

Giving Recommendations/Suggestions

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 20-year-old college student living at home. I recently met a guy I'll call "Sandy" over the Internet. I found his e-mail address on an e-pals site and wrote to him. We have been chatting online almost every night and have fallen in love.

Sandy and I are serious about each other, and he is who he says he is, because I have done some background checks on him. I am planning on traveling to see him as soon as I earn the money. (He lives in Australia.)

My problem is my parents. They are very protective and refuse to accept how I feel about Sandy. They worry because I met him on the Internet.

How should Sandy and I approach my parents? We thought about Sandy writing them a letter, but I don't know if that would work. Please help. -- IN LOVE IN THE U.S.A.

- I. Don't go to Australia to visit this guy. Forget him.
- II. I don't think it's a good idea to go to Austria. I think you need to forget him.
- III. If I were Dear Abby, I would tell the letter writer ...

If I were in her shoes, I would/wouldn't...

If it were up to you, what would you do? If it were up to me, I would ...

It would be nice if there were an easy answer to this problem.

If I had the chance to go to Australia, I would go, so I would tell the girl...

If she knew the boy better, it would be all right to go.

What recommendations and suggestions do you have for the following letter writer?



MAID OF HONOR IS FROWNING AFTER PHOTO BILL GOES UNPAID

DEAR ABBY: I was maid of honor in my cousin "Denise's" wedding. As such, I helped her to get a good deal on her photography. My close friend, "Arthur," had just begun shooting professionally, and photographed the wedding for a greatly reduced price.

My problem is that Denise never paid Arthur. It has been several months, and Arthur finally asked me if I would track her down because she has not return his repeated phone calls.

Denise admitted that she spent the money on cosmetic dentistry, but now more time has elapsed, and she still hasn't paid him.

My cousin claims she will pay Arthur "one day," but I am embarrassed and angry. How should I handle this? Denise is not an easy person to confront -- she is easily offended and moody. -- CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE, OAKLAND, CALIF.

Dear Abby