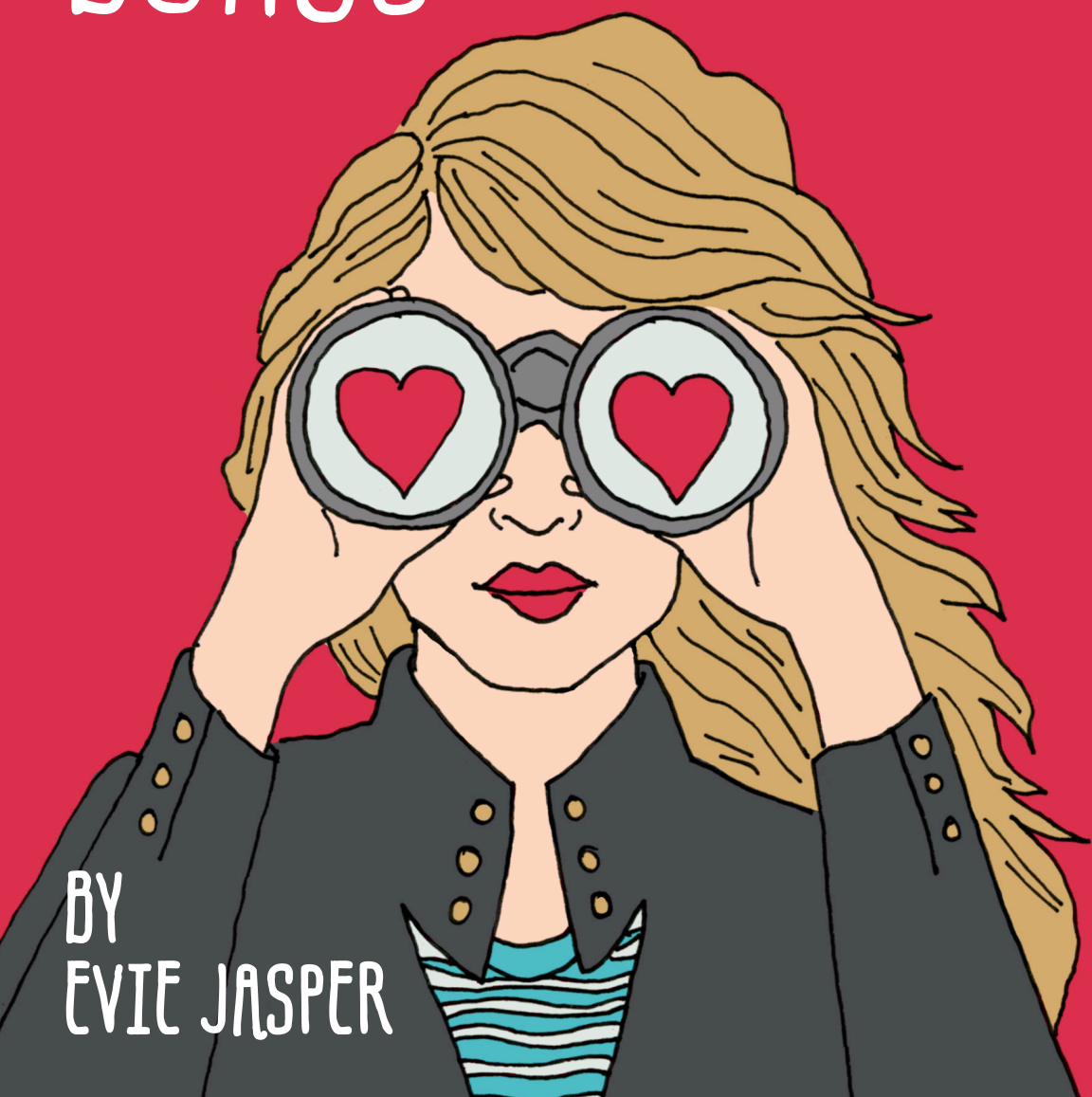
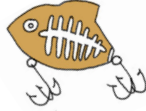


Real Men In BONUS



BY
EVIE JASPER



BONUS:
HOW AND WHEN
TO TELL A GUY
WHAT YOU WANT

HOW AND WHEN TO TELL A GUY WHAT YOU WANT

Crystal was thirty-two when she met Charlie, a jovial freelance cartoonist, on the dating site OK Cupid. Crystal was really started to like Charlie, she didn't want to scare him away, so she played it cool.

Right away though, a few little things sent her eyes rolling. His kitchen sink buzzed with flies. Smelly laundry piled at the foot of the bed. Looney Tunes trinkets covered every wall of his room. He never missed an Adult Swim. His wardrobe featured super heros. Every month he and his housemates threw ragers. Beer pooled on the floor; neighbors complained, mobs of people lingered in his living room until the wee hours of the morning.

