

Friends and Lovers

by Elaine Holtz

Presented by readers Ken Norton and Elaine Holtz
on the Women's Spaces Radio Show of March 30, 2020
to mark their 20th Anniversary of Life Partnership on April 1st

KEN: I remember when we simply called each other friend, when did that end?

It wasn't so long ago I would pickup the phone and call you and let you know I was alone.

We'd laugh and cry and tell each other about the adventures of our day.

We never gave a thought to beginnings or endings, we were just friends.

ELAINE: I don't remember missing you until I began kissing you.

I don't remember worrying about you being cold or about me being too old until we began kissing and holding and I felt the depth of you within me.

It seemed so much easier back then when we just called ourselves friends.

I get scared when I think of growing to love you.

KEN: When we called ourselves just friends I loved you in a different way, I was not afraid that you would leave me one day.

I would just listen to what you had to say, there was no charge, no emotion, no attachment, words were just words.

ELAINE: If a friend was coming by, I did not need to know who or what they were to you, a friend was simply coming by.

If you told me of a past or present lover or any experience for that matter, I do not remember my cheeks getting hot or my heart beating any faster.

I was neutral and thought you were sharing and living your life and I was sharing and living mine, how strange how it all changed when we became lovers.

KEN; Perhaps I lie to myself and I am not as free as my fantasies would like me to be.

It seems that just being friends is less tearful and less fearful.

“Why?” I ask myself does it all change, strange, but it does change.

I feel like a child when it comes to relationships, it feels like no one has shown me the way, no one has shown me what to do when I feel inside the feeling of I Love You.

ELAINE; I don't want it to change, I want us to be friends. Lovers come and go, but a friend, a friend is forever.

I want us to be natural and move in our own time and in our own rhythms.

Is that possible, is that true, is this something that I or both of us can do?

KEN; At times I feel trapped. I want to move forward even when I feel my insecurities cause me to move backwards.

Backwards in time when I hung on for dear life because I had no sense of self.

I slip back. Its so subtle yet so real, its almost like I am suspended in space.

All I know is that I am about to lose something and I am afraid it is you.

When I fear the loss I feel like I am being tossed aside.

Oh I know what it means, it means I am lacking my own self-worth, my own self-esteem.

It never seemed to happen when we called ourselves, just friends.

ELAINE; I want us to be friends, I want us to be lovers, I want us to respect one another and give each other space. Is that grace.

Is that the grace we learn when friends become lovers?

There is so little I know except with each encounter, each challenge I grow and know how deeply I want us to be friends, but not just friends, but friends and lovers.

KEN; Lover and friends, what does that mean.

ELAINE; A lover is just that, a lover, one who satisfies those deep lustful, delicious needs and a friend, well a friend is everything in-between.

Yet I know in order to have total lust I must trust, I must trust that you will be there for me in my times of need.

All I can conclude is that we were friends first and if the Lovers choose to go away, I want the friendship to stay.

TOGETHER: Let us take a stand that we will transcend all we need to transcend to be forever friends.

