



Shah Rukh Khan and Farah Khan were BFFs for close to 18 years. Their friendship was legendary. But recently they had stopped speaking to each other due to casting issues. Farah chose Akshay Kumar for her movie *Tees Mar Khan* and addition of Salman Khan in a special role in the same added fuel to the fire. Farah has made no bones about the two growing apart, while King Khan has tried to downplay the rift in the friendship

Too close for comfort

You and your friend are described as the closest buddies in town. But a tiny thorn has pricked a hole in the ties. What would you do to put the ties back in place? An expert offers some tips

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Bollywood's best-known friends Shah Rukh Khan and Farah Khan recently made headlines when the director cast Akshay Kumar in her third movie *Tees Mar Khan*. It rubbed King Khan the wrong way and the actor made his feelings clear when he avoided inviting Farah to a bash he threw for singer Akon a few months ago. The two, however, maintained no love was lost, but Farah later went on to say, "Things changed, circumstances changed and a lot of other things happened that made me opt for Akshay. I never thought that there would be a day when I will be working without Shah Rukh." King Khan, on his part, said, "A film cannot break my friendship with Farah." All such public comments aside, the best friends seem to be in no mood to patch up. This is not just a celebrity friendship-gone-sour story. It is also the story of ordinary people.

Have you ever fallen out with your best friend because s/he blurted out a well-kept secret or demand more time than your husband and children? How should one

deal with 'sticky issues' between friends without jeopardising the friendship? Relationship expert Meera Ravi tells how to handle such situations.

» **What do you do if your best friend reveals your secret to someone?**

Be assertive and do express your displeasure or disappointment over her behaviour. If you don't express how would that person know? Keeping quiet may result in her repeating the same thing. Moreover, it is your right to express your true feelings to your 'best' friend. Take care to use appropriate expression/words, do it when she is receptive, but do it anyway to continue the same level of intimacy.

» **When a best friend suddenly gets close to your family and does things with them without your knowledge**

Recognise how you feel about it. If you are not okay with that, then instead of assuming, look for the right opportunity. Do have an open discussion with the friend about what you felt, why such a thing happened and

express your expectations. Find out from all the people involved about what happened.

» **Your best friend knows you hate being the centre of attention but constantly does things that puts you in the spotlight...**

First of all, have you clearly expressed that you hate being the centre of attention? For example if s/he organises a surprise party knowing fully well that you would hate it then considering it is a surprise, I assume you'd attend the party. If you have been able to manage yourself despite the discomfort, congratulations! Thank your friend who gave you an opportunity to learn about yourself. Nonetheless, it is important that you find out from him/her what prompted her/him to do so?

» **Your friend gets to know another good friend of yours and suddenly they're making arrangements behind your back and without you.**

I would repeat, do not hold back your true feelings (however negative they maybe). Do share it

with your friend if you feel let down by her/him. Suppressed negative feelings would damage the relationship in the long run. Equally important is that you are armed with all the facts before you confront. It is a good idea to first get the other side of the story before stating your opinion.

» **You have a friend who moans and tells you how terrible their life is but in the end refuse to do anything to change their situation. And all this negativity sends you into depression.**

Hmmm, so how do you feel? Perhaps helpless? You want to have a magic wand to make their troubles go away, isn't it? I acknowledge your feelings, but the fact is that unless and until that person is ready to bring in the change, no one can do anything. Despite all your support if the other person chooses to remain in the same situation, there is little you can do. Till the day that individual is ready to do anything, things may remain the same. At times, it could be draining for you too. So take care of yourself while you support your friend.