

## DATING

Question: I've been dating this guy I really like for 2 months, but he's wanted to take it slow so far. But he just sent me a Valentine's text message that floored me! I'm thrilled, but confused. Does "i luv u" mean "I love you," or was he just being cute?

Answer: Ok, let's come back to earth... Luv is the friendship love, not the "I'm in love with you love". He was not being cute, he was being clear. And let's be honest. Any guy who says he loves you in two months is rushing a bit. Love takes a long time. Love is showing up for you no matter what, even when it's hard or uncomfortable. Love is letting you go do a film on location because he knows you have been working your whole life to get this role and few months will not make a difference when you will be with him for your rest of your life. Love is spending time with your mother when she flirts with him and acts inappropriate. Well.. I guess I am talking about myself, but you know what I mean.

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Question: I am not a romantic but my partner is. Each year he makes a huge deal of Valentine's Day. I love him, but to me it's a Hallmark holiday created for straights. Is it asking too much to do what he wants one year and what I want the next? I really don't want to hurt his feelings.

Answer: If you really love him, give him what he wants. It's a small thing. It maybe a hallmark kind of holiday to you. But to the man you love it's real and an expression of your love from him. It shows that you are thinking of him at a time when the world is watching.

Remember when all the kids would get

valentines in school and some of the girls sent one to a boy they liked. Well as gay folks we never got to have that moment. This is a time when you have the opportunity to step up the the plate for your man and make him feel equal and apart of the human race...god! now I

sound like a hallmark card! Oh, just give him the valentine present. Make me happy, I mean him.

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Question: I have been dating a co-worker for three months and I'm definitely falling for him. Something devastating just had happened, however, that I need help with. Another co-worker told me to ask my boyfriend if he's slept with anyone else in the company. I wasn't going to ask, but my curiosity got the best of me. I was sickened and disappointed to learn that he's slept with 7 staff members over the course of a year. He swears they were all just hookups and that ours is a relationship and I do believe him. But I now feel like I can't trust him and frankly, my feelings about him have changed now that I know he's known as the "company slut." How do I handle this?

Answer: The first question I would ask of you... would be, Is he hot? If so, I bet you would not hang on to this guy "office boy" otherwise. Can I quote Teri Garr from "Tootsie". My boy friends can treat me like shit, but my friends... something like that. I disagree. If you are in a relationship with a man who is sleeping with half the office. Its not gonna work. I know you like him , I know he's hot and smart and cute and all that, and a bag of chips... But he's a whore. And not the good honest kind, the lying whore kind. Drop him and email me. I bet your cute and I am looking for Mr. Right, not Mr. Right now. And your "office boy" is most likely doing Mr. Right now in the zerox room...

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I dated someone last year who winded up being a true blue sociopath (pathological lying, physically violent, etc.) The problem is he's really hot and very charming — he even has a great job — so you don't get to the "crazy" for a few months. When I broke up with him, I told him he needed psychological help and he agreed. I just found out he is

now dating someone I don't know that well, but someone whom I respect and admire. It pains me to think this person will likely experience the same trauma, and I feel like I should at least warn him — after all, I wish someone had warned me. I want to tell him, but I feel like it's not my place, nor my business. On the other hand, I feel actual guilt at the prospect of \*not\* telling him. Help!

Get as far away from this guy as you can! I have always had soft side for the bad boys. It has been my downfall as a homosexual. If they look like they have been to prison, my old line was "call me" . But not real prison, "Oz" prison on HBO (Where they're clean and hot). But now my new line is "you can be a bad boy in the bedroom but have to be a nice guy in real life". Take care of yourself and treat yourself with respect. In terms of calling this guy who is dating your last bad boy... I say get on the phone and tell the "411". Tell him in your experience this is what happened to you. Talk from "you" and don't tell him what to do. We have to support our gay brothers any way we can to get the right man in our bed!

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I've been dating my boyfriend for six weeks. He has had his eye on a thousand-dollar designer overcoat, and I want to get it for him. Is this really inappropriate?

