

**What do I Know? I'm just a Clown : September / October 2015**  
**"Ask the Clown" : an advice column by Martin "the Clown" Barry**



Dear Clown,

I am a father of three great daughters. Two of them have finished college and started good lives on their own. My youngest has me concerned, though. She is currently enrolled in school, which I pay for her, and she has come home a few times wearing items that are clearly outside of her means. She is not currently dating anyone and I know her bank account and credit cards could not cover some of these things. What can I do to clear this up?

Sincerely, Concerned Daddy

Dear Concerned Daddy,

First, let me applaud your level of care in being a father. Noticing small details can be extremely important. My first suggestion is to sit down and have a talk with her about her current status and casually bring up these things you have noticed. If there is no easy explanation, or even resistance to clarify, you may have a larger problem at hand. I have faith that you will get to the root of this. Please keep me updated!

The Clown

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Dear Clown,

I have a problem and I want an option outside the normal suggestions. I drink all day. I bring a stash of liquor to work with me every day. I drink when I wake up. I drink when I get home and all the way to bedtime. I live alone and I know I am destroying myself. Help me?

Sincerely, Addicted

Dear Addicted,

You have done the right thing in recognizing that this is a problem. I am guessing that by asking for something outside the normal, you don't want AA, religious-based group meetings, or an intervention. My best suggestion is to enlist the help of your doctor and a therapist. These professionals will help you break the addiction and make your life yours again. I will be pulling for you.

The Clown

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Dear Clown,

What would you include in a list of items that make up a good relationship?

Sincerely, Curious Woman

Dear Curious,

Good relationships are comprised of love, patience, compassion, honesty, faith in each other, common interests and viewpoints, humor, joy, passion, kindness, communication, integrity, commitment, strength, sweetness, simplicity, logic, and a constant capacity to bring out the best in one another. These qualities help to battle against selfishness, insecurity, envy, and the other negative things in life.

The Clown

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Dear Clown,

I have been seeing someone casually for some time and I would like to see our interaction grow into the next level. The trouble I have is that my invitations for extra time together are met with silence or maybes. At the same time, she broadcasts things on her schedule without even thinking to invite me along. Do you think I read this one wrong?

Sincerely, Frustrated

Dear Frustrated,

Having experienced this before, I can understand your viewpoint. You care for this person quite a bit, but you are further outside their life than you care to be. At this time, let the waters calm a bit, and remind this person that you are there for them. Allow them to make a space for you and an effort to see you. If they do not do that, then you have at very least built a friendship.

The Clown

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**Do you have a question for The Clown? Write him at [martin.barry@yahoo.com](mailto:martin.barry@yahoo.com)**