

09 June 2004 @ 12:34 am

I Don't Get It

In the beginning when **AMBER** came into our lives she wanted a fun relationship. She did not want anything heavy. She was just divorcing and she wanted to live life and find happiness around herself. That seemed to be what Franklin also wanted.

As time goes by. Not too much time a few months say, she started wanting more from her relationship with Franklin. She wanted to move in as a roommate. he said ok. I said no. She did not move in. In this time she went to Mac World, and with him when he went out of town. I called her the out of town girlfriend. I had no problem at this point.

Sometime after all the outings and they began to feel more attached. She needed to feel more comfortable so she asked if I could agree to no hold veto power over her. I said ok. I was not feeling threatened at this point.

Then the hole move in thing was really bothering her. Franklin was still honoring my need for this exclusion and things moved forward. **AMBER** was moving all over the place. Being happy for a few weeks then getting depressed again. I was being unreasonable. I was not accepting family. She was feeling rejected. But she was still trying. Franklin was still trying. I was well, I was not trying so hard. I had been just diagnosed with diabetes. I was researching the surgery that will extend my life. I was the only one thinking of me. I was the only one who seemed interested in my health and as stressed as my home life was I knew I had to be the only one to worry about me. And so I did.

Much of this time is all sketchy to me. I remember saying I am worried about my relationship but I have to put me first. I can worry about that later. I remember a conversation **AMBER** and I had that she said neither one of us were going to be happy because our needs of Franklin directly conflicted with one another. That a life together would be impossible. She did not think it was fair that it is always the girlfriend and not the wife be the one that does not share a home with the one they love. Much was discussed about he has been un-ethical by wanting to love but the rules of his relationship not permitting him to love.

Now lets move to late October/November. My pre-Op testing was complete and now I was ready to work on other stuff. I said OK. Let's try this. Lets do this. This just happened to be 2 weeks after she broke. This happened to too little too late. So at this point I believe she threatened to leave. She could not be happy like this. She needed to live under the same roof. She had a right to live with him and he had a right to live with who he wanted and I was keeping him from having the relationship that he needed to have.

I love Franklin, I would not want this. I would if I could be happy to have this for him. That is what a good wife does. That is what I was always taught. Right? However during this entire time. I felt pain, I feel anger I feel threatened because I can't just drop 18 years. When it was good (16.5 years good) it was very, very good. He and I had a relationship most people only dreamed about. If you read Franklin's journal he mentioned me almost every post in the beginning. Even through ELAINE. Now AMBER is in his life. It is like I don't even exist anymore. He says he is married but you never hear about me anymore. In one years time he moved AMBER to the front and pushed me so far back I felt like a distant relative. They say I brought it on myself. That I am the one who put all the distance between all of us. That I was the one that was creating an exclusive broken family. That I was the only one who could fix it all.

I think I believed that for a long time. That it was me who had to change. I tried. I tried to be nice. Try to make her feel welcome. I tried to do things that were not exclusive of only Franklin and I. He said I MUST live with AMBER. I said ok. I will try IF it is that important to you. Why? Well because I love him. It was important to him, he felt it was important to their relationship. It became not something he wanted but something he needed. I broke. I said OK. I thought fine. We can work on our relationship (AMBER and I). I was wrong again. She moved in because she loved Franklin and she had a right to live with him. I was already shut out. The reasons I said OK were not good enough for her. She wanted more.

She said OK I am here because if I am not you will lose your relationship with Franklin. Well, if she were me she would see I waited for the want to become a need. So it did not matter this was a big step for me. It was something I needed to see if I could do it. For a while things were ok. She said out loud at a Poly meeting she kept waiting for the other shoe to drop and it never did. (that is not a direct quote) but she still was not thinking of me as family.

I am still resentful during this time cause well who would not be. I am trying to make a difference and as she said before too little too late.

One night we (AMBER and I) sat and talked about a move to Boston (distant future) and some of the things I wanted to do to help her through school. Franklin was not even home from work when we had this conversation. We went out to dinner and I said to Franklin I would like some alone time. AMBER takes this as meaning the time all 3 of us spend together does not count. When in fact this use to be how I felt I was not talking about that. I was talking about him and I having sex. I did not think it necessary to say that out loud at the dinner table. She she held this until we got in the car and told me what I meant by that sentence. I said no. I explained and Franklin and I had a fight. Any way it turned out it did not matter what I meant by what I said cause the damage had already been done. So she pulled away more.

It was around this time I had also considered putting her on my car insurance. This was also another biggie. I was considering doing mixing finances with her. To save her money. Nothing ever came of that.

