

# Wife won't let husband see her without all her makeup on first

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have a lovely new wife who waited until we were married to move in with me, although we spent the night together on occasion during the past year. The problem is that she never allows me to see her without her full makeup on. I have to leave the bedroom when she comes out of the shower, and she makes sure the lights are out when she goes to bed. She has nothing to hide, in my opinion — but then, I have never seen her face bare! She told me she doesn't swim, and now I know why. — C.K.

**Dear C.K.: Your wife is doing her best to keep up appearances — literally. There may be several reasons why she hasn't been willing to bare all in front of you. One may be force of habit. When dating, women usually cherish that time from when they step out of the shower until they become satisfied that they can see their date and put their best face forward. Some women who are used to heavily making up their faces from a young age (your wife?) literally feel naked without their cosmetics.**

If your wife has deeper issues surrounding her appearance, things could be a little more difficult to resolve. She may simply feel ugly or unattractive without makeup, and may not want to risk you seeing the "real" her and backing away from your love for her. This probably sounds crazy to you, but gently letting her know how beautiful she is — inside and out — while not pressuring her may help. Just be aware that as women age, those with this sort of bad self-image tend to have a harder and harder time.

Dear Dr. Brothers: It has been three years since I met my boyfriend, but we have been living to-



**Dr. Joyce Brothers**

## • Ask Dr. Brothers

gether for about a year. Since moving in, instead of having more time for sex, we seem to have less. In fact, the only time he seems at all interested is after we have been separated for a few days or a week due to various circumstances. I can't figure out if this means he is bored with me, or we would be better off living apart, or something else. J.R.

**Dear J.R.: I don't think you need to take the drastic step of living apart — just keep some kind of artificial distance in hopes of increasing the frequency or intensity of your sex life. Ideally, you both want to be together for the other activities that figure into your daily relationship, and would miss those interactions if you separated. If you find you wouldn't really care one way or another, that might be an indication that the relationship has run its course. Even those with less-than-perfect sexual relationships can have deep connections where love, companionship, fun, supportiveness and partnership make it inconceivable that they live apart. Are you one of these couples?**

It is a pretty well-accepted fact that most couples find the passion in their relationship fading a bit as familiarity and routine set in while the raging hormones of a new, exciting relationship fade. Almost everyone must take positive steps to keep their sex life fresh, interesting and fun. If the

**only step you can think of is separating, it's not a good sign! Check out some books or Web sites on making the most of your private time together. Work on this together.**

Dear Dr. Brothers: I have been close to my big brother (three years older) all my life, and now he is off on his own, married to a girl he met at college. Even though I have been friendly to her, I know she doesn't like me because my brother told me so. He seems to think she is jealous of me, his sister — whatever that means — and thinks it is funny. But at the same time, he wants to limit my visits to his house. How do I get him to put family ahead of someone he has only known for a little while? — V.N.

**Dear V.N.: First, you can do a lot by being the mature one in this situation, even though you are the little sister. You need to ask your brother to help you get along with his wife — he'll be glad to know you're trying. It is cruel to ask you to limit your visits to his home, and it shows that he is really concerned about pleasing his wife.**

He needs your help in establishing some new family rules in which everyone gets along and is welcome in each other's homes. Start by inviting the two of them over to yours frequently, and include your parents so that the family unit can be strengthened. Good luck with the work ahead.

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*This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to today's Sudoku puzzle is below.*

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