No...no and noooooooooooooo!!!!!!!. If you were David Geffen maybe. You have to look at what the message is when you give such an expensive gift. I myself would fall in love with you. But that's another story. And you better be a good kisser (As you all know that's a deal breaker for me). Think of what the message is! It's that you have to pay for it. And that you think he will leave, so you need to buy him something to keep him. I know I am projecting. Any gift over \$100.00 is inappropriate and even that is on the high side. This is someone new. When the sex is so great, that the endorphins are causing you (quoting my character "Clayton", from COFFEE DATE), to think with your "Jolly Rogers" rather than your brain. It is very hard to find a good man and the Holidays bring up all sorts of issues . So take the

coat back and buy him a book you love or some music that says what you feel about him or some films that changed your life. Anything personal. Oh ...and again take the coat back!

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I was on a first date with a smart, together guy and it was going great — until near the end of dinner, when I started going off on how excited I am that the Democrats may gain seats in the upcoming election. Suddenly, my date got really quiet. Turns out he's a Log Cabin Republican. I turned the conversation around and we had already agreed to make it an early night, so I'm not sure if he was really offended or not?

First, run for the hills. If he is gay and a republican he might as well slit his own wrists. There is something wrong with this guy if he need to be a part of a group of folks who do not want him as a member. Self esteem is really an important quality in a boyfriend. They also have to care about something other than themselves. I think not having compassion for your community is a deal breaker. If he says it's just about money and makes under \$200,000 a year and does not admit that there is no financial benefit for him. Cut him loose! Always remember there are two kinds of guys . The ones who you bring home to the family for the holidays who don't care if your mother wears a push-up bra at 69 and flirts with you even though she knows you're gay and dating her son! And guys who are hot. Guys that do what they are told! And that you have great sex with who should not say any more than "yes, sir".

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Gay.com's dating advisors: Best and worst dates

This week, we turned the tables on our experts and asked them to spill the details on their own best and worst dates: The good, the bad, the sexy and the sleazy.

Best date ... I feel like I'm still waiting. I met a guy at the gym last week, and he was hot hot hot! Puerto Rican, my age (and no, I am not telling you), and a teacher to boot. Teachers are the best — they change the world one mind at a time, and I hoping this one gets in my head. He was romantic, sweet and a great kisser. (Oops — did I tell you I kissed him on the first date?) He made me feel like I was handsome, and was so present. And to tell you the truth, I have not felt like that in a while. So, boys out there: When you connect with someone, don't just kick him to the curb because you are scared of getting hurt. Don't wait for him to call you. Pick up the phone and call him; ask him out. Sometimes it's worth the risk of actually getting to know someone. I hope to get to know this guy. He is actually visiting his mother this week! When men care about their parents and are kind and generous in real life, and a bad boy in the bedroom — I'm in! They got me, and I will treat my man like a king (if he's a good boy to his daddy, if you know what I mean). Wish me luck!

Worst date ... There are so many, I don't know where to start. I feel like I have been dating as far back as when Streisand did not tour! I guess one of the really bad dates was with a dark handsome man I met at a beer bust on a Sunday. We chatted and hit it off. He was very creative, had a great sexy smile, and there was a definite attraction. Also, a great kisser. (I see a theme here. I can't help it: The kiss is what it's all about for me. If that works, I can teach him the rest.) A week later, he called and asked me out. We set a date for dinner Friday night. I called him to confirm in the morning. We set a time of 7 pm, and I made a reservation at a romantic restaurant. He called at 6:30 to tell me he was stuck at a store an hour outside LA, returning some speakers. He suggested we reschedule, but I said, "Let's just make the date an hour later." He said he'd call me back; he never did. I called him the next day. He apologized and said he got to talking with his ex-boyfriend and lost track of time, and would I like to see him tonight? And then he told me I would have to call him back to see if he was available later. I said no: He would have to set a time now; otherwise, I was not interested in wasting another night waiting for him. He asked me why I was getting huffy. I said, "You canceled a date to go out with your ex-boyfriend — and told me about it! You should

have at least lied and said your car broke down, or that someone shot you!"