While he socialized, as he flirted with other girls, her stomach churned. She slapped a permagrin on her face, sopped up the spills, reasoned with the little old lady next door, fed the mob, and pretended Charlie wasn't trying to sleep with all of the women he flirted mercilessly with.



She wasn't sure if and when she should bring up these little things or if they'd fix themselves with time. She liked Charlie and wanted him to like her. She didn't want to annoy him. She didn't want to come off as one of those nit-picky girls. He was a bit of a slob, a man-child, but he'd grow out of it, she figured. He'd get his priorities straight. He'd settle down. Be happy with one woman. All guys do eventually. He just needed to meet the right woman to spur him to step it up. A girl who knew how to take care of him. Pick a good, quiet neighborhood. Raise children. These were the things she wanted and imagined she'd have with Charlie. She could suck it up for a few more months.

Soon, to speed things up a little, she started hinting at small ways he could improve. She told him she wished he sent her more texts on her morning commute, so he wrote her 'good morning' texts. She wanted to check out a trendy brunch spot so he booked reservations for her birthday. She asked if they could go to wine country for a weekend, so they found a cute bed and breakfast, strolled vineyards, swished and spit Merlot, and ate cubes of cheese.

Although, even after he did these things, she wasn't completely satisfied. "He doesn't surprise me by doing sweet little things," she complained to her friends. "I always have to nag him first."

Six months later, their relationship still seemed like it was in the same place. He still lived in the bachelor pad, he still threw wild parties, he still brushed his teeth with a Donald Duck tooth brush and his Bugs Bunny nightlight still illuminated the judgy faces of Yosemite Sam, Daffy Duck, and Elmer Fudd that stared down on her as she tried to fall asleep beside him, pressuring her, reminding her, that something needed to change. Charlie was over thirty. He needed

his own place, real lamps, a plain toothbrush and a more stable life.

She switched her strategy. She curbed his bad habits. She suggested they stay in more. She told him to apply for a full time position at a studio so his schedule would more closely resemble hers. She nit picked. He needed to clean up after himself. She bought him button downs from J. Crew. She criticized him. When he flirted unsuccessfully with other women, she told him, "Girls like that would never go for you. You're lucky to have me." She plunked down a Pottery Barn catalog. The Looney Tunes needed to go. She picked out apartments in a neighborhood with more strollers and organic produce and emailed the ads to Charlie.

One night her resentment bubbled over. "This isn't going anywhere! You never do anything for me! You never take me out! You never show me you love me! We've been dating a year! We should be living together!" she cried, "Don't you love me?"

She was crushed when Charlie didn't move, didn't upgrade to the Abacus Table Lamp, quit his new job in a month, and didn't stop flirting with other women. Her broke up with her a month later.

Charlie liked the cool, laid back Crystal he first met. He didn't like the demanding, unhappy, controlling Crystal she'd become. He didn't understand her transformation. She felt like Charlie had drove her there. She didn't understand how she could be cool and laid back and still get what she wanted.

How and when you say what you want makes a big difference. With Crystal, she brought up her expectations too late. And once the truth came out, it came out angry, needy,

desperate and bitter.

Crystal made several mistakes that many women tend to make.

First, she tried to change Charlie. You can't mold a man into who you want him to be. It's doubtful one day Charlie's going to wake up and happily throw on a three piece suit, kick back in his Eames chair, munching on caviar and reading The New Yorker. She fell in love with Charlie for his warm, playful, laid back, creative personality. Crystal had an agenda and a timeline. She wanted a house and family and stable, quiet life. Charlie never lied to her on who he was. And she never asked Charlie what he wanted. She wrongly assumed Charlie had the same expectations.

Crystal pretended to be someone she wasn't to lure Charlie in. She wanted Charlie to think she was cool, confident and easy going. It's good to be relaxed, take your time, get to know a guy in the beginning. It's smart that Crystal didn't blurt out, "I really, really like you, I want to get married and have your babies in the next year!" but being laid back doesn't mean masking your preferences or personality. Being tolerant doesn't mean turning a blind eye. She wasn't ok with Charlie flirting with other women. With his slovenly mess. With toys cluttering his room. With the all-night partying. With his lack of effort.

But what happened when she decided she didn't want to be tolerant any longer?

What happens when you give up the act?

So many women act cool and go along with things at the beginning of a relationship. Then they get frustrated when the relationship doesn't progress like they expected. They wonder why isn't he calling me every day? Why isn't he doing all the sweet things I hope he'd do? Why isn't he

asking for a relationship? Is he seeing other women? They go in guns-a-blazing, asking the ever-dreaded, “Where are things going?” They get demanding.

In those early stages, men don’t do things because they feel pressured or obligated. They spend time with you and do sweet things out of their own selfish desires.

