



You are an advice columnist for a popular teenager magazine. Teenagers write you letters and you publish them and your replies in the magazine.

Write an advice reply to this letter:

Dear TeenVoice,

I have a big problem and it's making me feel confused and upset.

I have two friends whom I enjoy spending time with a lot for different reasons. The problem is those two friends have had a falling out and it doesn't seem likely that they will patch things up soon- if ever. Now, both them are telling me I can't be friends with the other. They say I must make a choice of whom I will be friends with. I don't know what to do! I want to be friends with both of them, but they think if I don't choose, I am not being loyal to them.

I feel like I am really stuck between a rock and a hard place. What should I do? More importantly, why are they doing this? Are they being a good friend by demanding this of me?

Sincerely,

Torn-Between-Two-Friends

Ayana

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,

I think you have three options in this situation. Firstly, you could try and patch things up between your friends. Tell them **your** input of this problem. Make them see the good in each other. OR, you could give your friends some space. While you wait for the air to clear, try and find some other friends you might want to hang out with. Lastly, you could tell your friends that you want to be friends with both of them and that even if they don't like **each other**, that doesn't mean that they can't be friends with **you**.

Your friends are most likely doing this to you because both of them want you all to themselves. As they are in a fight, they feel more possessive of you because they want you to take their side and help show the other person who has "won" the fight. They are jealous when they see you hanging out with the other person, which leads to them trying to "win" you over.

Personally, I think the only **good** friend here is you. Neither of your friends is being understanding or putting your feelings before theirs. Currently they are being selfish. All they care about right now is who is right and who is wrong. You have to show them how foolish they are being to fight with one another. Show them how foolishly they've been fighting over you. If there is anyone that has to take a stand it would be you. Good luck!

Sincerely,

TEEN VOICES

Neha

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,

I think you have to three options in this situation. Firstly, you could try to patch up things with your friends. Tell them the problems which you are facing while they are having the fights. Try to tell them the good memories of the two being friends which is going to make them realise their mistakes. Secondly, if the first option does not work out then you should try to keep space between you and your friends and hang out with some other friends. (if you have any) Lastly, you could tell your friends that you want to be friends with both of them and that even if they don't want to be friends with each other they could be friend with **you**.

Your friends are not likely being friends with each other because they both want you for themselves. As they are in a fight, they are in need of you because they want you to be there weapon so that the new friend of yours can prove that he **WON**.

I think that the only good friend in this case is you. None of your friends is being understanding and not being considering each other as friends. They are being very selfish and mean to you. They only want them to be right and the other person to be wrong. You need to take action about this. Tell them how bad they are being to each other and then maybe it can solve the problem.

Sincerely,

TEEN VOICES

Ryu

Thank you for writing me a letter.

So firstly if you want to be friends with both of them still, I think you should tell them that plainly. I have a reason for that when I was in Japan, I was in that situation. What I did is tell them that plainly. And friends said to me, ok. Just that.

But if your friends upset to something, and if you say that timing your friends will say no because their feelings is not really calmly, when you say it, you need to think of timing.

Other idea is making new friend and tell them if you guys are separated I'm not going to be friend with you guys anymore, I will be friends with others.

But if you don't want to say that to your both of your friends you should think which ways is better to choose, go to your other friends or stay with 1 friends or make them friends again somehow.

If you choose one of guy, that guy feeling will go better but the other guy will start feel jealous to you. And maybe that person will bully you.

I think reason for why they doing this is because they got upset each other and they want to show each other that I am better than you. And they did that problem to you. Also I think they are doing just for you because you are best friend to them. If they reconciliation obviously they will stop doing that. Also if you can, you should stop them to fight and reconciliation them.

I think before they are started fighting each other, surely they were good friends to you. But right now they are becoming unkindness people because of fighting. So I say it again but if you can stop fighting them, they will calm and they will reconciliation.

Sincerely ,

Maxi

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,

First what I would do it to try to bring both back together by persuading them with all your ability that it would be a great move and would bring back the great fun that they had experienced in the olden days. If this strategy does not really persuade your two friends I would invite both of your friends to a big party or trip to try to have fun with each other and with you as well after this trip the two would surely feel more relaxed and sure that they would have fun again.

