

Introduction to Philosophy

No One Gets Hurt?

Dear Abby:

Last month I was visiting my family in Pittsburgh and I had one of the most amazing encounters of my life. For as long as I can remember, I have had a huge crush on Johnny Depp. I absolutely love his movies and his adorable smile. One day, I found myself walking alone along the Monongahela River and, amazingly, I stumbled across his secluded holiday home! Not even the paparazzi know about this place and, yet, there I was!

Johnny must have saw me walking alone on the riverbank, because suddenly there he was, inviting me inside his place for a drink. Of course, I accepted! As we talked, Johnny turned out to be just as charming as I had imagined. Eventually our conversation turned towards relationships. Johnny admitted that he recently broke up with his girlfriend and was quite lonely for company. He then said that it would make him very happy if I would spend the night with him. Because of his lifestyle, however, he told me that it would have to be a one-time thing and remain a secret. Who was I to resist Johnny's fabulous come-to-bed eyes? The next morning, we promised to never meet again.

There is just one problem: I am married to David, a philosophy professor at a local university. I love David very much, so now I do not know how I should feel or what I should do. As is, David will never know and so he will never be made unhappy by my actions. Telling him, on the other hand, will almost certainly upset him and may destroy our marriage. In fact, where's the harm in what I did? Johnny and I were made extremely happy from our night together. So everyone is either just as they were or happier for the experience.

Abby, considering that no one was made unhappy by my actions, was it morally wrong for me to spend the night with Johnny? I confess that I do not feel any guilt about what I did, and wouldn't it be wrong to confess my wrong to David because doing so would only cause us both unnecessary pain and unhappiness? My night with Johnny Depp was an extremely rare event and I will be loyal to David forever more. No harm, no foul, right?

Disturbed in Doha

Question: What advice should Dear Abby give Disturbed?