

Friends and Lovers

by Elaine Holtz

Presented by readers Ken Norton and Elaine Holtz
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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.

