

Shawn and Kevin have been close friends since they met during their college years. Shawn recently has asked Kevin to loan him \$5,000 for the down payment on a small house in a quiet semi-rural outer suburban area, which Shawn, who has been writing a novel for the past several years, believes will be an ideal environment to work on the book. Kevin, who is a project manager for a large engineering firm, can afford to loan the money to Shawn, but has qualms about doing so. Kevin gratefully acknowledges to himself that Shawn has been a fine friend over many years -- completely supportive, deeply empathic, and unselfishly helpful. He (Kevin) isn't sure, however, exactly how Shawn plans to repay the loan, on his salary as manager of a small book store. Over the many years of their friendship neither Kevin nor Shawn has asked the other for a loan until now. Affairs related to money haven't played a significant role in their relationship as friends, either directly or indirectly. They seldom, if ever, even discuss their personal finances with one another. Kevin thus feels acutely uncomfortable raising issues with Shawn, such as how he plans to repay the loan, what might be a reasonable repayment schedule, and so forth.

What should Kevin do in the above situation, and why?

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