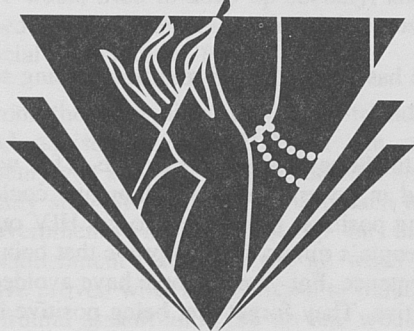


WRITE YOUR
AUNTIE PEARL



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 in Virginia

Dear Virginia: 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.

Dear Auntie Pearl: My lover Steven and I are in a delicate situation. We're asking everyone for an opinion, and we didn't want to leave you out, Auntie Pearl! Last year, we brought my elderly mother home to live with us after she broke her hip. We all agreed that it was time for her to give up her apartment for her own safety. We have always gotten along wonderfully, but Steven and I are not out to her.

We've all adjusted surprisingly well to the new living arrangement. The problem is that Steven and I have stopped being affectionate in our house. We are careful that she doesn't see Steven coming from or going to my bedroom. In short, we can't go on like

this, but we don't know how to approach the subject with my mother. She's eighty years old, Auntie Pearl, and she's lived a sheltered life.

She's never said a harsh word about anyone, but I'm sure this will come as a shock. Steven and I are both divorced, and in our fifties. I think she assumes that we're simply bachelors. We'd like your opinion on a gentle approach for our beloved "Ma". Thanks, Auntie Pearl! --

Joe and Steven

Dear Joe and Steven: Auntie would be surprised if Ma doesn't know your story. Eighty years is a long time to spend without picking up a thing or two about life.

The best approach to any facet of living with Ma is to create an atmosphere in which she's comfortable talking to you. Regularly check in with her about how it's going for her. If you make it easy for Ma to approach you with her concerns, you won't need to explain yourself, and Ma will be in charge of her own information gathering.

Then go about your business as usual. Naturally, you'll be respectful of Ma's modesty when it comes to extended foreplay on the Barcalounger, but get your daily affections and bedroom arrangements back to normal. ▼

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Out in the Mountains

VERMONT'S NEWSPAPER FOR LESBIANS, GAY MEN, AND BISEXUALS

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