Here’s what it comes down to. If you’re more invested in a relationship than the man, when you put demands on him, he’ll either walk out or lie and tell you he’ll do what you want, but never come through. Men capitalize on women’s fears. They can disrespect a girl, put in minimal effort and hold out on commitment since they control all the deciding power. A guy won’t put more effort into a girl he knows he can have her whenever he wants. Yet, the girl who sets high standards and who a guy risks losing, he’ll respect and jump to fulfill her desires.

So when should you ask for what you want?

Crystal and many girls like Crystal waste months, even years on men like Charlie because they don’t communicate what they want in a relationship soon enough. They wrongly think: once I lure a guy in, then I’ll be honest, once he loves me, then I’ll let him see the ‘real me.’ For fear they’ll seem nit-picky, they hold her tongues. They let things slide. They put up with a lot of bullshit.

Charlie believed Crystal’s act. Charlie thought Crystal was happy because she acted happy. It’s not that Charlie didn’t want to please Crystal, he just didn’t know what she was after. She thought he’d guess what she wanted all on his own. To Charlie her shift came quick and out of the blue. One day she just flipped. But really Crystal’s resentment had been slowly building all along.

The Evie 5 Step Method to Get What You Want

Step One: Say FU to Fear

The first step is to get over your fear of losing a man by confronting him. Yes, if you are honest, you might risk a guy walking out, but it's a risk you've got to take. Especially during the early honeymoon phases of a relationship it can be tempting to tell a guy what he wants to hear and go along with everything rather than being entirely open. But hiding your true feelings only delays the inevitable.

Step Two: Establish Your Standards and Boundaries

Before you even enter a relationship set standards for what you want and boundaries for behaviors you won't accept. It might even help to make a list of your own requirements. *What type of man are you looking for? What level of commitment are you looking for? Do you want a man who wants kids and a family? Does he have to be religious? What type of financial security do you expect? How do you expect him to court you?* Know what you want and need going into a relationship so you are selective of who you choose to date.

Step Three: Confront Him on His Behavior

Men aren't mind readers. If you seem happy with a guy's actions, he'll assume you're happy. If a woman doesn't share what's bugging her or what she expects out of a guy, he isn't going to know and he isn't going to be able to fix it. Be open and honest with your expectations and boundaries. Men respect standards.

Now, I'm not saying lay down all your "I can'ts", "I won'ts," and "you better not's" over appetizers on the first date. You don't want to make it seem like you're ticking off

a list of demands. He'll think you're crazy.

How you handle the discussion makes a big difference. Finesse your delivery. Don't begin the discussion with all the things he isn't doing; start with the things he is doing. Be positive and praise him for everything he does right. Re-assure him that you do appreciate him, you're not trying to change him or groom him. Then, politely, in a calm voice, explain why his behavior is bothering you. Explain your requirements so they sound attainable and easy for him to act on.

For instance, Crystal could have confronted Charlie when she thought his flirting went too far by saying, "I always feel that if I'm dating a guy and it comes to point where I'd want to sleep with someone else, I'd tell the other person so we could decide together whether we want to still be in an exclusive relationship." By saying this, she's communicating to Charlie that she would be upfront and honest with him, and she requires him to do the same. If he wants to sleep around, he's going to have to let her know so they can make a rational decision together.

Step Four: Give Him Space to be the Exceptional Man He Is

Show a guy how to make you happy, but then pull back and give him room to prove on his own that he's worthy of your time. Crystal complained of Charlie's lack of effort. He sent her texts, took her to new restaurants, and wine country but only because she nagged him and told him those were the specific things she wanted. He gave her exactly what she wanted, but he thought he was done after that. She, on the other hand, assumed he'd changed. Instead of telling a guy what you like, tell him what you don't like and get him to

figure out how he can impress you and earn your praise.

Step Five: Evaluate Your Long-Term Compatibility

You aren't going to change a man. A man isn't going to 'grow up.' Throughout those first few dates you are getting to know each other so talk about your future desires and ask him his. Listen to what he has to say and evaluate whether your futures are compatible. Ask him his goals. Discover where a guy's life is headed in the short-term and long-term, how closely he is to achieving his goals, and where you might fit in his plan. This question sets a standard. You will only be with a man who's thought out his life and goes after what he wants. Ask him what he thinks about relationships. This is your opportunity to find out what he feels about long-term commitment, family, and children. Does he see himself as a father someday? If you have kids, this is the time to bring them up, because if he doesn't want kids, the relationship is probably not going anywhere. Does he have a good past relationship track record? Has he had a committed relationship? He might even share why it ended.

Be honest with what you are looking for sooner versus later. This strategy might push a lot of guys away. That's good. Let them go. They are just a waste of your time. Because the ones that do stick around are really going to work out.