For me personally, it is a very hard experience because just the tiniest little put down could affect the fight and it would get more serious over the time. This is why you should always care and protect all of your friends if they need help and this would surely help them to understand the whole reason why they are fighting or putting each other down by arguing. If your friends are really up to something you should immediately call someone that is either a different friend or a person you have deep trust in to try to stop the two friend fighting with each other by you two getting in the middle of the fight and say that they should apologize to each other and things would hopefully go back to the time where there was peace between your two friends. This often happens because friends can have very different characters and if one gets in the way the other one is going to prevent them from doing that. This action will help them to understand their friendship and their characters more.

I do not think they are making the best choice possible but they are sort of forced to make this decision according to the fight your two friends are having a hard time with each other. You could as well ask your friends to reflect upon why are they doing this to you and why do they let you suffer ? I thought you were my friends and now you are fighting ! these are the sort of comments and questions you could possibly ask your two

friends whilst they are arguing your friends will probably not ignore you because good friends usually show respect to other friends. If you have tried everything and you are left with no more possibilities the last thing you can do is reflect upon who is being a better friend to you and chose or play 1 week with one of them and 1 week with the other or other opportunities that are similar.

Sincerely,

Your teen voices magazine.

Andrea

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,

I know this seems like quite a bad situation but if you reflect its shouldn't be too hard. I have read Your letter and the first thing I would like to address is what you should do. I think we have all been in this situation or at least most of us. It can feel quite overwhelming.

What should you do? Now, If I were you I would probably wait and see what happens. If that doesn't work then you should step in. I would Back out and say that you can't be either of their friends because that's the way they are treating one another. Also you could go to each of them and ask what's happened between them and try and fix it or atleast help it. There are many options so if this doesn't work then you will be fine. I have seen this happen many times and these strategies usually work. Just think of it as a puzzle and try to figure it out. Neither of them deserved to be chosen over the other. You could also try and make them both feel better about themselves.

Why would they be doing that? There are many reasons and it could be personal ones but a lot of the time it's not. They are asking you because they know it's a 50/50 so they will go ahead with it. Also if one of them does get chosen they will make the other friend feel put down and they will feel better. It's quite similar to the psychology of put downs. Again, It could be because of a personal reason. Also they probably both feel quite confident that they will win. So choosing one over the other won't help so don't do that.

Finally, Are they being a good friend to you by doing this? It is fairly simple but complicated. The answer is no but let's go a bit deeper than that. They might not realize it themselves but they are being good friends. Their mind might be blocked out by other things. There are not being a good friend because they aren't being understanding or respectful. Although they might think they are being a good friend they are not. You could tell them that and see what happens. Also remember that it's not your fault that this is happening to you.

I have now told you everything I know. I do hope this helps you and I think it will. Also remember to follow your guts. I'm not you so I don't know how you're feeling. Remember there are tons of different strategies and don't feel stressed it's easier than you think. I wish you good luck on your social life.

Sincerely, TeenVoices

Layane

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,

I feel sorry for you that you have to go through this, but I have a solution! In my opinion, you should spend some time with the 1st friend and ask them what has happened between them and why they don't want you to be friends with the 2nd friend. Do the same with the 2nd friend. Just don't let the other friend see you with his enemy, or else he might be jealous and never talk to you again. Then, try and compare the answers you obtained and decide which ones convince you the most and choose the person you will go with. Maybe also try to spend a tiny bit of time with the other person so that they don't feel too sad about your decision. Or, you could make a compromise and play with the 1st friend for today and tomorrow with the 2nd one or something this type.

The reason they might be doing that? I have 2 ideas! Maybe they are jealous because you are probably spending more time with the other friend or they might just be trying to protect you from things that have happened to them in the past and don't want you to have a turn through all the pain that they have had and don't want that to happen to you too.

They aren't being good friends demanding this of you but at the same time, might be trying to help you by not letting you be that person's friend because of some particular reasons.

I hope you found this letter helpful!

Sincerely,

Teen Voices

Pavi

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,

I understand your frustrating situation and will try my best to help you.

Your friends are doing this because they feel that the other person shouldn't deserve to be your friend. They want you to forget your other friend because they are possibly jealous that you don't spend as much time with them as you usually do. Your friend's self esteem has gone down a little since they are in a bad mood and therefore, to gain self esteem, they want the other friend to feel put down.

