

*This is a list of the harmful behaviours I experienced from Franklin Veaux, written primarily between July and November 2018. Names have been changed for privacy.—Eve*

Telling different partners different stories, and telling different stories in private vs. in public, then denying that he was doing it, and pointing to jealousy or anxiety as the reason for any concern or confusion about the discrepancy.

Agreeing to do (or not do) things and then denying he'd agreed to do (or not do) them. Or "agreeing" in slippery, passive ways that leave you wondering later if he'd really agreed (especially when he would deny it later.) Getting angry or denying it had ever happened when this was pointed out.

Conversations wherein he would seem to understand and agree to something I was saying, and then later acting like the conversation had never happened and he had never heard what I was saying.

Changing his mind about things and then acting like he never thought or said anything different, and like it's his partner's fault for basing her (sometimes life-altering) decisions on the things he wanted or said before and then being upset that he wasn't doing what he said he would.

Using his partners' or other women's ideas or words in his writing or talks without giving credit, then denying that this happened or that it is a problem.

### **Triangulation:**

Turning to one partner to validate him in struggles he's having with another partner, and to discredit him. As Amber says, "He provides space and seed and nourishment for his partners to create narratives that are affirming to him and protective of him."

Making each partner feel special by telling them secrets about his relationships with other partners, which they then have to keep secret from the polycule and sometimes the public.

Examples:

- Telling one partner he's not really compatible with another partner.
- Telling one partner he doesn't really want to do what he's doing with another partner (be in a relationship, live with them, get married, do a project, go on a trip, etc.).
- Telling one partner it's too hard/scary to have an honest conversation with another partner or set boundaries; implying he is being coerced by his other partners (while telling the other partners the same thing about the partner he's talking to).

Talking about his partners' mental illnesses as though they are the source of the problems in the relationship.

When he talked to me about Vera, early in our relationship, repeatedly saying "I do not know why this is happening" (there is no cause, she's just going crazy/being irrational for no reason). Processing his relationship problems with his other partners, has no close friends he does this with—pits his partners against each other and creates isolation within the polycule. Also makes each partner feel like the special one because she is the only one he can confide all these

things to (makes it harder to set boundaries about this kind of behaviour because it feels like intimacy).

Refusal to set boundaries around his time and commitments or to put in work to find compromises puts partners in constant competition & conflict with each other.

Not communicating about his plans with his other partners and expecting them to just deal with it/roll with it the moment they happen; ignoring power dynamics/ability to consent. Examples:

- The first night we met, showing up with Vera without asking me or mentioning to me that she'd be there.
- On our third date, making plans with me to spend the night with me and telling me he would tell Vera about it, but then not telling her, so she found out right at the beginning of the date when I was there.
- Bringing [redacted] along on the date with Elaine.
- Two dates to prom story in *The Game Changer*
- Telling Celeste he was in love with "Blossom" when the three of them were at lunch together.
- Telling Sylvia he would go to Portland with her when that trip would conflict with our anniversary plans, without talking to me about it first, then when I was upset, instead of apologizing, asking me if I wanted to trade places with her.
- Inviting Vera to stay at the cabin with us but not asking or even telling me until it was about to happen.
- Telling me for three years that he planned to move to Canada, live with me and be my life partner, but never telling Vera any of this, *even after he had moved*.
- Going to Boston with Amber and [redacted] and putting down a deposit on an apartment for the three of them without telling Celeste.
- Moving very quickly into a relationship with Rose without ever communicating about it or checking in with his other partners, denying that he'd ever done this, then blaming her (and later blaming my "jealousy" for his poor treatment of her).
- Disappearing on me with no communication at InfinityCon (with Amy) and Playground (with April) and not communicating with me about his plans or trying to connect later, then making it about "jealousy" or "anxiety" when I had feelings about his disappearance.

Subtle undermining of his partners with his other partners by couching criticisms in language of admiration. Leading to the idea that he doesn't see his partners' faults (so we feel protective of him), when in fact he's the only one framing their "faults" because all our information is actually coming from him (because all his partners are always in different states/countries).

