



Dear Barry,

Help! I tricked with a guy I met at a leather bar. The sex was okay but I am not looking for a relationship. Now this guy is stalking me. Every time I am at the bar we met at, he shows up. At first he was lots of fun but now he gets angry if I talk to someone else. Sometimes he sits across the bar and just glares at me. I have seen him drive into the bar parking lot looking for my car. He has even knocked on my door at home trying to have sex. I am much bigger than him so I could take him in a fight. Should I worry?

Signed "Unsettled"

Dear Unsettled,

Yes, be worried! Just because you can take him in a fight, does not mean you are safe. The fact that you even mention fighting concerns me!

This is the risk we all take when we "trick" or even enter into a dating situation.

Palm Springs is small town and it sounds as if the bar is a big part of your social life. If it is your local hangout, inform the bartenders of the situation, as well as your friends at the bar. That way, you have others watching out for you. When you are leaving the bar, have someone walk you to your car.

If possible, take a three to six month hiatus from the bar where you met. Make it clear that if he shows up at your home, you will not hesitate to call the police. Do not open the door. Do not engage in any conversation. Do not answer emails, or phone calls from him. This type of person will tend to go onto their next "obsession" when the bond they felt they had with you is fully broken. That generally takes 3 to 6 months. But, if he leaves a threatening voice mail, go to the police immediately and file for a restraining order. This can turn ugly quickly especially if alcohol is in the mix!