In this case, you should help them by trying to fix their argument(it might take some time). If that doesn't work, you can always be friends with both of them separately. One of your friends might even give up in getting you to spend time with them. So they'll stop being your friend or get used to you being with other people. If you start disliking one of your friends because they are too demanding, you should stand up for yourself because they would never be a good friend.

Both of your friends have a reason to be doing this to you, but you also have the right to be with both of them. If they stop including you or be too mean to the other person, they don't have the qualities to be your friend. If you lie to them about the other, you will turn out to be the bad friend. When you are friends with both of them, they will understand and let you be with the other because they are your friend. On the other hand, if they confront you, they aren't understanding enough to be a good friend to you. It's great to be truthful to them.

Sincerely,

Teen Voices

Salim

I do not think that your two **OLD FRIENDS** are being good friends because they are making you choose something you can not think of doing.

You are stuck in the middle of a fence and that is not open-minded of them.

Open-minded is supposed to be a good quality of a friend and if their not that does not seem very good of them to you.

You can make their act a little better by making a compromise that mean that their both being good friends to you.

You should tell them how you feel if they are mature enough they will that you are in pain and stuck in the middle of a fence.

Adam:

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,

Firstly, my advice for what you should do is to tell them both that if they do not come to an agreement that you are allowed to be both of their friends, then you will not be a friend of either of them. Sometimes it might even be best to wait a bit to see if there is any chance of them calming down a bit and then do what I said. I also have some advice that you should not rush in telling them this.

Next, my advice for why they are doing this is that they probably hate, or really don't like each other, and they like you as a friend, but don't really understand that to be a true friend they have to respect you and let you have more than just them. I also think that they want to put down your other friend, and think this is a good way to do it. They may have the potential of being very good friends, but need help in managing a friendship, and you need to be a good friend to them by telling them.

Sincerely,

TeenVoice

Kayla:

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,

I understand you situation and I will agree with you that it is hard to deal with. Although, on the brightside, it looks like you are a very good friend if they both want you so badly! I have never experienced anything like it before but i'm sure I can figure it all out.

There are three options with this situation. One, you can choose a friend that is the bestest friend to you but that could make the other friend feel really bad and ashamed of them self because that would kind of make you a bad friend as well so that will probably be the least effective strategy. Two, you can leave both friends to fix their problem themselves and you can go find other friends, that may be a bit hard though. Depending on how long you have known your other friends that you are planning to leave, this I think would be the second least effective strategy. Third, You can compromise with you friends to be friends with one person for a week/day then the next

week/day be the other person's friend. I think this is by far the best strategy for this situation.

A confusing thought that you have brought up is that why you friends are doing this to you. In my opinion your friends aren't really being very good friends with you right now and that it is unfair for them to treat you like this. What has probably happened is that your friends have gotten into some kind of fight which may ruin their friendship that's why they want a friend to back them up. I hope this makes sense and that you are understanding my point.

I don't think they are being very loyal and understanding friends. You may also have to consider if this will change your choice and consider if you were in the situation as one of your friends, what would you do and if, it's anything similar to what your friends are doing to you.

Sincerely,
Teen Voices

Nadia:

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,
I understand that you are in a very tricky situation. It is very hard for you to choose between two people you like equally, (or maybe not). A good way to overcome this terrible situation is to ignore it. If you choose one person and not the other, the other person will feel very hurt, sad, lonely, and as if your friendship didn't matter at all. So the best way to act would be to ignore it and continue telling them you can't choose. Both friends will soon miss you so much and come running back! And eventually, (eventually!) they will realize their differences don't matter and will be friends again. Another thing you could do to help this situation would be to split up your time with your friends. You could play with one person for one week and the other person for the next week, or you can just take a break from both of them, take some time to play with your other friends and let them work out their differences on their own. Don't get too involved in all the drama!

Your friends-that-are-enemies are probably doing this because they are jealous of you spending time with their enemy. They really do like you and want to be friends with you but they can't let you be friends with their enemy.

Your friends aren't being good friends at all! How could someone be a good friend if they are asking you to choose between two people you are friends with.

Sincerely, TeenVoices.

Lewis

I think you should just tell them that a real best friend doesn't tell the other best friends that they should choose whom they want to be best friends because that is totally not being a best friend it's not be a friend at all and after you told them that and they still want you to choose it means they are not good best friends so just be best friends with other people.

