

WRITE YOUR
AUNTIE PEARL



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Dear Auntie Pearl: I think my lover, "Holly" is falling in love with another woman. We have been together 5 years. We own a house together. We always said we expect to grow old together. But all the signs are there that Holly and this woman are attracted to each other.

We have always trusted each other, so I haven't questioned anything. But she's spending more and more time with her friend. My friends say I should confront her, but I've always believed that if you throw a fit or makes demands, it makes things worse. I've tried to get her to talk about what they do, in a friendly way - like I would with anybody. I've even teased her about looking like "lovebirds", but she just laughs.

How do I find out what's going on without acting distrustful or making it worse? I hope it's not true, but I'm beside myself because I think it is. --

Soon To Be Ex?

Dear Soon To Be Ex: Congratulations! You have just been named Ms. Accommodating 1994! While you're lying back and taking it, why not invite The Crush over to consummate the attraction tonight.

Martyrdom is not what it used to be. There's no sainthood in this for you, so quit wondering and start talking. Holly isn't the enemy, dear niece, she's your partner. If you're suspicious, Holly already knows. Tell her what's been troubling you. She'll either set your mind at ease or she'll come clean with the hard news. Either way you'll have the thing you need most: information.

You and Holly are responsible for the health of your relationship. If you suspect that Holly is forgetting that responsibility, it doesn't mean that you can slack-off too.

Dear Auntie Pearl: I think my nephew, "Ben", is gay. We've always been close. I'm his favorite uncle, but he doesn't know I'm gay. He's only 14, but I've had a feeling that he's gay for awhile. He has a male friend that he goes off into his room with for hours at a time. The way Ben talks about his friend, and the way they are together, he seems in love. They're both popular, outgoing, active kids, but neither of them has girlfriends.

The problem is that his parents (my sister and brother-in-law) tease him terribly about spending so much time with his friend, plus they say the usual homophobic things about life in general. Ben jokes along with them, but I'm afraid of what this might feel like for him if he is gay. I'm not out to them myself, because they're so homophobic. I don't know if I should say something to Ben. If he is gay, but he doesn't know it, it might make him feel bad about his

friendship. I'm afraid it'll freak him out that somebody else can tell. But if he's straight, he might not want to be close to me anymore.

Do you think it would do more damage to come out to him? I wish I knew somebody gay when I was his age. I'd hate to find out years from now that I could have made things easier for him. What do you advise? --

Closeted Uncle

Dear Closeted Uncle: If Ben is queer, straight, or indifferent, his parents' remarks are harming him. It shouldn't take his suspected queerness to make you try to end this boy's homophobic training. Do you want partial credit for the creation of the world's next queer basher?

According to Auntie's clock, it's half-past time for you to come out -- to Ben and his parents together. Telling Ben in secret will teach him that queerness is shameful. Keep the focus on you. If Ben wants to follow suit, that's his business.

If your nephew is straight, he'll learn that he knows and loves someone queer. If he's gay, he'll get his first lesson in pride and courage.

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

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