



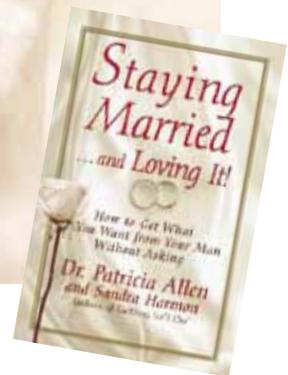
Texting the Waters

LIFE COACH FLÉCHELLE MORIN ANSWERS YOUR RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONS. **THIS MONTH:** IS TEXTING THE NEW DATING?: HOW TO GET A GUY TO GET PAST 'HOW R U?'

Q. Help! I'm looking for a real relationship but all I seem to be dating lately are cell phones! I meet plenty of men—at work functions, the supermarket, gym, etc.—who ask me for my phone number, but apart from a quick call to say “hi” or a text to see how I’m doing, an offer of an actual date never materializes. I am so tired of wasting all my time texting these guys back, only to wonder when—and if—they will ever get passed ‘how r u?’ Where can I find a man who wants to spend time looking at me instead of his phone screen?

A. Technology can be both a blessing and a curse. In the case of dating, texting has given men a new way to break the ice after just meeting someone. But it has also added a new dimension to the dating scene: the ability to avoid uncomfortable situations. To be frank, one of the primary reasons why guys text instead of call these days is because of the way many women treat men they are not interested in. They forget that men, too, are human beings, so they are short on the phone, fail to return phone calls or reject them in any number of ways until they eventually ‘get the hint’ and move on. And so texting has become a safe way for men to communicate with the opposite sex. Of course, once a man realizes a woman is caring and respectful of his feelings, he’s more than happy to talk to her and meet face-to-face. But, if he’s only texting her, how will he ever know her well enough to take the relationship to the next level?

In order for a man to know you are the type of woman he wants to be around, you’ll need to gently guide him toward getting to know more about you. And in order to do that, you need to learn to say ‘no’ to texting, typing and chatting on the phone. O.k. Breathe. You can



do this! I know saying ‘no’ isn’t part of many women’s vocabulary, but it’s not as hard as you think and in the end, it’s what men want you to do. Let me explain. Men are as good as women *require* them to be. But they are not mind readers (thank God!), so until you express what you expect from them, they simply do not know. In her book, *Staying Married and Loving*

It, Dr. Pat Allen explains how to get what you want in a relationship without having to ask for it: Quite simply, a woman gets what she wants by saying no to what she doesn’t want.

So, how can you encourage a guy you’re interested in to ask you out without turning

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him off? Consider the following dos and don'ts:

1.) **Do** give your telephone number to a man. Then tell him you are looking forward to hearing from him. Note the use of the word 'hearing' as opposed to 'reading!' This is key.

2.) When a man texts you or sends you an email after you've given him your number, **do** answer back but keep it short. Write something simple like, 'Hi. Thanks for writing. I am looking forward to speaking with you. Janice 232-555-1212.' **Do not** add or change any words. **Do** keep sending him the same message whenever he texts or emails you until he calls.

3.) When he *does* call, **do** keep the conversation to a five-minute maximum. Set your watch and when the five minutes are up; kindly and politely end the conversation by saying something like, 'John. It was very nice speaking with you. You seem like a great guy. But I've got to go, my lunch is ready (or I have a manicure appointment or my friend has just arrived...whatever.) Thank you so much for calling. Goodbye.' Then hang up!

4.) **Do** be nice and patient. Chances are this man is just waiting for you to signal to him what it is you want. By getting

off the phone quickly, he'll realize that whenever he calls, he'd better get to the point fast if he wants to get your attention.

He may just say goodbye or even ask if he can call you again to which

you will again reply, 'Of course! Thank you again for calling.' By this point, he might ask you out for a cup of coffee or dinner right then, or it might take a few more times before he takes your cue and asks you out.

A note on coffee dates: **Don't** agree to meet for coffee (unless you meet in an airport and that's all that is available). Personally, I think there is nothing more *impersonal* than meeting for coffee; lunch or dinner dates are more favorable to develop a genuine connection. If asked out for a coffee date, politely decline, stating you do not feel comfortable with coffee dates. **Do not** suggest lunch or dinner unless he asks

what you would prefer (men don't like being told what to do!) In fact, the reason why a man will often invite a woman for coffee in the first place is because he was turned down by too many women in the past who thought having a meal was too "involved" (whatever that means) and suggested this "quick exit" alternative. The truth is, breaking bread with someone is much more conducive to creating intimacy than sipping a cup of coffee will ever be. Plus, there is not much more to do other than talk when you're sitting in front of a cup of coffee, which doesn't allow for a lot of nonverbal communication, i.e. eye contact, smiling, etc., which helps a man to connect emotionally.

5.) **Do** be patient! If a guy continues to email or text you, **do not** get upset—just keep sending the same message. And, if a man continues to call you but does not invite you on a formal date, chat for five minutes (again, put the timer on!) and give him your usual, 'Thank you for calling, it was very nice speaking with you...' line. Eventually, he *will* call...or go away.

6.) **Do** date multiple men (as in many, many men!) That way, when you're out being wined and dined by your wonderful suitors (perhaps graduates from your feminine, but firm policy against pen pals), you won't have the energy to waste on the guys who'd rather be romancing their phones!



Fléchelle Morin, Certified ASR Coach, Relationship & Dating to Marriage Coach & Motivational Speaker, is the author of the book, "Kissing or No Kissing; Whom Will you Save Your Kisses For? A Dating Guide to Creating Your Dreams." Have a question or comment for Fléchelle? E-mail her at flechette@nokissing.com or visit nokissing.com for more information about Fléchelle's book, dating philosophy or scheduling her as a speaker at your next event. Copyrighted 2009 by Fléchelle Morin