





<p>April 2 2011 - 3:00p.m</p>	<p>Advice For Introducing My [33M] New Romantic Partner [36M] To My Daughter [9F]</p>	<p>#1</p>
	<p>Hello again. I'm fairly sure that most of you are familiar with Catie and I, given that I've been a frequent flier in the parenting sections of the forum. We still keep all of the well wishes and Christmas cards up in the attic. :) They're much appreciated. Those of you who have frequented the relationships board over the last few years will also be acquainted with my posting history related to my late wife, Lara.</p> <p>I've mostly refrained from attempting to navigate the dating scene as a widower, as the last thing that Catie needs is another source of instability in her life- I had been planning on waiting until she left for college to do so. It wouldn't have been fair to her, to have women walk in and out of her life, and I think those of you who are similarly grieving loved ones understand that you need to take some time for yourself after such tragedy, to focus on what's left of your family.</p>	
<p>Anthony DeAugustine Member</p>	<p>The thing is- I never set out to become romantically entangled with my current partner- but things have a way of just falling into place, sometimes. Serpenditious. As it stands, we can't quite carry on without doing <i>something</i> with regards to explaining the situation to Catie. She's already grown a little suspicious of why he's over so often, and why my best friend will sometimes come over to babysit her so that we can have a night off when our schedules align. She's always been a particularly sensitive, observant child.</p>	
 <p>10892</p>	<p>It's not that I'm prioritizing him over her- we still have plenty of father-daughter bonding time, and Catie knows that I love her very much, as well as her late mother. My partner has been trying to help Catie understand through the use of parables and how love can manifest in different ways between different people, but I'd like to be able to help explain it to her if I could. I'm just not sure how.</p>	
 <p>3091</p>	<p>He's been a part of her life since before she was old enough to remember in a sort of background character kind of way, the vague acquaintances you build up in Drydenne just by going about your everyday life- but ever since Lara passed, he's been my rock- even from before he confessed his feelings towards me. If it hadn't been for Joshua and him, I don't think I'd have been able to manage half as well as I have been. They're definitely foundational people in my life.</p>	
 <p>Drydenne, ON</p>	<p>It hadn't been intentional- a slip of the mouth was what instigated it, really, and he'd highlighted he didn't want to pressure me into anything I was uncomfortable with, since he knew how I felt about dating, given that I had Catie to look after, but after so many years of essentially co-parenting, it didn't feel like very much would change, really. He's familiar, and comfortable, and it just seemed natural that our relationship would progress as it has.</p>	
	<p>The issue is that Catie doesn't really see him as a father figure- and I wouldn't want to force that upon her either. Since he's always been so cautious not to overstep boundaries, particularly given I haven't erased Lara from Catie's life and we talk openly about her mother- (Lara's stash of letters she'd written during her pregnancy are still a very emotional affair for the both of us to open whenever Catie hits one of the landmarks for another)- he's less of a parental figure and more of a fun uncle who comes around like Joshua is.</p> <p>Any advice from someone who's been in a similar situation, in terms of how to broach their new relationship dynamic? He's been similarly worried about confusing or upsetting Catie, so it's been touch and go. We're already prepared to schedule for family counselling and individual therapy should Catie want it.</p>	