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## Ask Molly: How to take control of your life!

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■ Molly Quell

**I like to joke that there are only two things I'm very good at in life; baking chocolate chip cookies and telling people what to do. While many problems are solved by making and eating cookies, more can be solved by taking my advice.**

*I've been in a relationship with my boyfriend for just over a year and I recently met another guy and started cheating on him. Now I'm not sure what to do.*

Are you cheating on him at this very moment? Because my first piece of advice would be to stop.

Secondly, you don't say how old you are, but, if you're reading this column, you're not old enough to know better. The relationship with your boyfriend has come to a close and it's time to move on. Break up gracefully, give him back his stuff and change your Facebook relationship status.

If you want to try to work things out with the boyfriend, you have to break it off with the new guy immediately and come clean. Be prepared, however, for your boyfriend to decline continuing a relationship with you.

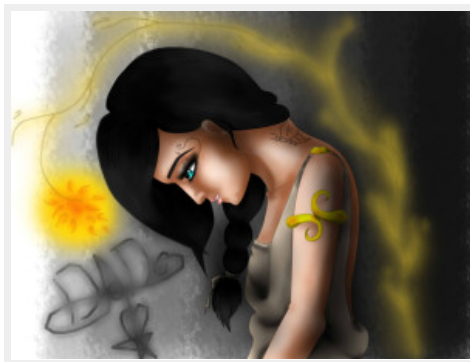


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*I'm graduating from university this year and I'm not sure if I want to stay in the Netherlands or not. The economy is better here but I miss my friends and family back home.*

The dirty little secret about living abroad is that you'll never find living anywhere completely fulfilling again. Every place in the world has great qualities (family, a functioning economy) and every place has bad qualities (the weather, a non-functioning economy) and you can't have the best of all worlds.

You're young so you have plenty of time to move home. Adult life, with a real job and other responsibilities gives you a very different perspective on the world. The upside about working, rather than being in school, is that you'll have more disposable income to spend on travelling home. Find a job here and see if you're truly unhappy in a year or two. If you're really miserable, then look for work at home.

*I live in a student house and my housemates are always leaving their mess all over the common areas. Any advice on how to get them to clean up after themselves?*

First, do unto others... Are you cleaning up after yourself? Doing your own dishes? Taking out the trash? It's easier to complain about something when you have the moral high ground.

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Sit down with your housemates and talk to them about their mess. Come up with a cleaning schedule. I've found that having an actual chart, hung somewhere visible can help serve as a polite reminder.

If that doesn't work, try being passive aggressive. I once had a roommate in college who refused to do her dishes. After a while, I started putting them on her bed, under her pillow. That solved the problem.

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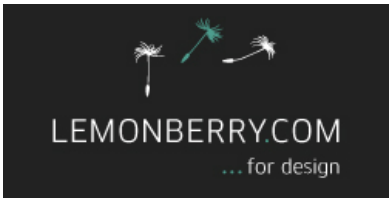
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