

## Kissing Among Friends Arouses Husband's Ire

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for more than 20 years and have been very close. The past five years we have been good friends with another married couple. They are "huggers and kissers" — I am not. The past year my wife has been doing a lot of "hugging and kissing" (on the cheek) with this couple.

Recently, my wife reached to grab his arm to kiss him goodbye, and he turned to give her a full kiss on the mouth. She hung onto his arm, standing on her toes to receive.

I do not think a man should be kissing another man's wife this way. My wife says it was "just a kiss." I say he's out of line. She defended him. She has been doing some flirting with him as well.

Her conduct is a dramatic change from our first 20 years of marriage. Do you think this kissing is proper under these circumstances?

Please print your answer. She reads you faithfully.  
EDDIE IN SUMNER, WASH.

DEAR EDDIE: If the displays of affection between this man and your wife have made you uncomfortable, then both of them, out of respect for your feelings, should put an end to the kissing. Although the flirting may be "innocent," if it threatens the spouse, it threatens the relationship and the marriage, and it's wrong. And you should tell your wife and friend how you feel about it.

DEAR ABBY: I have a response for "Burned Up in San Diego," who complained because her daughter-in-law fills the bathtub with water, takes a bath, gives her 2-year-old daughter a bath in the same water, then tells her 11-year-old son to bathe in it. Doesn't she have more important things to worry about?

People in Third World countries bathe with cattle and other livestock in muddy rivers that are also used as sewers. And "Burned Up" is complaining because her two grandchildren are forced to take a bath in recycled bathwater! Whew!

SOMEONE WHO HAS WORSE THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT IN BARABOO, WIS.



DEAR ABBY: Do you have a Catholic etiquette authority who can solve my dilemma?

My daughter has converted to Catholicism and is soon to be married in the Catholic Church. She wants me — her mother — to walk her down the aisle. Her father is deceased.

I have chosen a short frock, which I had planned to wear with hat and gloves, but everyone I mention this to tells me that a hat and gloves will look out of date and silly. What do you think?

KIND OF PRISSY MOM

DEAR MOM: I agree with your friends. And if you haven't already bought a dress for this occasion, please consider a long one. Also, tell your daughter that Abby wishes her and her beloved a lifetime of happiness.

DEAR ABBY: Every year, around Labor Day, my mother and mother-in-law start dropping hints about planning Thanksgiving and Christmas. With siblings and step-families all over the United States and Europe, gift-buying and the logistics of visiting become stressful.

Today, my husband and I decided early to stay home, create our own traditions, and make donations to the Red Cross and Salvation Army to help replenish funds depleted by Hurricane Andrew.

Perhaps other families who experience similar problems around the holidays would benefit by telling relatives now that they're staying home and giving real gifts. Sign me ...  
LIZ HARRIS IN EDINA

DEAR LIZ: Thanks for a timely idea. Readers, listen to Liz!

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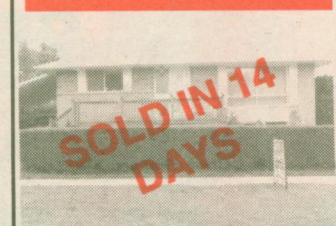
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