

CHAPTER 31

PERSONAL QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION FOR GIRLS

1. HOW DO I HANDLE A FELLOW WHO STARTS TO GET "PHYSICAL"?

First, you'd be wise to consider your own actions. Are you encouraging his advances by your own suggestive behavior? Do you giggle or laugh at his off-colored jokes? Do you nudge too closely and invite his caresses and affection?

If your motives are right and your conduct is unquestionable, your next action might be to do the following: Remind him of the "rules," then gently but firmly remove his hand or arm that has wandered onto your shoulder or elsewhere. If he persists, tell him frankly that you don't appreciate his forwardness and that you respect him a great deal more when he treats you as a lady. Tell him you don't like for him to be that familiar, and you want him to discontinue his action. If this doesn't work, stop dating him. (If all else fails, you might tell him you have a black belt in Karate.)

2. WHAT DO I SAY TO A FELLOW WHO GETS ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED ON THE FIRST DATE OR TWO?

If you sense he's developing feelings for you, or if he should openly express his sentiments, there are a couple of approaches you could take:

- a. Discourage his overtures by not dating him as often.
- b. Candidly and tactfully discuss the matter with him. You could say something like this:
"There are a lot of fine things about you I respect, and I want to be your friend — but I don't want to see you hurt by allowing you to get that involved with me. Nothing personal — but I simply don't want a serious relationship with anyone right now. I have plans for the future. I'm just not ready yet, etc.

3. I SEEM TO "TURN GUYS ON" TOO FAST. WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?

Perhaps nothing. Some women are naturally attractive and beautiful. You can't alter your body — but there are things you can double check.

- a. **Clothing:** Do you wear tight fitting garments that overly accentuate your figure and physical form? This would include such styles as jeans that fit too snugly, sweaters that stretch too tightly, mini-skirts that come up too high, plunging necklines, bare midriffs, etc. Check with your friends and get their honest opinions! Examine your secret motives! Remember you can be appealing, lovely and beautiful — but modest in your dress at the same time. The key is to accentuate your total femininity — not your sexuality!
- b. **Demeanor:** Your overall conduct — how you walk, sit and carry yourself in general — is very important. If you appear overly active and aggressive, if you "flutter your eyes" with a "come-on" type of look, your actions can be misinterpreted by the fellows you meet. Being active in sports is one thing — but to carry this rugged tomboyish enthusiasm over into your daily relationships will scare most men away. Be friendly and vivacious, yes — but maintain a certain modesty and reserve. Your manner of life should always reflect a high degree of self-respect and propriety.

4. MY BOSS, WHO IS NOT IN THE CHURCH, KEEPS MAKING ADVANCES AT ME. HOW DO I HANDLE THE SITUATION WITHOUT GETTING FIRED?

First, be sure that you keep your relationship in the office as "strictly business. " Some girls get into trouble by being too friendly and unduly eager to serve, which some men misread as "invita-

tions" for advances. It pays to strike a careful balance between being responsive and cooperative and giving the impression that you are an easy mark with a low resistance level.

If the boss or supervisor makes an advance, however, plainly tell him how you feel: *"I think you are a fine boss, and I respect you a great deal. But, I can't allow myself to get involved. I respect you and your organization too much for that. Nor do I want to come between you and your family. I must be able to live with my conscience — and I always want to be an employee you can trust and have confidence in. If I degrade my standards, I won't respect myself as much — nor will I be as trustworthy an employee in my own mind. Since you've been fair with me in every other way, I know you'll honor my values."*

If this approach doesn't discourage him, you could possibly appeal to his boss for help, or ask for a transfer to another department. If all else fails, you may have to leave the company.

5. WITHOUT APPEARING FORWARD, HOW CAN I GET A CERTAIN GUY TO ASK ME FOR A DATE?

This can take a little "homework," but the KEY is to find out some of his interests which you can use to make yourself attractive to him. Learn something about his background by talking to his friends, or to other girls whom he has dated.

Then, work it out so you can meet him and be able to talk with him about some of these interests: You perhaps could introduce yourself to him while you "just happen" to be both walking to class, or sit down beside him at the dining hall, or invite him to a group party or a campus function. By talking to him about what HE likes, he will automatically think that you are an "unusually nice person" by showing an interest in what he enjoys. It can probably result in a prompt date for you — and a lasting friendship.

Don't be "gushy" or overdo it in trying to win his approval. Remember, most men don't like to be chased. It may drive him away if you come on too strong. Let him think he's chasing you. Doesn't the Bible say to the women: "Let her be chased (chaste)"?

6. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING FRIENDLY AND BEING FLIRTY?

Being flirty is a "cheap" way of attracting attention to oneself and the "wares" a girl has to offer. It's using subtle body movements and charm and flattering words to get a fellow to notice her — to like her — to date her. It's an expression of self-centeredness and immaturity. Most men don't "like" a flirty girl in the truest sense of the word. They may find it momentarily cute — but degrading in time.

A mature, feminine friendliness, on the other hand, is a gracious art that men find very appealing. We're talking about expressing a genuine outgoing concern for all people in general. She's able to make them feel respected and important, relaxed and comfortable. Kindness and compassion are trademarks of her life. Her profile is milder and sweeter — more becoming than the woman who tries to flirt her way to popularity and success.

7. HOW DO I TURN OFF A GUY I AM NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN, BUT WHO KEEPS BUGGING ME FOR DATES?

In some cases a girl has little recourse but to be boldly forthright and blunt. Perhaps you should have a private talk with him and tell him you like him as a friend — that he has nice qualities which you recognize and appreciate — but that right now you are not interested in a steady relationship. Be tactful and courteous. Don't leave him wounded and hurt — try to stress his good, positive points and build him up. But, also, make it clear where you stand. Let him know that you are not rejecting him as a person, but that you just don't want to get involved.

8. HOW CAN I BE PHYSICALLY ATTRACTIVE WITHOUT APPEARING SEXY?

This has to do with an inner attitude and one's selection of clothing. A girl can be well groomed and beautiful — without being "sexy." Clothes which accent the sexual aspect can get her a lot of cat calls and ogling looks, but is that really what she wants? A thinking girl will realize that sensible men will be looking for charm, poise, personality and character — as well as outward attractiveness.

By correctly emphasizing her total femininity, a girl can avoid the impression of emphasizing

sex. She should think in terms of graciousness and charm. A proper selection of hair style, clothing colors and patterns, and types of garments which don't emphasize solely the female shape and form can give her a lovely wardrobe and appearance which will BUILD HER RESPECT in the eyes of all who see her. I'm certainly not saying that you ought to wear shapeless clothing which looks like a flour sack. A woman's body has a definite shape and contours which proper fitting clothing cannot help but bring out. Just don't overdo it.

9. HOW CAN I TELL A GUY I'M NOT INTERESTED IN MARRIAGE WHEN I SENSE HE'S GETTING TOO SERIOUS?

This is another case where a candid discussion is necessary. If you're definitely not interested in this particular guy and the relationship could never work, kindly tell him so he'll know how you feel. To delay will only prolong the agony and the hurt. If you are simply not interested in marriage — period — for personal reasons such as wanting to complete college, pay off debts, enter a career first, etc., say so respectfully.

Let him know that you like him as a friend, but that you won't allow yourself to become serious with anyone right now! Let him down gently.

10. HOW CAN I OVERCOME SHYNESS, INFERIORITY, AND SELF-CONSCIOUS FEAR?

The best way to work on this type of problem is to participate in group activities which are easy for you — and where you don't stand out. Mingle in the group where you can loosen up and blend in socially. Don't start with the highest caliber of the "social elite." Start with those you feel comfortable with — perhaps whose background is similar to your own — and go up from there. There will always be some nervousness involved with new exposures. Don't worry about it. Just work on developing experience in small steps and confidence will come in time.

11. WHAT IF MY STEADY BOYFRIEND, WHO IS GENERALLY A TERRIFIC GUY, REQUESTS THAT I WEAR TIGHT FITTING CLOTHING OR MINI-SKIRTS WHICH I PERSONALLY FEEL IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR EVERYDAY USE?

First, be objective about his suggestion. Do your clothes fit well, or are they rather loose and old-fashioned? If so, perhaps you could use a change.

On the other hand, if you perceive that his suggestion comes from wrong reasons, you might want to be frank with him and say, *"If you really care for me, you won't ask me to do something that is contrary to my better judgment. I want to be someone you can respect, and I must follow my conscience."* Be honest with him, but with feminine gentleness.

12. WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT A RUMOR FROM STARTING THAT I'M SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN SOME GUY I HAVE ONLY DATED ONCE OR TWICE?

Very simple. Anyone can start such a rumor (perhaps the guy himself), but the best way to stop it is to date others. Don't date the same person all the time — make yourself available and give other guys a chance to take you out. And, if someone does come up and ask about a certain fellow, just smile and say, *"No, we're just friends. There's nothing serious between us."* Don't make a big scene. A simple answer is the best — in conjunction with a cheerful example.

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