They are probably doing this because they have a lot of self esteem and they want to prove to everyone that they are awesome and they are the best by being best friends with you .

They aren't being good best friends to you by doing this,in fact they aren't being even A friend at all.A good friend is caring, nice, open minded and respectful if they aren't all of those I doubt they should be your friends.

Sincerely: 

Chiara

Dear TORN BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS,

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO ?

#1:

You should tell them the truth because it's always better to tell them the truth because lying to them won't help (IT WILL MAKE THINGS WORSE) and remember this “ Always hurt me with the truth, But never comfort me with a lie ” . If you know that the truth is out there let it be or one you might do is let the time solve it (Not to long !!) but getting back to what I was writing before and this has happened to me before all I did was tell them the truth and said (IN A NICE WAY) if you don't believe me that's fine but just know that it's the truth (MIGHT SOUND MEAN BUT IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE). If you don't know why they were fighting you could find out and try make things better. You could say that one week, day , month etc; you will play with one and then another week ... you will play with the other. (MIGHT WORK)

WHY THEY ARE DOING THIS TO YOU ?

2 :

I think they are only doing this to you because what happened to both of them since they lost each other they don't want to lose you or maybe they are still hurt (EMOTIONALLY) by what happened to them so their self - esteem is low and if you say one of them is better that one will feel good and powerful and start being even more mean to the other one because thanks to you saying that one's the best their low self-esteem became high self-esteem.

ARE THEY BEING GOOD FRIENDS ?

#3:

In my opinion, NO but as I wrote before they are probably just trying to save the low self - esteem they have that very moment. And if you spend more time with one of them they probably asked that question because they know they are going to be picked. Plus you know that what you're telling them is the truth so you believe in yourself.

Sincerely,

TEEN VOICES

Hugo

I am sorry to hear that you are caught in this situation but, for your problem tell them that if you can't be both of their friends you won't be any of their friends and hide in your Friendship Fallout Shelter till their problem is resolved while you are hiding in your friendship fallout

shelter you should try to make new friends “and your friends” (if you can still can them that) are not being good friends because they are forcing you to do something that you really don't want to do and making you sad you just retire to your FFS (Friendship Fallout Shelter) and make new friends.

Or you could just chose one of them to be your friend and it's over with ad while they are not friends try to improve their relationship from the inside

You could also ask your parents for advice

Sincerely,
Commenting Voices

Jules

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,

I think there doing this because you have done something that they don't like or you are just ignoring because they are keep telling you messages that you don't like.If you want to become friends again then you will have to listen and do the stuff they ask you to do you can do that outside or inside you also need to make sure you don't say anything bad or else they will not be your friend any more.

If they are demanding you just have to say you don't like it and you are going to choose nobody. Then be someone's else's friend but then you might come in the situation that the people figure out that you are someone else's friend.Then they will not like any more.

Sincerely,

Teen voices

Sophie-Marie

Dear Torn-Between-Two-Friends,

In this sort of situation you are the victone, you have the hardest place! Sadly, as much as you want to be everyone's friend they want you to chose. I have been in a situation like yours, it is very tricky and I have also been a bystander twice. If you choose friend A friend B is sad and angry, if you choose friend B friend A is sad angry at you, and if you choose both friend A and B say you are not a loyal friend. When I was younger people used to tell me you can not be everyone's friend, but I really wanted to.

To answer your first question, "What should I do?"

I can give you two advises.

Firstly, if you are in a lucky situation like I was, you can make a compromise like: I play with A you one week and then with B one week. But, of couses then your A shouldn't take trash about B will you play with A or B shouldn't talk trash about A will you play with B. Or another compromise: a day, a day. You see what I mean, make COMPROMISES.

Second, you could just say you are not being good friends to me so me too I won't be a good friend to you. I won't be any of your friend! I wouldn't suggest you don't do this idea.

Sincerely,

Teen Voices

Julia:

I think you should get them to be friends without them knowing, meaning get them both to come in a room together without knowing the other is there then get them to talk to each other and bam they are probably friends again.

They are doing that to you because you are their real friend and you have been so loyal to them so they want you to stay their friend or in another perspective they are scared that if you are not their friend they won't find someone else to be friends with.

They are real friends for caring that you are still an option to be a friend , meaning they still want you to be their friend and care about you not just say I don't care about you or what you think I will make better friends.

Sincerely, TeenVoices