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It seems I never know if I'm attracted to a guy until I kiss him. He can be cute or not so cute, build, ethnicity doesn't matter — I don't really have a type, except we need "the spark" when we kiss. I would like to get this figured out on the first date. Other guys respond to looks or conversation and have it mostly decided by then, right? But I have found myself in a number of situations where I've liked a guy's personality enough to end the date with a trial kiss — no spark. Most dating experts say the polite thing if you don't want a second date is to say, "Goodbye, I had a very nice time, thank you." If the other guy asks about a second date you say, "I think you're great but I'm just not interested." But coming right after a good-night kiss, I'm basically telling this guy he's a bad kisser. Harsh! So do I have to go on more than one date and "fake it" to not hurt these guys' feelings? I've tried doing that, because people say attraction can come a little late sometimes — but I swear, it's the kiss. Help!?

Wow! I want your number! I am all about the kiss. But I have to admit I am a bit shallow, it's also about looks. And the way he looks at you is also a plus. I like the way a guy moves. His hands and touch are also a turn on. But don't get me wrong . Personality is important too. He has to have interests outside of sex. Not that I don't like sex but he has to care about the community and have a job he likes or is working on changing into a profession that makes him happy. And be smart. An unhappy boyfriend at work leads to failure. It's so hard to meet gay men that you are attracted to, that I think when you do savor this man, treat him like a king or in my case a good boy to my Daddy. But be open . If he is not into the daddy thing. Be open to be his equal or... switching or ????. Wow, I guess I am talking about myself. I just want a good man too! But I have to agree, if the kiss does not work the man doesn't work. And stop being so nice because you are afraid of hurting his feelings . It's really you that are uncomfortable. It's best not to lead him along, just cut to the chase and say. — I didn't feel the

spark... But thank you for a nice evening. And send me your picture cause a good kisser is hard to find!

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I've been dating this guy for a couple months, and it's gotten pretty serious. But last weekend I was at a show, and the singer — the \*famous\* singer that I adore — ended up hitting on me! Well, of course we hooked up, and I told this to the guy I'm dating. (Who could resist telling that story?) To my astonishment this guy flew off the handle and got his feelings hurt. Doesn't everyone have an ultimate top 10 list of people they should have permission to fool around with if they get the chance — and if not, shouldn't he have told me that?

Well, looks like you are pushing the envelope and assuming way too much with this guy. Number one. You have to have a discussion with him and find out what is comfortable for both of you. To have had sex with this "famous" guy (who I am dying to know who it is!) and tell him afterwards, is not cool. If you are really serious about this man. You need to get on your knees and apologize to him for assuming that he would be OK about it. Cheating is cheating. Making agreements and respect is very important when it comes to building a trust in a new relationship. I know because men are whores and I am one of them! I have never cheated on a lover or boyfriend. But they have cheated on me and it hurts. But there can be agreements made IF you are upfront and honest. I hope he takes you back...

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Is it uncouth for us to mess around in the bathroom at a party, assuming there are other bathrooms for people to use? I ask because it has come up.

Well... I love the idea of having sex in the bathroom and meeting some hot guy and then he falls in love with me and we get married and finish each other sentences and can't keep our hands off each other and meet each other's families and he loves me and I love him and we go to the movies together and laugh and cry at the same

things and... That will never happen. I hate to be negative but when you meet a guy and have sex with him on the first date or the first time you meet him, my experience is that he does not call or want to get to know you. There are guys to date and get to know and guys to have sex with and I guess if it's in the bathroom at a party make sure there is more than one as not to be interrupted so often.

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When do I disclose something that might scare a guy off? Should I wait until I get to know someone before telling him I plan to have children soon, or should I drop hints right off the bat? And if I'm waiting four or five dates until I tell a guy something so important to me, what is he waiting to tell me? What if he's closeted, or has a different HIV status, or wants to be totally monogamous and I don't? Is there a way to screen out incompatibility before getting serious — without destroying the romance?

If you scare off the guy he's not that into you. If its HIV, you should tell him before you have sex. If its something like you parents are evangelical Christians, wait till they have to meet them. Honesty is very important to me. And so is trust. You have to feel you can tell the man you are going to lie down with the truth. And don't give me the crap, "I didn't want to hurt his feelings". It was you who did not want to be uncomfortable. Wow, where did that burst of feeling come from? I guess I have been lied to and lead on and it does not feel good. Be straight with the guy but gay in the bedroom.