Before I went on vacation I asked him if he could sleep with me Sun, Mon, Tues night. He looked at me like I was crazy. Like that was a bunch of nights. I gathered up my courage and asked AMBER how she felt about this. Even though I was never consulted prior to her needing more nights. I asked she said ok she said she would have liked more notice. When Franklin came to bed he accused me of trying to get back at something. That he needed more notice. Tell me if someone you love of 18 years wants to sleep with you as often as she/he can prior to a 2 1/2 week vacation how much notice do you need? Well they weren't even going to be in town on Sunday and they ended up being so I asked Sunday afternoon. They acted as though I should have grateful he did sleep with me.

When I got back, he slept with me one night and then he decided he should not sleep with me anymore until things got fixed. Then by the end of the week. the only way we could keep this marriage together is to separate.

While on vacation I sent an e-mail to both of them cause I was feeling lonely and upset and etc. I mentioned all the things I have done to try to be inclusive and how come neither one could see what I have done. I got nothing back. Except being told I was blaming AMBER because it was her fault she could not see I was changing and there fore I was not taking responsibility for my feelings and yada yada yada.

I also did not mention during this time. I also was not going to BDSM nights cause it made AMBER uncomfortable. And thats another thing. AMBER'S comfort zone. Nothing makes a difference. Once she is uncomfortable she is uncomfortable. There is no going back. There is no changing. If you say nicely to her please don't use metal utensils on my non-stick pans she says ok I will not use you pans anymore. ???

Before I left for vacation I believed. OK I was changing. When I get back they will see I have changed and all will be right with the world. When I got back well you can see the above and then I find AMBER has decided she can no longer live with me.

They went to Boston while I was on vacation. We drove to Boston for 17 hours a couple of weeks prior to my vacation. They went to Boston after I got back with a U-haul load and put a deposit down on an apartment without my knowledge at the time of doing it. Now it is my understanding that this is just rude to do to anyone, non the less to someone you have loved for 18 years.

When AMBER came into our life it is true she did offer love and family. I need to take time. I need to find out what you are like and want to know if I really want you in my family. I was told I don't understand what family is. My definition is different then their. Well I am Italian Catholic raised. You think I don't know what family is? I have done stuff I would only do for family. It was not noticed. So do you think this may have given me attitude? Do you think this may have made any sense to me? Do you think this is how people behave to preach intentional family and love behave?

I don't.

I don't believe this is what poly is. I am not sure what this is. I know it is wrong. I know changing for people who can't see it only puts out yourself, then don't do it. I did what I did because I thought what Franklin and I has worth hanging on to. It had tremendous value. It was worth fighting for. But enough is enough. In the end it was AMBER he only had emotion and compassions for. I guess his love for me was not strong enough to withstand this past year. Maybe he does not have as much love to give as he thinks. Or what he gave to me was more shallow then even he knew.

So in conclusion I will say.

What The Fuck.

[24 comments](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

[Log in to stop seeing ads in this journal](#)

( 24 comments — [Leave a comment](#) )

(Anonymous) on June 9th, 2004 12:29 am (UTC)

**And this is what Franklin Says...**

"

"

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

(Anonymous) on June 12th, 2004 06:34 pm (UTC)

**Re: And this is what Franklin Says...**

I can completely understand why he has nothing to say...

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)



on June 9th, 2004 12:32 am (UTC)

**That is what a good wife does.**

le my objective will be as my perception of poly is that unless it is "ordained of God" then it turns out to be nothing but a selfish, lustful act.

nd Even if my perception is upopular, the truth is that you have shifted your paradigm to include a lifestyle that was not natural to you to make/keep your husband happy. I do not think you have failed. I think he has failed you!

I have thought for a long time that you were connected beneath you. You have a generous heart and a kind spirit; you are not the one at fault. So, do we "blame" AMBER and Franklin? I don't know, maybe.

Does it really matter? Maybe.

y matters is what you've been telling us and yourself for the last couple of weeks, You're Okay! You are. And you will continue to be!

As I learned, and have coincidentally mentioned a few times to a few different people, no matter what happens in life we cannot stop the sun from rising and setting. No matter what happens to us in life we are expected to get up and function, eventually. That doesn't mean we won't have down days, or down weeks or down whatever... what matters is that we continue to look up.

Wow, that sounds so trite and cliché' but truthfully I have been to hell and back, a few times, but I still have to get up, change diapers, feed mouths, wash clothes, change toilet paper rolls (does no one know how to do this but mom????) and all the other things that have to be taken care of no matter who you are... Even the Queen of England has to get up and take a shit! (Famous words from my DAD! LOL)

So, get up, take your shit, then wipe and move on...

oh yeah, don't forget to flush! LOL

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)



on June 9th, 2004 04:41 am (UTC)

Hugs!!!

