

## Secrets: When to tell – or not

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Bad secret is when you really don't like a person. You're with that person solely for your own benefit. That's when a person is seeking sex, money or 1,000 different reasons for using a person. Or pretending to like to do what the other person wants you to do just to make the relationship work.

"Some people pretend to like the other person's children, religion or a dangerous habit. Those things can hurt a relationship and down the road the truth will come to the light."

In the Alicia Keys song 'Diary,' the songstress says: I will keep your secrets/ just think of me as the pages in your diary.

Keeping one person's secrets may be good at times. But sometimes walking around with another person's baggage can cause stress. Last week after doing a local radio show about infidelity a number of callers called up distressed for carrying other folk's secrets.

One man was upset because he knew his grandmother was having an affair and he wanted to tell his grandfather. Another woman called up struggling with the knowledge of her uncle's wife's infidelity.

Eventually Rivers says holding on to a secret can eat away at a person.

"Whatever gets pressed down on you become you," he said.

Rivers says the lack of sharing can be traced to back to fear and humanity's inability to for-

give. "We don't tell people the truth out of fear that they may run out on us," he said. "That's why they'll tell a secret to a friend of the same sex but not to their mate."

"When people find God they get to shake a lot of things off them by confessing all of their secrets to God. One of the reasons people can tell God secrets and don't tell other humans is because of a person's ability to forgive. You can tell a secret to God and it's over but humans sometimes hold on to things. When you find someone to tell your secrets they tend to have a greater ability to forgive."

Participate in The Post's informal secret survey. Next week we will publish the results. Fax responses to Artellia Burch at 704-342-2160.

- Do you have a secret you're keeping from someone?
- Are you keeping a secret from your mate?
- Is it OK to keep a secret from your mate?
- Would you keep knowledge of having a disease to yourself?
- Would you reveal if you were raped or molested to a mate?
- How would you most likely keep a secret from? Rank the different categories with 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

Parents  
Children  
Mate  
Clergy  
Co-workers  
Friends

## Jamaican mother becomes top model

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Milan," she said. "I have gotten to know a lot of good people in the business."

Willis grew up in the impoverished and often-violent Kingston neighborhood of Waterhouse, one of five children on her mother's side and 21 on her father's.

At 16, she started working as a go-go dancer, which she said was an escape from an otherwise depressing existence. She became pregnant at 18, and her daughter, Tatiana Areka Berg, is now 4.

As a dancer, Willis worked at Kingston clubs like the Gemini and Palais Royale, but she also found ways to travel. In 1997 she worked for seven months in Poland and did a three-month stint in the Dutch Caribbean territory of St. Maarten.

In 2002, she decided it was time for a change.

"She came to us and asked if there was a chance she could be a model. She wanted to stop dancing, she wanted a new life," said Kingsley Cooper, of the modeling agency Pulse Entertainment Ltd.

Cooper said Willis was eventually signed to the London-based agency Select Model Management, where

he said promoters were taken with her "look and spirit" and placed her in the London Fashion Week.

Willis says she has earned about \$100,000 in modeling this year, appearing in fashion shows from New York to Europe and most recently doing photo shoots for a catalog.

She said dealing with sudden success has been challenging but fun.

"I'm in a very privileged

position now," she was quoted as saying in Caribbean Voice, a monthly newspaper in New York City. "I've gained the respect of the people in Jamaica, and ... the great thing about my life right now is that I can provide a good life and an education I never had for my daughter. That's the most important thing to me."

On the Web:  
<http://www.models.com>

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## Kids advocate for other children and themselves

Every child wants a home," says 12-year-old Cronetta. "So help the children in the world because everybody needs a parent."

Cronetta and her brother Robert, age 10 are spokespeople for children in foster care who are waiting for adoptive families in Mecklenburg neighborhoods. They know what it feels like to be waiting – they are waiting for parents to adopt them.

"Cronetta is insightful, engaging, and outgoing – she has a strong sense



Cronetta and Robert are two of many children waiting to be adopted in Mecklenburg County.

of responsibility, appreciates guidance, and has a positive outlook on life," says long-time friend Evelyn Dillard. "Robert has an engaging

smile, pleasant personality and has a special interest in music." Both Cronetta and Robert sing

in the church choir together.

"I love my brother, he's always been part of my life," states Cronetta. "I want to be adopted into the same family with Robert."

If you are interested in finding out more about Cronetta and Robert or other children awaiting adoption, call Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services at 704-336-KIDS (5437).

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