

Get help before you go over the cliff

Dear Ann Landers: My husband is in his late 70s and I am 12 years younger. We have raised seven children. I had to scrimp in ways you wouldn't believe — always bought second-hand clothing, furniture and cars. We rarely purchased anything new.

No matter how tight things were, Harry always put aside some money out of every paycheck. It was an obsession with him. So we now have a sizable bank account.

Harry announced last week that he is going to buy a large home that will cost \$100,000. I think he must be insane. At our age we should be moving into a smaller place, not a bigger one. If we buy this home it will take our entire life's savings. What's more, there wouldn't be enough left to furnish it properly. We could not afford to hire help, and I am not able to take care of the place myself.

The worry over what this will do to my life has given me high blood pressure. I feel helpless because everything is in Harry's name. I have begged him for years to make out a will. He won't do it.

He keeps accusing me of wanting him to die so I can have everything.

ANN LANDERS



Please help me. I would feel disloyal if I talked to my friends or family about this.

- Too Old For Such Problems

Dear Problems: A man in his 70s who has scrimped and saved all his life and now wants to spend \$100,000 on a large home sounds like he has lost touch with reality.

Obviously, Harry does not listen to you. Enlist the help of a clergyman, a doctor or a lawyer — a person your husband respects. If someone doesn't get through to this man, he is headed for disaster — and you'll go over the cliff with him.

Moreover, if he dies without a will, you may go over the cliff ALONE.

What a lovely "thank-you" for a lifetime partner who raised seven children and wore second-hand clothes. Good luck to you, dear. You are going to need it.

DEAR ANN: I would like to offer the following advice to the parents of the 13-year-old boy who enjoys wearing ladies' undergarments.

The boy has a fetish that is firmly established. He will not "get over it." Fortunately, this proclivity is harmless, unless he is forced to steal feminine underwear.

My advice is to have a frank talk with him. If he admits a need for this kind of apparel, buy him what he wants and forget it. A few more pairs of panties in the wash won't make that much difference, but being arrested for petty theft can create a lifelong fear of embarrassment.

Believe me, I know what I'm talking about. I've had the problem for over 30 years. I also have a beautiful family and an understanding wife. My life would have been a lot easier if my parents had understood. Even a juvenile arrest record is hard to erase.

- In the Moccasins And Knows The Path Well

Dear Moc: Your letter may be considered shocking to some, but the advice you have offered is solid. I endorse it.

CONFIDENTIAL to Hoping You See The Problem In Scarsdale: *I see it clearly. In a few years your husband is going to see something, too. He'll see children who consider him a stranger and they will want very little to do with him.*

Love is more than one set of glands calling to another. If you have trouble making a distinction you need Ann's booklet, "Love or Sex and How to Tell the Difference." Send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request and 50 cents to Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11995, Chicago, Illinois 60611.