



ASK DEANNA!
*Real People,
Real Advice*

Ask Deanna! Is an advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I dated this guy for a month and he suddenly disappeared. I didn't hear from him, and his family had no idea where he was either. A month later, I saw him in passing, and I want to know if we still have some kind of relationship or are we just friends. I don't know how to contact him anymore. Should I just forget it and move on, or should I try to reach him and work things out.

Really Confused
On-Line Reader

Dear Confused:

After a single month, you never had a relationship. Then to make it worse, if he disappeared with no contact, it's an obvious sign that he's not feeling you. Don't weigh too much on what his family says because they've known his whereabouts and had no intention of telling you anything. You don't need to contact him because there's nothing there, and you didn't lose anything, so keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I've been living with my boyfriend for 3 years. We have 5 children at home, and those looking in think we're married. We live like a married couple, but I want a real commitment. He feels we don't need a piece of paper to make a difference. We filed for a marriage license at City Hall, but the application expired. I feel he's procrastinating, and I don't know what to do.

Need to Know
On-Line Reader

Dear Need to Know:

Considering the number of kids you have, a decision should be made immediately. It's unfair and a bad example for the kids to see their parents playing house instead of doing the right thing. Have a discussion with him expressing family values, benefits and your matrimony desires. That piece of paper makes a big difference, especially when it comes to the destination of his soul, benefits and, of course, being a real man.

Dear Deanna!

I'm dating a guy that always talks about his baby's mother. He's dating me, but every conversation we have ends up turning to her. I don't know what to do anymore because I really like him but can't take this. I told him to stop talking about her so much. He wouldn't stop, so I asked him not to call me anymore. He still calls, and I still answer the phone. I don't know what to do.

Samantha
On-Line Reader

Samantha:

He still has a lot of love for the mother of his child. However, his constant chatter should tell you that he's not over her, and you may be a filler for the moment. If you've expressed your feelings and he still continues, it is a sign of disrespect, selfishness and lack of consideration. Your solution is simple. If you made the step to tell him to stop calling, go ahead, put yourself first and just don't answer the phone when he calls.

Ask Deanna! is written by Deanna M. Write: Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Website: www.askdeanna.com

Berry recalls friend Johnnie Johnson

UNIVERSITY CITY, Mo. (AP) - Rock 'n roll legend Chuck Berry had just returned from a European tour when he learned at Chicago's O'Hare Airport that his long-time friend and collaborator Johnnie Johnson was dead at age 80.

Late last Wednesday, he went directly to Blueberry Hill nightclub in this St. Louis suburb, where Berry and Johnson had played together as recently as a year ago, to remember "the man with a dynamite right hand" with whom he shared a half-century of music and memories.

A master of boogie-woogie, Johnson was "my piano player who no one else has come near," said Berry, 78, still spry and dapper in a royal blue shirt, a silver bolo tie, pleated charcoal slacks and mariner's cap.

Through 50-plus years of riffs and syncopation, late-night jams — and later a painful lawsuit — Berry and Johnson only grew in their mutual admiration and respect.

"Johnnie and I have always been friends," said Berry, who teamed with Johnson for hits like "Roll Over Beethoven" and "No Particular Place to Go." Johnson died Wednesday at his St. Louis home; the cause of death was not immediately known.

Johnson, a self-taught pianist with a low-key persona, never won the fame heaped upon Berry. But he eventually became known as the "Father of Rock 'n Roll Piano" and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2001 in the "sidemen" category.

Johnson's and Berry's long collaboration helped define early rock 'n' roll and put St. Louis on the music map along with the budding team of Ike and Tina Turner. Each performed at clubs on both sides of the nearby Mississippi River.

On New Year's Eve 1952 at The Cosmopolitan in East St. Louis, Ill., Johnson called Berry to fill in for an ailing saxophonist in his Sir John Trio.

The struggling and unknown Berry, who says he was playing more for enjoyment than money, rushed over.

"He gave me a break" and his first commercial gig, for \$4, Berry recalled. "I was excited. My best turned into a mess. I stole the group from Johnny."



Johnnie Johnson was a fine musician in his own right.

Johnson never held it against him.

"Midway through the show, Chuck did a hillbilly country number with a bluesy vein, and it knocked people out," said Blueberry Hill club owner Joe Edwards, a friend of both men.

Johnson later recalled Berry had a car that allowed them to travel to more distant clubs — the Blue Flame, Blue Note and Club Imperial.

Berry played so well he became front man for the band, which took his name. Their long partnership,

forged in the '50s, would run steadily for another 20 years. They still performed occasionally in the 1980s and '90s.

Edwards said their collaboration formed the bricks of rock 'n roll, and that the two stirred hillbilly and blues in one pot to create a unique sound.

Johnson often composed the music on piano, then Berry converted it to guitar and wrote the lyrics. Berry's "Johnny B. Goode," was a tribute to Johnson.

After he and Berry parted

ways, Johnson performed with Keith Richards, Eric Clapton, John Lee Hooker and Bo Diddley, among others.

Still, there were rough spots in the pair's collaboration. In 2000, Johnson sued Berry over royalties and credit he believed he was due for the songs they composed together. The lawsuit was dismissed two years later.


Berry said he always wondered who was behind the lawsuit, because "Johnnie would never initiate a complaint such as that. Johnnie would never have waited 40 years to sue."

Berry said he would perform a tribute concert in Johnson's honor, ideally at downtown St. Louis's roughly 70,000-seat Edward Jones Dome. "We'll fill that sucker," he said.

Though Berry said he'll miss his friend and his music, he's not melancholy.

"My turn is coming very soon," he said. "Would you shed a tear for Chuck? I hope not, because I don't see why one should weep when something inevitable must come."

"At 78, I'm glad to be anywhere, anytime."



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