

RED MEAT *mr. darwin's neighborhood* *from the secret files of Max Cannon*

You know, Karen...I sure am enjoying my new freelance cosmetics testing research.

I research the safety of beauty products. It's tricky, though. Federal regulations are pretty rigid about animal testing these days.

I couldn't agree with you more, young lady. Say, while I'm here...do you and your mom need another bottle or two of milk today?

What are you talkin' about, Milkman Dan?

Good! Nobody should be hurtin' little animals.

No way. The one you left yesterday tasted like soap.

Come on now...are you sure it didn't taste a little more like rosemary-mint exfoliating facial scrub?

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www.facebook.com/WigglyTailsDogRescue

S.A.R.A.'s Shelter Animal Resource Alliance Rescued Cat of the Week

Rafters Rafters is a sweet senior kitty. She loves treats, napping by the heater, and making her daily rounds to gets attention. Black Friday (Nov 23rd) will be the start of S.A.R.A.'s Holiday Gift Fair, featuring great holiday gifts, and excellent prices. Make sure to stop by! There are special give-a-ways for the first 20 customers, as well as 75% off all red slashed items! Small Business Saturday (Nov. 24th) will also feature a Buy 1, Get 1, 50% off clothing sale, as well as, free goodie bags for the first 20 customers. Think of S.A.R.A.'s rescued cats and kittens for #GivingTuesday (Nov 27th). S.A.R.A.'s Giving Trees will be set up all over town during the holiday season. All sales/events will support rescued animals in the community. Go to www.sarastreasures.org for more info.

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SAVAGE LOVE *STRESSFEST*
BY DAN SAVAGE

I'm a recently divorced single mom and full-time student. I'm really beginning to hurt financially and have decided to start working as an escort. I am at a point of great emotional stability, happiness, and confidence—all reasons that led to my decision—and I'm surrounded by people who love me and won't judge me. (Not that I will be telling most of them.) I've been seeing a man who I like, but I've made it clear that I am not committed to him and can see him only once a week. I've explained that I don't think I can ever be monogamous and I do not want a relationship. He has struggled with this and told me early on he was in love with me. We have AMAZING sex, and I think this causes him to have a hard time understanding why I don't want a relationship. I do not want to tell him I am escorting. I feel the fewer people who know, the better. And I don't know him that well, as I have been "seeing" him for only six months. I know he would want to know, and a huge part of me feels that the right thing to do is be honest with him if I am going to continue seeing him. I also know that cutting him loose would hurt and confuse him, especially without being able to give him a reason. How do I handle this? What is the right thing to do? My site goes live in three days, and what's keeping me up at night is not how best to verify clients, it's what to do about the man in my life who I respect and love, even if I am not in love with him.

New To Escorting

Let's set the escorting issue aside for a moment. You don't want the same things (he wants monogamy and a defined relationship, you don't want any of that shit), you don't feel for him the way he feels for you (he's in love, you're not), and you're a busy single mom and full-time student—all perfectly valid reasons to end a relationship, NTE. You aren't obligated to tell him that something you were thinking about doing but haven't yet done, i.e., escorting, factored into your decision to cut him loose.

While I definitely think people have a right to know if their partners are escorts, I don't think people have an absolute right to know if their partners were escorts. So if the sex is really good, and you think there's a chance you could one day feel as strongly for him as he does for you, and you're planning to escort only until you get your degree, NTE, you could tell him you want to take a break. Explain to him that you don't have the bandwidth for a boyfriend just now—kid, school, work—but you're open to dating him after you're out of school if he's still single and still interested.

I'm a 30-year-old single monogamist and I recently realized I'm bisexual. I feel much happier. Except I recently crossed a line with a very close friend of mine, a man I'll admit to having some romantic feelings for. After he broke up with his ex, I started getting random late-night text messages from him. And a couple weeks ago, we hooked up sans penetration. We acknowledged that we both have feelings but neither of us is in a good place. He's still dealing with the end of his LTR, and I am only just coming out as bisexual. I love this person and our friendship is important to me, but I can't stop thinking of the possibility of us being together. I'm confused by the timing and I wonder if this is real or just something I've allowed to distract me—or both! Also, what would this mean for my bisexuality? I've been to this rodeo before—meaning opposite-sex relationships—but what about the part of me I haven't fully explored?

Between Every Thorn Solitude Years

You describe yourself as a monogamist—so, yeah, entering into a committed relationship with this man would prevent you from exploring your bisexuality. And the timing feels off: He may be on the rebound, and you're still coming to terms with your bisexuality. So don't enter into a committed relationship with him, BETSY, at least not yet. Date him casually and keep hooking up with him, with the understanding—with the explicit and fully verbalized and mutually consented to understanding—that you will be "exploring" your bisexuality, i.e. you'll be getting out there and eating some pussy.

I'm a 37-year-old woman married for eight years to a wonderful man. We're happy and GGG to the point where his kinks have become my kinks and vice versa. However, he loves anal sex and I cannot do it. No matter how much lube we use or how slowly we go, it's not just uncomfortable, it's red-hot-poker-in-my-ass painful. Can you give me any concrete, practical advice to get to a point where I can enjoy anal?

Beyond Uncomfortable Tushy Trauma

P.S. Do some women actually enjoy anal? After my experiences, I find that really hard to believe.

If you're still interested in exploring anal after all those red-hot-poker-in-your-ass painful experiences—and you are by no means obligated to explore any further—focus on anal stimulation, BUTT, not anal penetration. Try rimming, try a vibrator pressed against your anus (not shoved into it), try running his lubed-up dick up and down your crack (across your anus, not into your anus), and try all of these things during masturbation, vaginal penetration, and oral sex. Having a few dozen orgasms—or a few hundred—while your anus's sensitive nerve endings are pleurably engaged could create a positive association between anal stimulation and sexual pleasure.

It's going to take some time to create a positive association powerful enough to supplant the negative association you have now—an association with echoes of regicide (google "Edward II and red hot poker")—so your husband shouldn't expect to get his dick back into your butt anytime soon, if he ever will at all. Some people, for reasons physiological or psychological or both, just can't experience pleasure during anal intercourse. If you're one of those people, BUTT, your husband will just have to grieve and move on.

P.S. I find it hard to believe that a woman could possibly enjoy, say, a Donald Trump rally. But some women do, BUTT, and we have video to prove it. The same could be said about anal.

I am a 30-year-old hetero woman. Any ideas on how a person can build up to healthy intimate relationships again while recovering from trauma? I'm afraid in normal sexual situations. How can I get to a point where I can have sex for fun and not in a way where I'm triggering my fight-or-flight response? Yes, I am seeing a therapist.

Traumatic Experience Nullifying Sexual Energy

Here's an idea, TENSE, but please run it by your therapist before giving it a try: Find a guy you like and propose a different kind of friends-with-benefits arrangement. You will be in charge—you will do all the initiating—and while he can say no to anything you ask, he isn't to ask for or initiate anything himself. You set the menu, you make the rules, you give the orders. He'll need to be someone you trust, and it'll help if he's someone who thinks following orders is sexy—and trust me, TENSE, those guys are out there. You said that normal sexual situations aren't working for you. Maybe an abnormal one would?

On the Lovecast, what evangelical Christianity does to women: savagelovecast.com.