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**Title: Your guide to men**

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Ladies, the men of Chicago want to help you understand their kind. So when asked to undress their deepest player secrets, they happily stripped down. Scores of delicious Chicago men generously gave me interviews and truths about themselves and their brothers. Here's a peek at their playbook. Learn the game ladies, and then play by your own rules. The Lifetime channel never taught you this.

On other women

- One guy told me that most men have probably slept with 20 percent--or one of every five--women who say hi to him on an average evening.
- If the waitress seems to be suspiciously snappy at your date, she's seen him bring in a rotation of ladies or she's among that 20 percent.
- If he's consistently taking you to places no one else has heard of, it's because no one else has heard of them. That's called hiding.
- When his phone rings but you can't hear his machine pick up, he's got it at low volume. He's either shielding his mom or another woman from getting in between your sheets. Let's hope it's another woman.

On getting some

- When he asks you to come up and "nothing will happen," he wants it to.
- The more he likes you, the more he'll follow your comfort zone.
- If he's not interested, he'll try to divert attention from getting intimate.

On communication

- When a guy asks for your number but not your last name, he's plugging you in as name + place, i.e. Jill Wrigley Field, and isn't so interested.
- If you meet a man and he tells you it's his birthday, his friend's last day here or that he just got a fat promotion and he's celebrating, he just couldn't think of a better pick-up line than "Hi."
- If he digs you, he can't play hard to get.
- According to him, your response time to his text message is directly proportional to

your interest level. That's exactly why always being available can work against you by allowing him not to have to work for you.

- As one man confided, "I'll have a good batting average, but I won't ever hit it out of the park." In other words, he's doing only what will keep him on your field.

- He'll give nondescript time frames, like, "We should go out sometime soon at some point in the near or far future."

- At 9:26 p.m. he'll leave you a message at work, "Damn, I can't believe I missed you."

- He'll date (but not necessarily sleep with) more than one woman to stop himself from getting overly excited about or attentive to one.

On the truth

- Men do share honestly the exact number of women they've been with--after a little number crunching. First, they happen to attach said number to a short Pythagorean theorem, divide by 25, take the square root of that dividend and simply subtract three for good measure. Or, as one man claimed, "I just take the number and cut it down by 80 percent."

- Women whose names are polysyllabic and too difficult to remember don't get factored into the above equation.

On sporting

- When you go to his softball game, it means you want a commitment; if he invited you, it means he wants one too.

- Showing you're enthused about the game--wanting to learn the ropes, wearing a cap--is sweet. Asking questions about the game during the game, not so sweet.

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