

WRITE YOUR
AUNTIE PEARL



Dear Auntie Pearl: We're five dyke friends, and we'd like your opinion. We have a friend "Debby". Her girlfriend dumped her three years ago and she can't get over it. Every time any of us gets together with her, it still ends with Debby crying about it. She's still really bitter. She says she's lonely all the time.

We all compared notes and we found out that every one of us thought we were the only ones who think Debby has a problem. A few of us tried to talk to Debby about therapy, but she says that's what friends are for. She says it "scares" her that we don't understand. Auntie Pearl, we do understand. All of us have been through something like that, but we've all worked hard to get over it. We know that Debby is doing her best too, but it seems like nobody should be hurting this much for this long.

Do you agree with us? Is there something we haven't tried? We hope you'll answer this letter, because we really do care about our friend. -- *The Gang*

Dear Gang: For years, your Auntie Pearl has told the ladies of her Old Maid Card Club that she has the brightest, most loyal nieces on the globe. Thank you for proof.

Yes, a shrink will do nicely here. Auntie loves Camille's death scene as much as the next person, but the curtain, gratefully, must fall. Your sad pal is mourning for more than her ex. It'll take a pro to help her discover the inspiration for this suffering lifestyle. Debby must learn to let go of what she's lost so she doesn't destroy what has: good friendships.

Dear Auntie Pearl: I've been with my lover for seven years. He's my first and I'm his. We were curious about threesomes, so we tried it and it was exciting. We never do anything anally, and we try to be careful. I tend to get more emotionally involved than my lover and would rather get to know a person first. Problem? My lover can have sex and leave it - I can't. I would never leave my lover, but I want at least a friendship. How dangerous is this to our relationship? AIDS? Are we risking our relationship on excitement? -- *A Nephew*

Dear Nephew: Honey, if you have to ask if this is a threat to your relationship, then it is. Don't fool yourself or your Auntie: you're falling for this new gent. Try a friendship with him and you might as well start custody hearings for your pets and favorite appliances. Your lover just wants to scratch his seven-year itch. But you need love with your sex, so why tempt fate? Until you find out why you're willing to put your relationship at risk, nix the threesomes.

As for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases: with the exception of a mutually-monogamous relationship in which both partners test negative, any sexual contact has some level of risk. But if you practice safer sex (use a latex condom correctly every time, and don't let any blood or semen enter your body), you lower your risk - no matter how many people are involved.

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