

Hey Laura. I hope you're doing well!

I remember a while back that, whenever we would talk, you would actually confide in me a little bit, and I thought that was really nice. I also noticed that the last time we talked, it was me telling you that you should talk to Jeremiah, and then it stopped. I think that's a coincidence, but in case it isn't, or if you're mad at me for any other reason, I'm sorry and I'm totally willing to hear you out and talk about it and change stuff / compromise and all that good stuff.

The other thing I wanted to mention was that, as a somewhat unbiased but close bystander of the feud between you and Jeremiah, I figured I'd tell you that I really think it's getting out of hand, and I'm going to try and convince you to use a different approach with two rationales.

Rationale #1: We're all friends here.

We were all friends before we moved in, and that hasn't changed. I don't know if you realize this or not, but whoever you're mad at here (if it's anyone other than Jeremiah as well), nobody has any malicious intent. We're either busy and not paying attention, or we're taking a break and not paying attention. So it's entirely possible that we're doing something to piss you off that, in hind sight is totally obvious that we should have not done it, but if you're not thinking about it, it's really easy to miss. We're all really amenable to working around each other here, and I really, really think you should stop being what I perceive to be spiteful and let it go.

You make it really easy to villainize yourself by doing stuff like turning off the router or telling people they can't have their girlfriends over. Nobody's going to cooperate with you if you try and solve your problems with coercion. On the other hand, if you do it diplomatically, realizing that we all have a choice and an opinion, you'll find that we're more than willing to work around your wants and needs. I implore you, even if you can't let it go just yet, just be cordial and say hey, here are my problems, I'd like y'all's help fixing them. I PROMISE you'll get much better results.

Rationale #2: It's the most optimal choice.

Putting aside the fact that we're friends, look at it purely from a "what do I have to do to achieve goal x?" point of view. Pretend that you're an independent agent in a system that you're trying to optimize for your needs. You want, among other things, peace and quiet past a certain time, a cleanly living room, doors locked, etc.

You can 1) try and cut people off from things they want (internet, presence of girlfriends) in order to coerce them into doing what you want. Obviously not very effective. You can 2) keep spending the night at other peoples' houses to avoid the issue and forgo the amenities you're paying ~600 a month for. Also not very effective. Or, you can 3) swallow your pride and be amenable to compromise. Super effective.

I hope you can understand I'm not writing this letter to piss you off, rub anything in your face, or belittle you in any way. I'm writing it because I want to see you happier as a person, and all of us happier as an apartment. That, and I make it a point to be totally bluntly honest with anyone I consider my friend (you).

Best wishes,  
Josh