

# Features



The Kozouz sisters answer your relationship questions every Tuesday in *The Detroit News*. Send your questions to [Lowdown@detnews.com](mailto:Lowdown@detnews.com) or write to *Motown Lowdown* c/o *The Detroit News*, 615 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226.

## Her exotic vacation spots may land him in poorhouse

**M**y girlfriend of three years is great, but she is killing my bank account. We both love to travel and we've made a point of going on a major trip at least once a year. She always takes the incentive to plan these extravagant trips to places like Italy, Spain, Bali, etc., and she does a great job, but I always end up paying for the entire trip. I don't know how much longer I can afford it. I earn a good income and pride myself on being an old-fashioned gentleman who likes to treat his lady. I'm grateful that she puts so much time and effort into planning these excursions. But am I out of line to want to put a stop to this?

— *Rebelling in Rochester Hills*

### Dear Rebelling:

Keep earning those frequent flier miles around the world and you may soon frequent the bank for a loan to maintain this fantasy life you and missy choose to lead. You have two choices — take control of the situation and plan vacations you CAN afford or give the girlfriend a budget to work with before your ship sets sail.

— *Reham*

Miss Jet-Setter sounds as though she's taken you for a trip around the world. Clear the runway and bring her down for a landing.

— *Rana*

Examine the situation. Does your girlfriend have a job? Is she financially able to contribute to these lavish vacations? Does she do things for you in return to display her gratitude? If you have a hard time finding the answers, talk to her. Explain your financial concerns. I am sure she will understand.

— *Ruba*

Trust me. We need more men out there like you. There are so many cheapskates out there who won't treat their date to a respectable dinner, much less a romantic getaway. Listen: You enjoy traveling and wouldn't otherwise do it. You obviously can afford it and it's your choice to take care of your woman, so stop complaining.

— *Leena*

**M**y 60-year-old mother-in-law just found out that her husband of 38 years has been cheating on her for the past three years with a much younger woman. My father-in-law wants to live in their house with his girlfriend. Of course, my husband and his family are devastated and shocked. My mother-in-law has been staying with us for the past month and doesn't know what she going to do next. My house is very cramped and depressing with her around. My two kids are always asking, "What's wrong with grandma?" How do I help her and help my family?

— *Befuddled in Birmingham*

### Dear Befuddled:

She's family and in a time of need. Quit being so selfish and provide her the comfort and love she needs to get through this. Thirty-eight years of her life have just been shattered. You'd be a fool to expect her to pick up and move on in a year, much less a month.

— *Leena*

No, Leena, all you are doing is enabling this poor tortured soul to remain miserable and co-dependent. The best thing you can do is exert some tough love and get her out of the house and on her own two feet again. She will feel much better once she finds that she can survive on her own.

— *Rana*

You and your husband need to sit down with your mother-in-law and help her face the reality of the situation. Determine a realistic timetable for her to come up with new living arrangements and figure out her finances. In other words, take control and get a game plan together.

— *Ruba*

My first suggestion would be to discuss the situation with the father-in-law. He's in the wrong here and in my opinion he definitely doesn't deserve to live with his mistress in their house. The nerve! You mother-in-law is humiliated enough. Your husband needs to hold strong here in influencing his father to take an honorable course of action. If the father-in-law isn't cooperative, I suggest finding your mother-in-law a good divorce attorney.

— *Reham*