

The Dating Game

From the Male Perspective



After an unusually long hiatus, we've decided to resurrect this column by inviting readers to submit their own opinions and advice. First up are our community's single men with a glimpse into their complex minds; after all, their hands-on dating experience gives them the best seat in the house as far as observations of single women go.

It should go without saying, that any views reflected in this column are by no means the view of this magazine or the community at large. It's important to give you all the freedom to speak your minds and perhaps allow others to agree or disagree, or most importantly, view things through a different angle for a change.

As the "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" theory proves, the mindset of each sex is so remotely far away from the other that it's a wonder we were ever meant to coexist. In an effort to encourage the understanding of the opposite sex, we hereby present dating advice from the perspective of the male species. Their anonymity has allowed them to be open, candid and quite enlightening. Without further ado...

Stop the Game Playing

Guys don't like to play games, it's just not in our makeup. Why should we wait a few days before we call you again if we like you? Why can't we be seen at a party together with you early in our relationship? Who made up these crazy rules anyway? Just be honest and real with us, don't always play it so

cool. Guys don't like things that take so much effort.

Don't Hang Out in Clicks

How are we ever supposed to approach you at a party if you are hanging tight with your posse all night? Girls should try to make themselves more approachable! Separate from your group a few

times during the night so a guy can stand a chance. You have all week to catch up with your girlfriends.

Friends + Advice = Trouble

In my opinion the worst thing a girl can do is listen to her friends' advice about the guy she is dating or about to date. It's a small commu-

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nity. If one girl from your group went out with a guy and he wasn't for her, why should the guy be off limits to all of her friends because they didn't hit it off? What wasn't good for one girl may be good for another. And furthermore, a friend who may or may not be jealous of you is probably not the best person to advise you.

Don't Lead Us On

I think one of the worst things a girl can do is to continue accepting dates from us if she has no interest in us whatsoever. If you only like us as a friend, and can never see us as anything else, then why let me take you out on six or seven dates to concerts and Broadway shows and expensive dinners and why are you leading me on? If there's no shot you will ever be interested in me, just be honest and tell me you like me as a friend. As much as that stings, it's much worse if we find out after we invested so much of our time in you.

Dating Is Just As Hard for Guys

I am tired of girls complaining that boys have it easier than they do because they get to call the people they like and ask them out. Do you have any idea how hard it is to take the first step and make that call? First, we have to figure out if the signal you gave us was because you liked us or you were just being social. Then the fear of having you turn us down almost prevents us from ever making the call at all. Sometimes we wait weeks before we take the step to call if we ever call at all. We are so nervous that we sometimes don't even know what we're saying.

We Don't Like Drama

Why do girls take everything so seriously and over-analyze every

move we make—and even worse—every move we don't make. Can't you realize we don't think the way girls do? Stop over-thinking and go

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with the flow. Don't always overact and blame us for things that we don't even realize we did wrong. Keep things simple.

Meeting Mom and Dad

Other guys might kill me for admitting this, but if your parents are the type to be mad at us for not coming to the door, then please remind us to do it—even though we dread it. Truth is, society makes it easy for us to text you and have you come to our car. But I know from my married friends that if we hit it off, your parents won't see me as a true contender if I didn't pick you up at the door from the beginning. Also, please make it easy on us for the first date or two, have one of your parents, not both, greet us (preferably the less intimidating one) and keep it short and sweet, please.

Two Timing Is Not Cool

If I took you out and we had a nice time and we're planning to see where this will go, it is so not cool for me to see you on a date with

another guy that same week. Take a rain check with him until we see if we're something. If you date us both chances are you may lose us both too.

Guys Need Help Sometimes

We men don't talk or think like you women do. We never learned how to date or where to go and what to do if things begin moving along. The best thing my friends and I did was find someone to give us dating advice. One friend talks to his rabbi, another has a matchmaker, another his sister, and another is actually close with his mom and she gives him great date ideas and advice. Men shouldn't have to go at it alone.

We Will Check Out Your Family

A lot of times we look at a girl's parents, her mom especially, to see what she will be like as a wife and mother. Do they have *suf-fah*—take care of their home and always cook for their family? Do they have nice Shabbat dinners? Do they go to shul? How does the family get along? Are the parents running around partying neglecting their kids? Does the family have the same values as you? Usually children follow in their parents footsteps so it's a good indicator of what's ahead.

Ask About Us

Girls love to talk, talk, talk! When we're on a date, take a breath from talking about yourself and ask a question about us. It's got to be an equal give and take. And guess what, it's ok if there is a moment of silence at some point. You don't have to talk every second of every day.

