*Relationships, A Woman’s Perspective: Finding peace with a cheat*

Sometimes it feels like I have missed one of life’s more important memos on cheating. I think it might have even been one of the top ten things to do in the new year. I cannot speak for everyone but I sure am tired of the sorry excuse guys like to offer up, “I am young and it is my time to be having fun.”

Is it really fun? The story sadly begins most of the time with a relationship that has seen better days but is overall a worthwhile investment, or so you thought. Then, in one day, in a matter of seconds, you find out that this person you have just shared a part of yourself and your life with has betrayed you in the worst way possible and perhaps hasn’t stopped. Why is it that men cheat? Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that men would rather feel better than expend energy trying to actually make things better.

I think one of the most unforgettable feelings a woman will experience in her life, is the feeling of being cheated on. It can leave a woman feeling like there is no security in relationships and that life really doesn’t have any guarantees. Part of me doesn’t ever want to believe that and then the other part of me does believe that and wants to generalize all men.

I think the biggest question most women want answered is why and how could their man have done such a thing? I know all too well the experience of having my man break the sanctity of a relationship. I remember there was a time before my relationships when I actually thought men and women worked things out. Then I learned. When things are going wrong or not as one wants, you’re supposed to turn to another relationship for that comfort and happiness.

Unfortunately, in my next relationship I learned the hard way that even the thought of turning to another relationship temporarily helps you breathe from the problems in your current relationship, it doesn’t ever fix them. In fact, it just builds more problems than you had originally. The hardest part in this situation, when a man wants to rationalize his cheating behavior, is to remain true to yourself and not take his road.

I have read much on this subject, looking for some comfort or reassurance, and the only place I found it was in a book on relationships by Laura Schlessinger. Her words of enlightenment were that the bored person in a relationship is usually the boring person. This means that those who cheat tend to be a boring person, which is why they have looked for the things they lack outside the relationship.

At points throughout your life, all relationships will be boring at times. It comes down to the fact that your man cheating on you is never your fault. It’s their own discontent and insecurity. It’s not that you didn’t love him enough or you were wrong, it’s that he was never right. It’s what one chooses to do with themselves or herself during those boring times that gives you character.

If you find yourself like I did, in relationships that were constantly ending with your man in the arms of another, if you think that “butchering Milton” best describes Mr. Khawaja’s approach, since he does not appear to have sufficient faith that truth would indeed triumph when it confronts falsehood. Instead, according to his words, our students require us “to assume the responsibility of calling bigotry and falsehood by its proper name.”

That’s all well and good so long as one assumes there will always be someone there to point out the “correct” path for our students and everyone else. Sadly, this is not the case, and the situation at Harvard shows these issues will arise for our students in other guises throughout their lives. As a result, I prefer to teach students to assume the responsibility of recognizing, confronting, and overcoming bigotry and falsehood themselves—and from what I saw at Baraka’s reading, they are certainly up to the task.

**Letter To The Editor: A reply to Irfan Khawaja**

First, I would like to thank Mr. Khawaja for the Milton reference; I recalled the gist, but it’s been a while since I read the poem. Otherwise, it appears Mr. Khawaja and I just have different approaches to teaching. He prefers to dismiss someone with whom he disagrees as a “malevolent simpleton.” I prefer to urge my students to listen to those with whom they disagree and challenge them on their ideas and facts.

Perhaps because Mr. Khawaja did not actually attend the Baraka reading, he did not see several people, including students and me, do just that. I would think that those students who tear up their own (girls love that kind of stuff). Whatever the case, I don’t blame them. A common solution is to gather all the singles together so they can prove the phrase “misery loves company” while sharing stories of awful relationships. Things usually aren’t as bad as they seem, and in the morning the day will be over and the conversation hearts plus tons of chocolate will be on sale.

If you think you’re the only miserable person who’s just (or still) getting over a relationship. Glaring at those who are happily a day at a time is not an effective solution. Glaring at those who are still in love, makes you stupid. It’s not that there isn’t anyone out there who might want you, it’s just that you are not giving them a chance to know you the way you might want them to know you.

Unfortunately, until you meet these men, you are just going to have to have faith that maybe the guy you’re with may already be that man or get out if you know he’s not.

**Letter To The Editor: Rider students: smarter than they think**

In regard to the letter written by Irwan Khawaja, adjunct professor of philosophy at TCNJ, published on Feb. 7. I was appalled at what I read. Though it might seem to you that we here at Rider swallowed Amiri Baraka’s philosophy at TCNJ, published on Feb. 7. I was appalled at what I read.

What you did not see were the countless students, green and inexperienced. Our goal is to learn about the world and use the knowledge to search for the truth, for as you know, the journey is as important as the destination.

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As for your objection to having Amiri Baraka speak at Rider in the first place, well, that answer is simple enough. Being a professor of philosophy, I assume you already know, but since I insist on being humorless, I shall oblige. You are obviously a person with set views of what truth is. However, we are students, green and inexperienced. Our goal is to learn about the world and use the knowledge to search for the truth, for as you know, the journey is as important as the destination.

I can speak only for myself, but I would not want to be sheltered from the world I am trying to learn about. You cannot censor any person for dislike of their message because you would be dancing on that ever slippery slope. If such people exist, then I want to have the skills to stand up to them and have the truth on my side. Not because someone gave it to me, but because I came to it myself, because then, and only then, will I have conviction.

Rider was a victim of libel in that letter. We students are not mindless, as some would argue. Amiri Baraka speaks and proves that we are applying our minds in our endeavor for truth.

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