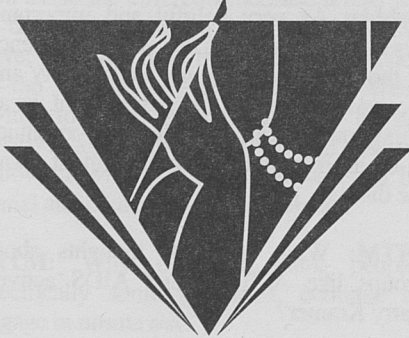


WRITE YOUR
AUNTIE PEARL



Dear Auntie Pearl: I am an avid reader of your column in the *Dallas Voice*. I met and fell in love with a younger person after having been with my previous lover for sixteen years. He is twenty-nine and I am fifty-five. Since we have been together I have gotten him two cars, bought him jewelry, and until recently he has not worked.

There is no communication; we can sit here for hours and say basically nothing. If I ask a question he will answer and that is it. However, if the phone should ring, he can carry on a conversation with his friends in a pleasant manner and as soon as he finishes he goes back into the withdrawn mode.

I have confronted him about this and he says I am imagining this. When I try to discuss things with him it gets abusive and sometimes physical. Friends have heard this and said time and time again I should get out as I am only being used as I make a fairly decent salary and take care of everything!

We only had sex three times last year and have not had it at all this year. When I go out I am accused of going out to have sex with someone else. This is not true; because of diseases, I am afraid to. When I ask him why there is no sex the only reply I get is that he is not a sexual person and after that he says nothing. There was a time when I thought there was someone else but now I am convinced that this is not the case as he is always home.

He says that he does love me but I just don't know. I know I love him and desire very much for our relationship to be more than a roommate situation. He says we are not roommates but lovers; I just do not know! I really do need some help and advice. Please answer soon!!!!!! -- *Desperate*

Dear Desperate: Oh, Auntie is just tickled to know she can save you some serious cash. Simply get out your dictionary. Look up "charity". If boyfriend's name is not there, it's time to find something deductible - and grateful - to contribute to.

This isn't a relationship. It's a time bomb. If abuse has already begun, the fuse has been lit. End it. Now.

As sure as you're Auntie Pearl's nephew, you deserve better than this. If your "lover" is determined to make your interactions less stimulating than an evening with the cast at Madame Tussaud's, he isn't worth dusting off and checking for vital signs.

You can't get what you want from someone who doesn't have it to give - no matter how much you pay him. The only

thing Auntie wants you to buy this fellow is a ticket to his life. You're doing him no favors by letting him hide from the world. Comb his hair, check his fly, teach him to wave bye-bye, and show him the door.

Dear Auntie Pearl: I have a problem I hope you can help solve. I'm still in love with my ex "Sam". I have dated since we broke up, it's been 7 months. But I haven't been truly happy.

Sam and I are still friends and she's with someone else, but we still fool around sometimes. I don't know what to do. She says she still cares about me but I don't know what to do. If she was truly happy with her new flame then why is she fooling around with me? Hope you can help. *Looking For Answers*

Dear Looking For Answers: Just what is it that makes you think Sam isn't "truly happy"? Auntie can hear old Sam laughing all the way to her next conquest. As long as Sam has a relationship and a mistress, let's not fret terribly much about her level of satisfaction, shall we?

Auntie sees nothing but heartache for you in this set up. You've gone from being Sam's lover to being the other woman. Don't think for a moment that this will bring her back to you. Hang onto a thread of hope this thin, and it will unravel quicker than Sam can betray trust.

While you're looking for answers, take a look around for your pride. Sam fools around with you because she can. The sooner you give Sam her walking papers, the sooner you'll be "truly happy". Don't make Auntie come down there and separate you two. It would not be pretty. ▼

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