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How herpes helped a marriage

Dear Ann Landers: I never thought I would credit herpes with giving new life to my marriage, but it did. Here is my story:

My husband has been a trucker for seven years. We have two small children. I suspect he has cheated on me, but I don't want a divorce. I know he loves me and I love him, but time and space have made us strangers. I am cold and unresponsive in bed.

Recently a friend of ours (also a trucker) caught herpes from his girlfriend on a regular layover. He gave it to his unsuspecting wife. When the doctor told her what she had, she went crazy. That night while he was asleep she beat his head in with a tire wrench. He is in the hospital with a fractured skull.

The guy filed charges and his wife is in jail. She may have to go to a mental hospital because she keeps telling everyone she is sorry she didn't kill him.

Ever since that happened my trucker treats me like a piece of Dresden china. He calls me every night when he's on the road, and I am sure he'll be completely faithful from now on. Sign me

— Something Good
From Something Bad

Dear Something: The fear of genital herpes certainly has had a chilling effect on the one-night stand. Thanks for a new twist.

Ann Landers



Syndicated
columnist

Dear Ann Landers: I was happily married until I discovered my husband was wearing women's underwear under his work clothes. He said he has been doing it for several years. Maybe I never knew because he always undressed in the closet.

Now we have two children and my husband's behavior is getting crazier. He paints his toenails and sleeps in fancy nighties. I find it very upsetting, but he claims he is impotent without this "turn-on."

I am concerned about the kids. What will they think if they find out? Is he a homosexual? I have no reason to believe he is seeing anyone. He never goes anywhere without me. Our friends are all married couples.

Is there a cure for this behavior? He says he won't go to a psychologist because he is not hurting anyone. When I tell him he is hurting me, he says, "Then you go. You are the one with the problem." (I should also tell you he is a wonderful husband and

father. This is my only complaint.) Last week he began to pluck his eyebrows. Please give me some answers but don't mention the name of the city or state.

— Afraid Of The Future
Dear Afraid: Your husband is a transvestite. Most authorities believe cross-dressers get their jollies from wearing women's garments, and that they go no further. A cure? There is none.

Believe it or not, your husband has given you good advice. You need to see a counselor and learn more about his deviant behavior. You also need

to know how to explain it to your children because one day they will surely notice that dad's eyebrows are plucked and his toenails are painted. Your family doctor can help you find a good therapist. Get going — and good luck.

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Ann Landers discusses teenage drinking — its myths, its realities. Learn the facts by reading "Booze and You — For Teen-Agers Only," by Ann Landers. Send 50 cents and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11995, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

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