I sometimes sing a few lines from a Sonny&Cher song to help me get on with thins..."And the beat goes on..." Another song i think through when upset is "Let it be" by the Beatles.

Keep on truckin'! (sorry had to do it!)

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)



on June 9th, 2004 05:54 am (UTC)

I know that what you're going through right now makes no sense. And it may not for a long time. I know that your love of Franklin is deep, and that you've tried to change your ways of thinking to fit his model to make him happy and keep him in your life. You've given that route more chance than I can even imagine.

I am so happy for you that you are beginning to put yourself first. You're who matters most. Your happiness is what is important. Changing who you are for another person robs you of the most precious gift you have - yourself.

I know that right now you're seeing that Franklin's actions and love aren't meeting the expectations you have for the length of your relationship. I have a very different view of relationships that most people... and in my view, what you both are experiencing is life transitions that are taking you on different paths.

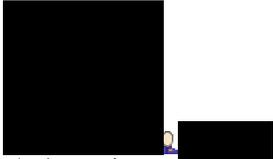
What you're going through right now is a very tough thing. I so admire you for facing it head on like you are.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

(Anonymous) on June 9th, 2004 10:18 am (UTC)

I think it's true that sometimes in long term relationships people change, grow and eventually find themselves at an impasse, at which point their paths diverge. I think sometimes relationships end because some parties were manipulative assholes who really should be held accountable for their actions.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)



on June 9th, 2004 11:00 am (UTC)

And sometimes people have unintentional manipulative actions and attitudes when they're unaware of their own change.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

(Anonymous) on June 9th, 2004 10:37 am (UTC)

Do you have only one eye? Anyone who has two eyes can see that this isn't life transition. CELESTE has been emotionally wrecked and used by her partner and his girlfriend. The damage done has come in many forms. Call it what you want, but don't think you're helping anything this way.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)



on June 9th, 2004 10:57 am (UTC)

While Franklin and AMBER both do have an obvious role in this... they're also in transition as well in their lives. How much is manipulation and how much is simple unawareness their own needs/desires are changing ... only the people involved can assess.

Which fits back in my personal views of relationships and people.. they're always changing. Making long term/life commitments only leads to emotional wrecking... you can't place braces on things that are moving.

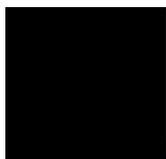
[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

(Anonymous) on June 9th, 2004 11:19 am (UTC)

Unwitting manipulation is still manipulation. Being in transition will never change this, and they are to blame for everything they do and have done.

You can very much put braces on things that are moving. That's how you get a horse to plow a field. Real marriage and commitment is a tool for achievement. You still move, but when you do, you leave productive things in your wake rather than chaos.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)



on June 9th, 2004 11:25 am (UTC)

*That's how you get a horse to plow a field.*

And thus why a horse is the slave in the relationship... the one being manipulated. Not a position I find very rewarding to be in. And thus why I choose not to participate in marriage, as I do not wish to be enslaved to a relationship or anyone.

I prefer partnerships with equals, with no expectations of forever or changing who I am or who the other person is. It's what works for me. Yes... you may still move and grow when in a marriage-type relationship... but that growth has definite boundaries. If your growth is leading you in a way that threatens those boundaries... then you have to choose to sacrifice yourself or the relationship. Both choices causing chaos.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

(Anonymous) on June 9th, 2004 11:40 am (UTC)

You fail to understand the metaphor. The horse is the power of personal change. You yoke it with commitment and discipline, and you find out that you can make something really productive. When both partners commit to each other in a real way, they yoke their horses together. Sometimes, the horse bucks. Usually, the problem is people who refuse to learn how to plow.

Perhaps you'd take the metaphor better if the plow were self-drawn. That's a fair version of it.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

[redacted] on June 9th, 2004 11:52 am (UTC)  
*Usually, the problem is people who refuse to learn how to plow.*

Or when someone makes a commitment to plowing for life, not realizing that they can't predict the future or what other activities they might enjoy besides plowing.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

[redacted] on June 9th, 2004 07:51 am (UTC)  
please come to game nights. i miss you. would you also let me know about the bdsm group/nights. curious

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

(Anonymous) on June 9th, 2004 10:39 am (UTC)  
You're right. This isn't what poly is. It's sad that nobody in the poly community has really done anything to call your destructive partners to task.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

[redacted] on June 9th, 2004 11:37 am (UTC)  
Why would it be the community's responsibility? The community has no authority in anyone's personal life. The people involved are the ones responsible for their actions/inaction.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

