

Understanding Domestic Violence: Due Tuesday Feb 22

Luz, a friend of yours since freshmen year, started dating Sara about 5 months ago. When Luz first started dating Sara she seemed really happy and told everyone very quickly that she had met “the one”. At first you and your friends attributed her growing absence with new love; but now it seems even when you do get to hang out she is constantly fielding calls and text messages from Sara. It kinda of freaks you out but Luz always says that she thinks its sweet that Sara misses her so much while she is out.

This is the first time Luz has openly dated a women. Luz’s family has no idea about Sara and Luz is concerned about how they will react if and when they find out.

Over the last 2 months it seems to you that Luz has been having a rough time. She has been withdrawing from your circle of friends, seems tired and nervous during the rare times she is out with you and your other friends. Up until recently she was really social and active in a lot of student groups such as Pride and MESA; now she says she’s too busy to go to meetings or attend programs she was once active in organizing. She often seems really depressed, but then again sometimes she seems to be really happy; it really confuses you.

People have seen Sara and Luz fighting in the halls one moment, then the next day they are all over each other.

Three days ago you noticed that Luz had a cut on her lip; she said that she fell, whacked her chin and bit into her lip. You realize that Luz seems to have a lot of accidents lately.

Today Luz finally opened up to you and said that she and Sara were having a rough time. She reveals that Sara has been really stressed and jealous and that she has had problems holding her temper, but then again Luz says that its Sara’s “passion” that she loves best about her. She doesn’t like that she is getting hit, but also says that she loves Sara and doesn’t want to hurt her or get her in trouble. Luz feels like she should leave Sara, but is worried that she will hurt herself, like she has threatened to do before when they discussed breaking up.

What are some issues that you see as problems for your friend?

Where can you refer your friend for help (on and of campus)?

What can you do to help your friend through this difficult time?

What might be some barriers to your friend leaving their partner?

What are some examples you see from the power and control wheel?

Any other thoughts?

