

Most new relationships (even the promising ones) do not last past the first three to six weeks. This can be frustrating and even crushing at times, causing many singles to question: "What did I do wrong?" "What's wrong with me?" and "Why does this keep happening to me?"

In order to answer these questions, one must first understand a few secrets to the male psychology:

- Men seek out relationships that make them feel trusted and respected.
- Men love, through sacrifice.
- "Good" men are largely logical about their relationships and commitments. Thus, they do not commit easily to things they have not invested in – over a period of time.
- Men are driven to succeed, face challenges, compete, and conquer.
- Men like women who like themselves.
- Men love to be heroes.
- Men like being appreciated.
- Men like femininity.
- Men like women who have opinions and assert their needs.
- "Good" men pursue women who are approachable and available.

WHAT DID I DO WRONG?

Flirting to first phone call –

When you act excessively available, offer your number, call him first, or ask him out, you inadvertently send the message that you do not trust he would do what it takes to pursue you. It turns him off when this is done (even when he is interested). It makes pursuing you too easy and takes away the challenge.

Don't get me wrong, men like it when a woman makes her interest known, but they know how to take it

from there (and they will, if they are interested). All you need to do is look him in the eyes, smile at him, and tell him you would really love him to call you sometime. Then, quickly turn and walk away, as you wave good-bye. This forces him to take action and ask for your number.

On the date –

When you act too cool, refuse to let him help you, show little emotional expression or affection, and express man-hating feelings, you tell him in a dozen ways you are not interested in him. A man needs some indication that you want him to continue to pursue you, that you like him, that he is needed and important to you, and that you feel more than just friendship for him.

A simple touch on his arm, a coy smile (with a slight tilt to your head), a laugh, a compliment, a request for help, a brief kiss on his cheek or mouth, says so much. Now he knows you are interested. If you end the date on a high note (and without lingering too long), he remains curious and intrigued and feels driven to want more of your time, attention, and affection. As long as he's in a good position for a relationship right now, he'll keep pursuing.

Making out –

A beautiful and progressing relationship can be quickly stunted and/or abandoned, by simply "making out." Not only does "making out" take away the challenge, it also increases the possibility of fooling around and adds pressure for commitment. Men mean no harm when they dump a woman, after making out, but the relationship seems less interesting, challenging, and pure. Plus, boredom sets in. He simply has not sacrificed or invested enough in the relationship (and over a period of time) to be burden by these difficult emotions.

A man likes a woman's affection; and, he wants to know that you are interested in him, but short and simple kisses are enough to keep him pursuing your time and energy. Make outs do nothing more than increase shame and

the risk of early rejection.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

It's not you; it's your technique that leads to early rejection. But, even when your technique is flawless, you cannot entirely avoid being dumped (or dumping someone else). Don't take it personally. There are a hundred and one reasons why a relationship won't last past the first few weeks and hardly any of these reasons are about you (because he doesn't really know you).

WHY DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING TO ME?

You can't keep doing the same thing and expect to get a different result. If you are experiencing early rejection, learn and try new techniques to see if you get a better reaction. You don't need to be perfect to be loved, but you do need to act in a way that is friendly to the male psychology (if you want to attract and maintain his attention).

As important as all of these tips and techniques may be, it is equally important that, at the end of the date, you remember: "He is not my only chance for happiness. The kind of guy I am looking for will definitely get my number, call me, ask me out, and pursue me. Thus, if this one man doesn't pursue me someone else will." ■

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She is the author of *Dating Game Secrets for Marrying a Good Man*. Buy now for \$13.95 at Amazon.com. Visit Alisa's website: www.askalisa.org for more information.

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