

**Paper: Chicago Tribune RedEye Edition (IL)**

**Title: You ask, Laura answers**

**Author: Laura Baron**

**Date: May 19, 2005**

Need advice about sex or relationships? I'm here to help. If you have a question, send it to [casualsex@tribune.com](mailto:casualsex@tribune.com). I'd love to hear what's on your mind.

**The deal:** A reader wrote about a longtime friend who continually declined his date invitations. Eventually she turned the tables and asked him out, claiming if they tried it maybe she could fall in "like" with him. When our man tried to pursue her after that, she told him "it's useless" because she wasn't into him and the date "meant nothing" to her. He's hurt, he wrote, because he was "so happy" with her and at least wants to be friends.

**My take:** "So happy" is when a roll of tightly wound, untraceable bills finds its way into your pocket. Not when a so-called friend gives you a sham night of mocked-up moments. This woman was never your friend. She saw you merely as a pawn to play with, not date. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been so nasty. You lost what you never had. Drop the ice pick and stop trying to chisel your way back into her cold world. Be done and get even. Find yourself a decent woman. Your happiness is the sweetest revenge.

**The deal:** A reader who has no problem getting first dates complained he can't seem to score a second. He thinks it may be because he likes to "prove he's a good catch" by talking about himself. He's wondering if it's his mouth that makes them run.

**My take:** If you've got it, there's nothing to prove. If she's interested, she'll ask for more ... and then you can start your jabbering.

**The deal:** A reader confided she can't "shake the feeling" her boy is stepping out on her. They've been dating for two years, and now that they're living together she's starting to feel suspicious. She blames her worries on her own sexual insecurities. She insists she's seen no real evidence he's cheating, and she's never been wary of her guy before.

**My take:** Your suspicions are rattled for a reason. Trust your gut. Your lack of confidence never affected your outlook before, so don't blame it now. If these insecurities are new, look further. Are you being touched differently? Are you and your guy less intimate? A change in his sexual attitudes toward you can be a sign he's messing around. Ask your guy what's up and listen to what he says. If you can't live with his word, why live with him?

**The deal:** An intolerant reader stopped me to express his disdain for his fiance's brother who just came out of the closet. Intolerant Guy wants his future brother-in-law banned from the wedding, claiming "gay men are weak and disgusting" and wants "no part of it."

**My take:** If you want someone worthy of scorn, find a mirror and spit at the reflection.

The deal: A reader told me how her boyfriend seems slow to commit. They've been dating for four years, and he still says he needs time to "make sure it's the right decision." She wants to "make the timing better."

My take: The only way to improve your timing is to find a partner who is actually ready.

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*Author: Laura Baron. REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR LAURA BARON IS A RELATIONSHIP COACH BASED IN CHICAGO. SHE CAN BE SEEN THURSDAYS ON "WGN MORNING NEWS."*

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