

For and About You

By Harriett Muhammad

DEAR HARRIETT: I need some advice on a little problem that is on my mind. My husband and I are expecting our first child in August and we will be married a year in September. We are very happy together and get along very well. He has always been nice to me, even before I married him. Before we got married, we talked about things we used to do. I never got into any kind of trouble. He told me some of the things that happened to him and I forgave him. But he told me a few lies which now I have found out.

My husband was in the Air Force for four years and met a lot of women. I think he told me he talked to a few, but I know he told me he didn't have any pictures or love letters from any girls.

I found that to be a lie, and I am hurt from it now. I know, maybe I had no right looking into his bag, which I came across while cleaning out one of our closets. He has all kind of pictures he took in the army. Women sitting on his lap and kissing him; love letters of all sorts.

Should I let him know that I saw the pictures, and ask him to get rid of them? I can't forget them and let them stay there. What should I do? I hope I get a reply from you before I do the wrong thing. Thank you.

DEAR MRS. HURT: No, you shouldn't let him know you saw the pictures, and you can forget them if you care to.

Even married people have the right to a certain amount of privacy. Your husband doesn't have to tell you about his past life. It's none of your affair. He probably didn't tell you of the women that have passed through his life to spare you this little hurt you are feeling now.

Sounds like you have a pretty normal husband.

Start counting your blessings and be silent.

DEAR HARRIETT: I have a teenage daughter who is a big burden on me in that I can't teach her how to accept responsibility. She is not able to stick to her work schedule; she can't handle money wisely; she is obedient only when I'm around watching her to make certain she does everything she is supposed to.

I have tried whipping her; keeping her in the house; counselling her; bribing her with a salary or new clothes — everything. But none of these methods gets positive results. I have exhausted my disciplinary measures. Now what? — **MOTHER.**

DEAR MOTHER: Sometimes there are children who aren't able to respond to those closest to them, for reasons that may stem from some childhood experiences or upbringing. If you fail to get a response, let someone else take over for an extended period of time — say a year.

If you are able to find a close maternal friend or relative who is capable and willing to take over where you left off, you might ob-

tain the results you are looking for.

If your daughter is already in her teens, you had better make some kind of arrangements soon or she will find upon reaching maturity that people who refuse obligations of any sort are the ones that fill the institutions.

Something on your mind? Write and tell me.

Harriet Muhammad
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