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Make a Good First Impression

We know you don't want to hear it, but some men are admittedly shallow when it comes to attraction. The first thing we see are a girl's looks and figure. That's makes us want to get to know her better. Sure we are spoiled by movies, TV and magazines and we all want to marry a super model, but at some point we grow up and realize it's not realistic. Few super models will love us more than they love themselves, have a six course dinner at the table, and be with our kids 24/7. We all know we should look at a person's inner beauty not her outer beauty, but at the very least girls should take care of themselves, keep themselves well groomed and look the best that they can. Always look put together and presentable and keep yourself at a reasonable weight. Show us that you care and we will care too. Remember, guys love confident girls and we can tell when you don't like the skin you're in.

Lose Those BlackBerrys

Texting on a date is disrespectful. We would like all of your attention on our date together. We're out only a few hours, cant you live without it? It's so immature to see it attached to you like it's your lifeline and it tells me that you have more important things on your mind than me.

Fear of Commitment

Girls are somehow ready to get married at age 17, guys, not so fast! Aside from not being ready psychologically and financially, we become affected by what we see around us and a certain fear starts building inside of us. There are so many people getting married for the wrong reasons and getting divorced so quickly. Couples who we thought were happily married with families

are divorcing now and admitting they were miserable for many years. How do we know that won't happen to us? What are we supposed to think?

How will we know if the girl we fall in love with today will stay with us forever? Also, we go to parties, and many girls are dressed in the most expensive outfits and shoes. This spending and not caring about the economic crisis makes us think how we can ever afford you? I know there are no answers to these questions but girls need to know why some guys just don't have marriage on their minds.

We Feel Pressured Too

Some of us (definitely not all men) have parents, friends and family who ask us night and day, "Where you going tonight? Take out a girl already! How did the date go? What are you waiting for?"

I hear the pressure is much worse for girls in our community, but guys sometimes get it just as bad—even more so because although they mean well, those pressuring us think we have some sort of control over the situation. We're trying, we're out there, we want to get married just as much as you want us to, but some things are just out of our hands.

Respect Yourself

Here is a brutally honest observation that may help some of the girls out there who will do almost anything to get a boy to like her—and he'll like her alright—but in the wrong way! Funny thing about a bad reputation—it takes a second to get one and years and years for that perception to go away. Fast girls may think that is what the boys want—and we do want it at that moment—but those girls are not

the ones we want to bring home to mom. We have zero respect for girls that have zero respect for themselves.

We Want Girls To Reach Out Too

As much as we want to be the man in the relationship, and call all the shots, it's ok, after we get comfortable with one another, for a girl to text or show us that they care too. Sometimes we have no idea if a girl likes us back, so some playful feedback is welcomed! If I like a girl, she basically can do no wrong in my book. The only time the texting and chasing after a guy becomes annoying is when he's not that into the girl. And yes, we are the guys who are supposed to initiate everything and be the "man," but it's hard the guys who are a little shy. Can't you help us out a little if you are interested? We are in a new era, and it's perfectly fine for a girl to make the first move. You may surprise yourself and be glad you did!!

And To Our More "Mature" Singles:

- Be open. We're both lonely. We have different ways of not being the first to show it, but we both ache to show it—that's why we're dating in the first place. Revealing a part of yourself might help me reveal a part of myself. It's going to have to come from one of us and you have just as much responsibility as I do to get things started. (Don't read this as being overly serious—revealing can be flirty and fun too.)

- I'm no hero and you're no 25 year-old with a perfect body, but the things we really want come from real people not fantasies. Building a relationship is a meaningful phrase—find something you like about the

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other and build on it instead of finding things you don't like.

- I only marginally care about your job, your girlfriends, and your reality shows. I intensely care about your dreams, life vision and frustrations. I care about the real stuff. I am going out with someone I hope to connect with so I want to get to know you, not just what you do to pass the time.

- Acknowledge the 800 lb. gorilla in the room— dating at our age sucks. It is generally an unsuccessful, discouraging, depressing, bore. Finding love is not finding a needle in a hay stack, it's finding a needle in a stack of something I cannot mention in a community magazine! It is distasteful and unpleasant but it is the only way to get what we want, so we do it. So, let's make sure to have a few laughs.

- Please be an adult and not a child. Adults say what the heck sometime and take risks.

- A lot of women I've dated worry about their biological clocks ticking. I dated one amazing girl who was open about the fact that it's common for many girls these days to freeze their eggs so they can concentrate on finding the right man, and not just a father for their child. I was so impressed with this theory and as controversial as it may sound, it's worth mentioning and considering for a variety of good reasons.

We're sure that there are many more of you out there with comments and opinions and we welcome them with open arms. Please email editor@imageusa.com and know that all submissions will be kept completely confidential and may be edited for content. Also, remember that the views reflected in these statements are in no way the views of this magazine or the community at large. We're looking forward to hearing from you. □