

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

Dear Deanna!

I've fallen victim to society's double standard that pertains to dating. I'm single and have no intentions of being in a relationship because it's not on my agenda. I feel I should be able to see as many people I want without being judged. Why can men go around the world and sample everything, but when women do it, we're called out of our name and everything else?

Karla Orlando, FL

Dear Karla:

A man leaves his dirt in the street but a woman takes hers home. You need to be honest and see your lifestyle for what it is. You're footloose, fancy free and aren't responsible. Women are expected to behave with morals and values when it comes to dating and life in general. If you choose otherwise, as only a foolish woman will, then you deserve all the hard knocks that come your way.

Dear Deanna!

My boyfriend has been a stay-at-home dad for too long. When he lost his job I was a team player committed to keeping things together. He helps with the kids, but I still cook and clean. It's been over a year and I'm tired. We argue a lot and there's no intimacy. I'm ready to end the relationship because I see him as a lazy, trifling man and I'm not supporting him anymore. What do I do?

Anonymous Los Angeles, CA

Dear Anonymous:

It's too late to call him lazy and trifling because you've already had children with him and you weren't married. You should've had warning signs before now and there's no use complaining. He's not helping you financially, emotionally or spiritually, so it won't matter if you're together or not. In order to save the relationship, simply demand that your freeloader get a job and pull his load or get out.

Dear Deanna!

My best friend wants me to be a bridesmaid in her wedding. I want to decline because her future husband is cheating. He's been seeing someone else the whole time he's dated my friend. I don't want to tell her because it would break her heart, but I don't want her to marry him either. Do I need to go through with the wedding to make her happy or risk the friendship by telling her?

Shannon Omaha, NE

Dear Shannon:

You're a lousy friend because you should be able to tell your best friend anything. You would be as guilty as the future husband if you know he's cheating but won't tell it. They're going before God with adultery on the plate, and you can prevent this by being mature and doing the right thing. Pray for strength and words of wisdom as you get the facts. Tell your friend about the situation, and you'll be able to sleep better at night.

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Lil' Kim reports to detention center

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -Rapper Lil' Kim began serving a 366-day prison sentence Monday for her conviction on charges stemming from a 2001 shootout outside a New York City radio station.

The 30-year-old entertainer, whose real name is Kimberly Jones, was whisked into the federal detention center past a throng of media, fans and passersby at about 4:45 p.m.

Earlier, she issued a statement saying she had "unfortunately" been assigned to the concrete, high-rise Philadelphia facility instead of to a prison camp "as discussed."

She added: "I am not certain that this constitutes fair and equal treatment."

Her lawyer, L. Londell McMillan, said a celebrity like Lil' Kim could be in danger in the detention center.

"Why should a female hip-hop artist have to spend time in an urban concrete jungle while other female prisoners are assigned to rural, suburban-type prison camps?" said McMillan, adding that he would seek to have his client reassigned.

Calls to the federal Bureau of Prisons and the U.S. Marshals Service were not returned Monday.

The 4-foot-11 rapper, who was convicted of lying about the gun battle to a federal grand jury and in the subsequent trial, brought about 20 to 25 people to Philadelphia with her in two RVs. Her mother, brother and lawyer were allowed to accompany her briefly into the detention center to say goodbye, McMillan said.

"She was upbeat, smiling," he said. "She told her mom not to cry and to stay strong."

Lil' Kim will be assigned to a female work cadre at the coed prison, McMillan said, noting that she could be out in nine months with good behavior.

"Today begins a new saga in my life, which I expect to strengthen me and allow me time for reflection," Lil' Kim said in her statement. "I plan to write music while in prison, read and pray regularly and will come out a stronger, more confident woman."

The gunplay erupted outside WQHT-FM, known as Hot 97, in Manhattan when Lil' Kim's entourage crossed paths with a rival rap group, Capone-N-Noreaga.

Lil' Kim's group confronted the others about the Capone-N-Noreaga song "Bang, Bang," which contained an insult to Lil' Kim from rival Foxy Brown. One man was hurt in the shootout that followed.

Before the grand jury and at the trial, the rapper claimed she did not notice two of her close friends at the scene of the shootout — her manager, Damion Butler, and Suif Jackson. Both have pleaded guilty to gun charges.

Jurors at Lil' Kim's trial

saw radio station security photos that depicted Butler opening a door for the rap star, and two witnesses who once made records with Lil' Kim said they saw her at the station with Butler and Jackson. She was convicted of perjury and conspiracy.

Though several high-profile male rappers — including Beanie Sigel and Tupac Shakur — have done time in jail, Lil' Kim is the first bigname female rapper to serve a prison sentence.

Lil' Kim's fourth album, "The Naked Truth," is due out next week. She won a Grammy in 2001 for her part in the hit remake of "Lady Marmalade."

At last month's MTV Video Music Awards, MTV personality Sway delicately asked if she had anything to say to fans who "might not see you for a while."

"You can write me letters," Lil' Kim said.

Chappelle glad to work in clubs

CINCINNATI (AP) - Dave Chappelle, who walked away from his hit TV series earlier this year, said working in front of smaller audiences is more his speed.

Chappelle, who sold out 10 shows at a northern Kentucky club, said doing standup is "like I'm hanging out with a bunch of people." He played the Funny Bone Comedy Club at Newport on the Levee last week, a 325-seat club.

"Most people don't know what it's like to stand up there and speak their mind. I have a venue to do that. I get paid to do that. It's not like I'm doing heavy lifting up there. It's not like I'm solving the world's problems," he told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* in Monday's editions. The comedian stunned fans and the entertainment industry when he abruptly left during production of the third season of his Comedy Central series, "Chappelle's Show."

He spent two weeks in South Africa before returning home to his 65-acre farm near Yellow Springs, about 75 miles northeast of Cincinnati, and then returned to standup comedy. "I like that particular kind of attention. People don't know what it's like standing up there onstage, when you have a wall of people smiling at you," Chappelle told the newspaper.

Chappelle has said he was unhappy with the direction of his show. His decision triggered reports that he had mental or drug problems, which he denied. "It was a little weird," he said. "It felt like some of the stuff was real tabloid, like raw speculation."

"It was like stuff I would normally buy and believe," he said with a laugh. "I just took it as a learning experience. It was like becoming a public person and learning all the responsibility that comes with that."

Chappelle said he wasn't sure what's ahead for him: "Wow. ...That's a good question. ...Is 'I don't know' an acceptable answer?"

