

# WEIL'S world

SINCE APPEARING ON GERMAN DAYTIME SOAP VERBOTENE LIEBE AS OLLI, ONE HALF OF POPULAR GAY COUPLE CHRISTIAN AND OLLI, JO WEIL HAS BEEN IN GREAT DEMAND AROUND THE WORLD. rEFRESH INTERVIEWED AND SHOT JO AND THORE SCHOLERMANN (CHRISTIAN) IN OUR SEPT/OCT ISSUE LAST YEAR AND WE WERE MORE THAN DELIGHTED WHEN JO CONTACTED US EARLIER THIS YEAR AND AGREED TO BECOME A REGULAR COLUMNIST. THIS IS HIS FIRST COLUMN. SO WELCOME TO WEIL'S WORLD... ILLUSTRATION by JAMES PEPPER

## Breakups suck!

Especially when it's your own. Thrown into this merciless situation from out of nowhere, I find myself stuck in an emotional extreme. Ok, "from out of nowhere" might be a little exaggerated, considering we've had a few problems and arguments lately, but it seems to me that I've got a major talent in blocking problems out. Too much work, too little time – that's how you unintentionally drive your partner slowly and painfully out of the game. And while your mind is occupied with such important questions as "Why is Gale Harold suddenly starring in Desperate Housewives?" your long-time person of trust starts off with a more serious chapter including "Why does he take me for so arrogantly granted?" In short: While I've got my next autograph-picture-shooting on my mind, the most important person in my life is searching for the right words to get out of my world.

"We have to talk!" My lifetime experience has already taught me enough lessons to know what this phrase really means: The beginning of the end! The era of

"That's mine, that's yours" begins and makes you finally realise that you're all of a sudden left alone. No more plans for holidays TOGETHER and finally, you don't have anyone who's just there for you when you need it the most.

How stupid can someone be to risk all the wonderful things he had? Where does this creeping feeling of taking everything for granted in a relationship come from and why does it make us blind for what it does to us?

"We have to talk!" – and that is what we do. Those sad eyes let me know that I am not capable anymore of bringing happiness to the one I would give my life for. They let me know that a break up might be the only way. My partner asks me to have a time out. To think and find out what is left of our love. We hug and suddenly desperation hits me painfully and unexpectedly hard. Goodbye words, a short kiss – I wish it would last forever, fear, it might be the last one ever.

Now I'm waiting for decisions. Sometimes I cry. But I am never ashamed of it considering what a wonderful person I might lose. Life goes on and I'm back at

work. I have to do some dubbing for a cartoon – the squeaks of a mouse – I try to leave aside that "mouse" was my soul mate's nickname. Suddenly I realise the absurdity of that situation – I'm 31 years old, my relationship is just about to go to pieces and I am in that dark room and pretending to be a mouse! I feel like screaming!

Unfortunately, nobody can tell you what to do in that situation. There is no instruction manual for break-ups. There are instruction manuals for making coke fountains with Mentos but no help for something essential like a relationship. What's wrong with this world?

All of the sudden desperation makes you consider compromises you would have never looked at before. For my part I could never picture myself moving in with my partner. Now I find myself considering this option. I take a deep breath, look at the stars and realise it is full moon – it reminds me of the night when we kissed for the first time and promised to each other to last forever. I honestly hope to get a second chance to refresh this promise. With the strong intention to do everything right next time, I can say: Break-ups suck! Especially when it's your own!

YOURS  
*[Handwritten signature]*  
xxx

## The Square of emotions

### LAUGHTER: Scheiße geschieht

Gloating is mean but funny: It's really bad enough to slip on the icy pavement of a crowded street and fall to the ground in front of quite a few surprised pedestrians. What is even more 'shitty' is to land in fresh dog dirt. That happened in downtown Cologne. When I saw the victim's sick face, I couldn't do anything but laugh out loud. That wasn't nice indeed – but it was so funny... and even the dog seemed to hide a little smile.

### SADNESS: Helfen die Kinder

I support the *Aktion Tagwerk*, an initiative that with the help of pupils, raises money for the promotion of education in Africa. Motivated by that initiative, I started to deal with this topic in detail and came across many pictures and reports of children, who have to grow up in the poorest and most hopeless conditions. That made me very sad and I was shocked. I realised how privileged we can live and grow up here in 'our' home country. For me that's one more reason to support this initiative. Every child to whom we can give a little more hope and future to is worth every imaginable commitment.

### ANGER: Hüten Sie sich vor Plastischer Chirurgie

Aesthetic surgery might actually be ok. But what they did to the once beautiful face of Meg Ryan makes me really angry. I watch the preview of *The Woman* (a movie I cannot recommend to any male viewer) and why's that?! After a few minutes Meg appears for the first time – and I am shocked! Her lips tripled, her expression disappeared – she looks like a caricature of herself. I'm horrified. In this case the 'beautification' was a really bad choice and I dare to doubt that I want to get used to this 'new' Meg.

### LOVE: Zu gewinnen, ist alles nicht

What I always say concerning sporting events is: be first or last! Because only those two are interesting for the media. The whole midfield is almost never mentioned. Insofar I was pretty close to my intention at the VIP kart race in Cologne. Through 'hard' work and some disadvantageous turns I fought my way to place 10 of 12. Strike! It wasn't the last place but anyway far enough on the loser-side that I was asked for an interview. You see, even to lose can be great! You only have to do it with dignity and, most importantly, intention.

So let's take it in the Buddhist way of life – in every crisis there's always a chance. Having said this – keep your chin up and stay cool – we'll manage it!