(Anonymous) on June 9th, 2004 12:13 pm (UTC)  
I'm going to wade in here. I think that this is a very good question that you raise. Here's what I would say: polyamory is a fairly new concept and many poly people are struggling to have their relationship styles seen as legitimate and/or to provide good examples for new polys. I don't think people should be afraid to stand up and say "this is a poor example of how to have a poly relationship" when they see one. I don't think that polys would want to be identified with systematic emotional abuse, which is a charge that could, and is, levelled by outsiders or monos who think that poly is just plain wrong. It's internal housekeeping.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

[redacted] on June 9th, 2004 12:31 pm (UTC)  
And just where are we supposed to publicize this? Take out ads in magazines? Force all poly people in unhealthy relationships to wear a scarlete letter?

Believe me, people in the poly community see relationships that have unhealthy aspects and talk about them profusely. Prominent relationships in the local poly community are held up as models of what to do or not to do. I catch my own past relationship mistakes being brought up as examples across the community, just as I've seen (and have done so myself) this particular relationship discussed.

There are plenty of mistakes made between these three folks, and they are well known and talked about across the in-person poly communities here locally... and I'm sure by folks who have witnessed this relationship online. They're talked about by the people involved, and people not involved. I have personally witnessed all three of these folks talk about the mistakes they've made at poly meetings... and to me that is far more powerful than outside judgements.

But it is no one's place but the people involved to label their relationship as poly or not. Poly is a very broad term that just means "loving more than one" ... beyond that, the definition and what it means varies widely. There is no authority or organized community that dictates what poly is and isn't.

People who want to dis poly are not going to go to the depths required to discern healthy from unhealthy relationships. So I for one will not support people considered to be doing poly in poor ways to wear a proverbial scarlete letter.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

(Anonymous) on June 9th, 2004 02:49 pm (UTC)

**Ah the Irony**

The funny thing is that Franklin has very publically set himself up as an expert on polyamory and a very outspoken believer in ethical multiple relationships, to the point where he judges others, and often dictates what he thinks is the "correct" format of poly relationships. I've seen him do this on polyamory discussion groups and lists before.

Methinks he doth protest too much...

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

[redacted] on June 9th, 2004 08:24 pm (UTC)

**Re: Ah the Irony**

ch as I would relish the thought of raking you over the coals for your comment, this isn't Franklin's journal- it's [redacted], and attacks and blame benefit [redacted] not one bit.

Thank you so much for pouring your heart out. We haven't seen much of you lately, and your posts help me to feel in touch with what's going on in your world.

This whole situation is heartbreaking, and my greatest hope is that, once the chaos settles down, everyone finds happiness. As far as advice- I have none. I think that support is more valuable than advice.

<<  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

<<<HUG!>>>

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Parent\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

(Anonymous) on June 9th, 2004 11:12 am (UTC)

I would like to state that I am none of the above anon comments. I'm sure I'll get a few words in later.

Just keep your head up, CELESTE. You have support and love in all directions, even if it is

anonymous. I'll be back!

-mm

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

[redacted] on June 9th, 2004 12:34 pm (UTC)

I understand totally. I am going through a separation in my marriage, and some of the problems have roots in polyamory. It is a tough thing to go through.

Stay strong, take care of yourself. Don't let the past bog you down, move forward. Even though you may never understand what has happened or why, try not to be bitter or hate, that will only make you unhappy.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

(Anonymous) on June 9th, 2004 08:42 pm (UTC)

I too am not the nasty-anon. What's the use in bashing any of the three of them in a public forum, based on only what you've read in a LJ? Nobody really knows what's going on here except CELESTE, Franklin, and AMBER (and perhaps a few trusted associates).

That said, I have to say that their example did contribute to my resolve never to participate in another poly-mono relationship. From what little one can glean from LJ postings, it seemed like CELESTE was continually being asked to change, change, change -- adding BOULDERS to the camel's back, not straws. So again I say to CELESTE -- congratulations. I think you have a wonderful life ahead of you.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

[redacted] on June 10th, 2004 11:12 am (UTC)

**Sending good thoughts your way**

My thoughts are with you. Our journeys are somewhat parallel, I too am a mono with a poly husband trying to make it work.

It's sad for me to hear about your and Franklin's paths diverging. I was one of those folks who, desperate for some answers and support, came upon Franklin's poly pages and read his posts to the mono/poly online group. I found comfort and hope in his words, and it disappoints me greatly that you've been treated this way. It's kind of like if the "poster boy" can't make it work, what hope is there for the rest of us mortals?

I wish you all the best in your new life.

[\(Reply\)](#) [\(Thread\)](#) [\(Link\)](#)

( 24 comments — [Leave a comment](#) )