

"It's a small house," Lisa explains. "When you're new in a relationship you can overlook a lot of stuff, but...we kept getting more crowded.... We kept getting more cranky, we kept having less fun, we kept having more fights...we just felt like if we kept all living together, [Kristen and I] were going to end up breaking up."

They both agreed they didn't want to break up. Kristen moved in with a friend across town.

"It's great," Lisa says. "She's got more freedom...she's a student and needs privacy.... We could give her love and fun and a big, happy family, but we couldn't give her a nice, clean, quiet space of her own."

Far from breaking up, Kristen is over at the house at least once a week, and Lisa spends the night at Kristen's once a week. "I miss waking up next to her every morning, and I miss going to bed," admits Kristen. "But it's nice not to be owned and not own anybody and to try to let the other person be who they are."

They both think the relationship will last, although Kristen is considering seeing other people, "which would be good 'cause then you'd have a polyamory-polyamory type of branch-off there," Kristen laughs. "Like a little neuron."

So, as it turns out people don't always choose polyamory; sometimes it chooses them. Does it always work? Of course not. Does monogamy? Of course not. In the immortal words of Bart Simpson: "Do what you feel."

As long as you negotiate it. **J**

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## But wait! There's more.

If you're not quite ready for The Polyamory Circle, start here

**The Ethical Slut: A Guide to Infinite Sexual Possibilities** by Dossie Easton and Catherine A. Liszt

Written by two bisexual women, this essential poly primer is appropriate for and inclusive of all genders and sexualities. Addresses health, social, philosophical, jealousy, practical and child care issues. Also good if you're not romantically/sexually polyamorous but just have a lot of people in your life who are important to you.



**Lesbian Polyfidelity** by Celeste West

This one includes a wealth of personal interviews and biography of the San Francisco author's own poly experiences. A bit more hippie-based using new-agey, earth-mother type language, it covers all the basics from a lot of different points of view.



**Polyamory: The New Love Without Limits** by Deborah Anapol

Although there are more books to choose from now, this is a revised and updated version of Anapol's 1992 book *Love Without Limits*—the first real poly primer. The author discusses her own interesting journey toward multiple relationships. This book (and the others) is



engaging reading even for those who aren't interested in polyamorous relationships and has a lot to teach about communication, honesty and jealousy.

[www.LoveMore.com](http://www.LoveMore.com)

Your one-stop shopping headquarters for poly issues on the Web. The national organization Polyfidelitous Educational Productions runs the site, where you can order *Loving More* magazine (which targets consensual nonmonogamous readers) and all the above books as well as learn poly terms and definitions, find out about conferences, peruse FAQs, place a personals ad and, most importantly, join the chat room with other poly families looking to give and receive advice. (Don't confuse this with [LovingMore.com](http://www.LovingMore.com), which is just a dating site.)

**Local Yahoo! listservs**

- **Pdxgappolyamory:** "For gay guys in Portland to talk about polyamory, three-ways and the wonderful world of gay poly dating!"

- **Polyamorypdx:** "A public list for the polyamorous community in Portland, Oregon, to communicate and create community." This one sends reminders about the Polyamory Circle meetings.

To sign up for either of these e-mail lists, go to [groups.yahoo.com](http://groups.yahoo.com). A search for "polyamory" yields a total of 126 poly listservs nationwide. **J**

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