

*Various excerpts from DRUM Magazine's 'agony aunt' column, originally called 'Priscilla Asks' and later 'Dear Dolly'.*

Priscilla Asks: 'Have you a Love Worry?' February 1960, p. 54-57

Q: I am 24, matriculated, and in love with a girl of 16 who is still at school doing standard six. Her brother, once a great friend of mine, has suddenly become an enemy to me. He has influenced his whole family against me and one day he organised thugs to beat me up. He argues that his sister is too young to be in love with me. But the girl is madly in love with me and I love her sincerely. Must I fight this boy or stop loving the girl? Jacob, Cape Province

A: Honestly, I fail to see any sense in your reasoning. Nobody spoiled your chances of a sound education until you matriculated. Now you want to shatter a little girl's future by dragging her into love affairs! Why can't you wait for the girl until she comes of age, at least, even if you don't care about her education? How would you feel if your friend treated your sister in the way you are behaving towards this girl?

Q: My girls is the youngest (19) in a family of four sisters. I am 25 and in love with this girl and her slender figure. I would hate to see her get fat like her three sisters who were as slender as she is now when they were her age. I dread having a fat wife and I fear that my girl will be like her sisters not long after our marriage. What should I do? Tom, Tarima

A: Yours is a sticky little problem. It must be a nightmare to see your wife looming day by day the size of an ox. You must remember that human beings are more than weight and flesh though. If you love the person in your wife, the human being in there, you will continue to love her regardless of how substantial she becomes physically. But if it is only her figure that excites you, you might be an unhappy man should she become fat. But it doesn't mean that your girl will become huge, just because her sisters eat too much fatty food!

Pricilla Asks: 'Have you a love worry?', July 1960, p. 69

Q: I'm 20 years old and in love with a guy of 21. He wants to marry me, but I dislike him because he is a tsotsi and is always getting drunk. Sometimes when he gets like this he threatens to kill me and he lashes me. I also think I am too young to be married. What shall I do about this boy? Miss A., Hoopstad

A: I really cannot see how you can love a person who treats you so badly. If he is drunken now, he is likely to get much worse as he gets older. If I were you I would avoid him. If necessary get your father to tell him to keep away, and wait for another young man who is really worth of your love.

Dear Dolly, January 1976, p. 40

Q: I am 20, my girls is 16. She refuses to have sex with me because she is still a scholar. She even refuses to kiss me. I have promised to marry her, but this does not seem to make any difference, she still refuses. What can I do? Should I leave her, or force her to have sex with me? T.T.M, Tembisa

A: Brother, haven't you heard that forcing a girl to have sex with you is called rape, and for that you can hang? So my answer to you for your own good is leave her.

Q: I am 19 years old, and I'm in love with a guy of 23. I have been going out with him for nearly two years. I am still at school, but I want to know whether I can tell this guy that I want to sleep with him. I feel sexy every time I see him. Please advise me. TPS, Theunissen

A: If you know what's good for you, wait until you have finished school. But it seems obvious that you're not going to wait, so go to the nearest family planning clinic and get contraceptive advice before you get him into your bed.

Q: I am 19, and in love with a girl of 16. When I lost my money she told me that she didn't want to enjoy love with me anymore. Should I beat her? JRP, Trichardtsdal

A: Don't beat her. Just leave her and find someone who is not so greedy.

Dear Dolly, Feb 8 1976, p. 31

Q: I am 17, and still at school. I am in love with a boy of 18 who is also at school. I don't want to fall pregnant, as I want to do my Form II. He knows I don't want to have sex with him, but he forces me to do so. What can I do? A.T., Sebokeng

A: Why not go to someone understanding whom you can trust? Ask this person to explain the situation nicely, but firmly, to your boyfriend. If this doesn't work tell your brothers or parents that this guy is making a nuisance of himself. Meanwhile try and avoid situations where he can force you to have sex. Only meet him when there are other people present.

Q: I am 22 and have a doll of 17. I have loved her for three months, and she has left school because of me. My problem is that I have given her money to buy clothes to show her that I love her, but when I ask her to come with me to my parents' home she refused. When I asked for the clothes back she refused to give them to me. Does this girl love me or not? N.B.G.R, Naledi

A: Friend, I think this girl is playing you for a sucker. I suggest that you cut your losses and forget about the money you have spent on her. If you are so keen on sending money on girls, find someone worthwhile.