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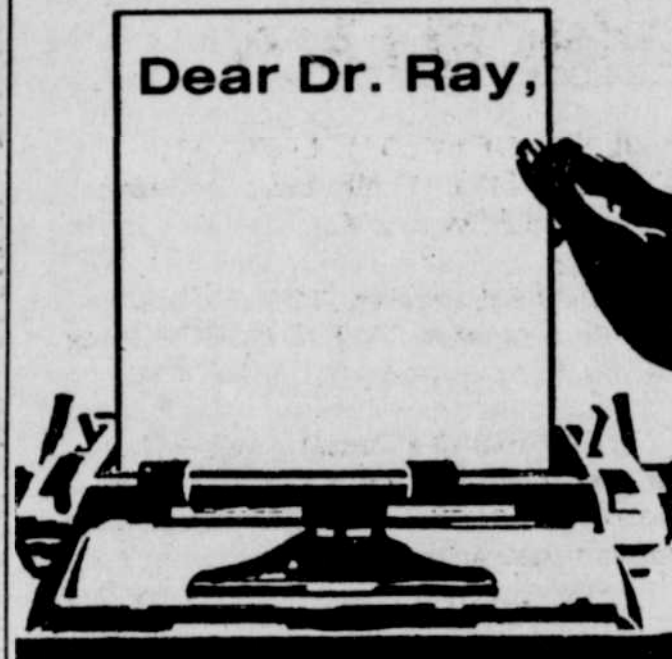
**The 'Other Man'
threatens to
tell all**

Dear Dr. Ray,

Keith and I have been lovers for eight years.
After the first few years we gradually lost in-
terest in having sex with each other, but we
continue to share a house. In fact I still con-
sider Keith my lover because he is the most
important person in the world to me.

Last year Keith announced that he was
sleeping with Sam. He began to spend nights
away from home. At first I was mad with
jealousy, but after a while I realized that it's a
good situation because it keeps Keith happy
and he is still devoted to me.

Dear Dr. Ray,



Well, one weekend Keith was out of town
and Sam stopped over to the house. (He said
he had forgotten that Keith was going to be
gone.) Anyway, he ended up spending the
night. That was three months ago, and Sam
and I have been seeing each other ever since.

As far as I know Keith knows nothing about
any of this. I see no reason to tell him. But
now Sam is hinting that he will talk to Keith
because he feels that what we're doing is
wrong. I don't want to upset the apple cart.
What can I do to keep Sam from telling? (I
don't want to lose either of them). And if he
does tell what should I do?

In the Middle

Dear Middle,

The apple cart is upset. You upset it when
you started sleeping with Sam.

It is unrealistic to expect that you can con-
ceal for much longer, the information about
your relationship with Sam. And the longer
your new relationship is a secret the harder it
will be to re-establish the trust between you
and Keith. So the sooner you deal with this
the better.

Three-way relationships are difficult. Most
people can't stand the ambiguity and the
jealousies that are bound to develop from
time to time. If you really care about both
Keith and Sam you've got to swallow the
bullet.

Begin by telling Sam that you're going to
ask for a meeting of all three of you to discuss
the situation openly. Get Sam's suggestions
about how you can both approach Keith.
Before you go into this meeting, know what
you are going to say. When you do meet,
make it clear that you are taking this risk
because you care about both of your friends.

Give Keith time to adjust to the news. Be in
touch with how you would feel if you were in
his shoes. Don't get defensive. And Good
Luck!

Dear Dr. Ray,

I'm stuck with a house guest I never invited
and whom I don't want!

I share a very comfortable house with a
roommate. We've been here for two years
and although we've had a few scraps, we've
never had a major problem like this one.

Last month my roommate (I'll call her
Nicky) left for a two-month European vaca-
tion. Just before Nicky left she was feeling
sorry for our friend Ellen who was going into
the hospital and was having a lot of health
problems. So she told Ellen that she was
welcome to stay at our house while she was
recuperating.

I wasn't surprised when Ellen showed up at
our house as soon as she got out of the
hospital. The problem is, that was two weeks
ago and Nicky is not due back for another
month.

I don't know if I can take another day of
Ellen, much less a month! She parks in the
driveway, blocking my car even though I've
told her not to do that. She leaves a mess in
the kitchen every day and I find pieces of her
clothing throughout the house!

I don't know if Nicky really meant to offer
Ellen an open invitation, but I certainly didn't!
But I don't feel I can tell Ellen to leave because
Nicky did promise her a place to stay after the
hospital. There's no way to get in touch with
Nicky, who is somewhere between Paris and
Marseilles. The problem is, I'm the one who is

Stranded

Dear Stranded,

There is no reason to let this situation con-
tinue until Nicky returns. Remember that this
is your home, so you should feel comfortable
in insisting on your rights.

Tell Ellen that although you like her as a
person, you find that you are not comfortable
having her stay so long. Avoid blaming or
name-calling but tell her specifically what she
has done that you have found unfair. Stick to
the facts.

Tell Ellen that she is welcome to stay for
another three or four days but that you expect
her to leave after that. And insist that she
change her inconsiderate behavior for the
remainder of her stay.

When Nicky returns work out a house pol-
icy on visitors. I suggest that when either of
you invites an overnight guest you first get the
approval of your roommate. And make sure
that the exact dates — beginning and ending
— of the guest's visit are mutually
agreed upon.

Have a problem? Need advice? Write to
"Dr. Ray" in care of **Just Out**, PO Box 15117,
Portland, OR 97215. Include a stamped, self-
addressed envelope if you wish to receive a
personal reply.

*Dr. Raymond Berger, an individual,
couple and family counselor, is author of
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