Blaming his other partners when he makes hurtful choices. Example:

- On our third date, when Vera came back after her date and we were in the bedroom, he didn't go out to greet her. I didn't know her well, and I assumed he was following their relationship agreements. She was hurt. He later told her that it was because I would have been upset if he'd left—but he'd never asked me how I felt, and didn't know me well enough to know how I would feel. This became a source of anger from Vera towards me,

but I didn't know why for a long time, and even after I told her I would have been ok with him going out to greet her, she didn't believe me.

**Things he's said:**

*All said when I was trying to point out a problem in the relationship or a way he was treating me badly.*

"I'm not perfect"

"This is just your anxiety"

"This is really about my relationship with Vera"

"Would you rather trade places with her?"

"There was nothing I could have said/done that wouldn't have upset you"

"You need to have things a certain way"

"What is this really about?"

Giving me a paternalistic smile/treating me like a child or a pet when I'd raise issues with him about how he's not doing his part in the business or household. Treating me like this is some special need I have and he's humouring me, rather than there being just some minimum baseline of care and maintenance in a partnership (intimate or business) that it is reasonable for me to expect.

The "slidey thing": You try to talk to him about something and he responds in a way that is difficult to describe but leaves you confused and like you aren't sure if your issue has been addressed or not, but like the conversation about it is over, but you aren't sure if you really even talked about it.

The "knife": Becoming cold/hard/distant when his partner is upset, demanding that they "explain" themselves or using logical argument to cut down/push back their feelings; watching them coldly as this makes them even more upset; only offering affection or connection once they back off the problem they were raising, blame themselves, and apologize for raising it in the first place, then becoming the good guy because he's the one comforting them in their mysterious and inexplicable distress.

When a partner raises a problem with him, flipping it back around on her to be about something that she did that he thinks was similar or more important/worse, so that she ends up trying to address his problem and never comes back to the thing she was originally trying to raise. One observer of this dynamic stated: "He shifted the spotlight from him to you."

Negging keeps his partners off balance/trying to prove themselves; examples:

"I'm not a beginner's relationship"

"I'm not totally closed to new relationships, but you'd have to be one hell of an unusual person" (on his OKC profile)

Prefers new partners in their 20s/early 30s, has never started a relationship with anyone over the age of 36 (when he was 46); he is now 52 and his newest partner is 32 or 33.

His writing points to every relationship problem as something a person needs to fix within themselves (e.g., fixing insecurity), and his behaviour in relationships mirrors this belief. If his behaviour undermines his partner and causes her to be unstable, he says it is because they are insecure, anxious, mentally ill, controlling, abusive, etc. All feelings are collapsed into a small subset of possible feelings that only he is allowed to define: jealousy, insecurity, anger.

Consent injuries without accountability. Fails to recognize boundaries, or creates situations where setting boundaries would result in conflict (including creating coercive group sexual situations that are difficult to back out of), and then becomes defensive, denies or minimizes when the issue is raised with him later, or gaslights his partners if they have emotional reactions to the situation. Examples:

- Groping me during a professional function, moving closer to me when I moved away, putting his hands back on me after I removed them; I had to verbally tell him to stop. Later when I brought it up with him he wouldn't acknowledge it or apologize, said he didn't remember doing it, acted like I was making it up, then said "Ok I won't touch you that way again" (punishment).
- Inviting Vera to the cabin without asking or telling me.
- Inviting Sylvia to travel with us in Europe without asking.
- Two other women have both experienced coercive group sexual situations involving him, at least one that involved subsequent gaslighting ("you just can't handle this level of open, honest intimacy").

Other partners act as "enforcers": would ridicule/shame/berate/ostracize you if you exhibited weakness or insecurity or confusion, tried to set boundaries that were inconvenient for them, were not supportive enough/inclusive enough/poly enough/independent enough (always as interpreted from his reports of your behaviour as reflected in his choices); he would be quietly supportive of you or "on your side" in private but always tolerate the behaviour/not directly defend you in public. Created an implicit punishment system that still allowed him to be the rescuer/good guy.

Lying, then making his partner's negative feelings/anger about the lying out to be about the thing he was lying about. e.g., in two instances denying that he was starting a new relationship, then saying my negative response was jealousy when it turned out he was starting a relationship but hadn't disclosed it or had actively lied about it.

After the breakup: Reading my private messages to others without my consent. (From what I understand, most or all of his immediate polycule was involved in this; there is some evidence that [redacted] was, as well.)