

15th December, 2008

PETER THE WIFE BEATER

DEAR DIARY, I like my neighbours. I'm very lucky because they're all quite nice. It didn't used to be that way, one of my neighbours was a miserable old trog but she's gone now thank God. Having said that, I also like my neighbours to keep their nose out of my business and I don't like too many frequent visits for no good reason. I don't like the idea of needy neighbours popping over to watch DVD's until late into the night while sipping my red wine, talking over the sound of my telly while eating my Dorito's. No, that doesn't suit me at all.

So when Francine banged on my door at three in the morning, I thought oh no, this means getting involved. This is not one of those "do you know who's parked on my drive" kind of visits. I can see Francine through the bevelled glass in the door because she's 5ft 10 with masses of blond hair and she's eight months pregnant so it's not difficult to know it's Francine from her silhouette. When I opened the door, she falls in bleeding and hysterical and I think oh dear Lord, she's about to give birth on my beige rug. I said where's Peter (her husband). She said he beat me up. Close the door and call the police. I got the phone and said are you sure you want the police? Francine nodded her head up and down. I asked what happened. She said Peter got drunk again and attacked me and I can't take anymore. So I dial 999. I made an attempt to speak and thought what do I say? I then found my voice and said I'd like to report a domestic disturbance.

I got Francine cleaned up. It turns out that the blood was coming from a cut on her foot where she stood on broken glass. I wasn't even afraid that Peter might come to my house looking for her. He knows better than to f*** with me. It wouldn't take 10 seconds to get the cricket bat from under my bed and clart him about the head until he saw stars, so he was the least of my worries.

When the police came, a female officer took Francine's details. I nearly fell off my chair when the officer asked Francine her date of birth. She said her date of birth was something of the 2nd, 1989. The poor girl's a teenager and Peter is at least 45. That wife-beating, cradle-snatching son of a bitch.

Two male officers went over to Francine's house to get Peter's side of the story and take care of matters where he was concerned. Meanwhile Francine called her mother to come and get her. We were at the doorway when Francine's mother (who so happens to be younger than

The AUGUST MAYFIELD Diaries

Peter) arrived. She came just when the police were taking Peter to their van and she marched up to Peter and gave him an almighty slap across his face. It took all of my might not to shout, YESSSS!!! If she doubled up her fist, she could have dislocated his jaw! Oh well, never mind. Maybe next time.

I hope for Francine and the baby's sake that she finds peace in her life. I pray that this beating she got from Peter was the last time, whether she stays or leaves him.

Just the thought of being beat up by someone who's supposed to love me makes me feel terribly confused. How can you love me and pull my hair or strangle me or pin me to the floor with your size 10 foot on my chest; all with the intention of causing me pain and humiliation. How do you sleep in the same bed as someone who regularly punches you in the stomach and makes you afraid and cry? I'm not superwoman and I don't think I could beat up a man fist-to-fist if he hit me, but he'd pay, one way or another, whether it be a house brick up-side the head when he's sleeping or plain old karma.

I've got a big potty mouth, so God blessed me with a fully functionally dad, brothers and sons just to be on the safe side. I'm not provocative, I just know how to stand up for myself and I have back-up if someone wants to use brawn instead of brains to battle with me.

Let's hope for Peter's sake that Francine isn't the kind of woman who goes by the motto "vengeance is a dish best served cold". If a man ends up with a woman who's been dreaming night and day about revenge and her passion for vengeance has been simmering for years, it's quite likely he's going to wind up "accidentally" maimed or "accidentally" poisoned and we wouldn't want that now would we!

August Mayfield

