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Readers

- *Just Out has an extra week in this issue cycle.**
- *We publish next on April 5.**
- *See you then.**



ADVICE

The blahs

No sparks and celibacy: *boooooiiiiinggg*

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

How can you tell if a relationship is right or not?

I have a boyfriend I'll call Tom who I've been with for nearly a year. We're both 35.

On paper, Tom is great. My friends think he's perfect for me; he's smart, nice and responsible. He also has money and the taste to buy nice things. But I don't feel as emotionally connected with him as I did with my last boyfriend.

Tom and I have the occasional blowup, and during those times, it seems like we're not so compatible. Then, just when it seems as if we're about to break up, we smooth things over and return to our regular life.

I love Tom, and I'm attracted to him, but I feel like something is missing. On the other hand, am I being greedy? Shouldn't I be happy with my "good enough" boyfriend?

I'm stressed at work. I keep telling myself maybe that's why I don't feel right with Tom.

So, should I wait it out for another year to see if I grow happier with him? In the meantime, it's hard to leave.

I'm not miserable. I'm just a little blah.

—Blah Blah

DEAR BLAH BLAH:

If you have to ask how to tell if a relationship is right or not, it's generally not.

Some people are happy to be moderately content together and actually thrive when there's not a lot going on emotionally. They don't need a passionate connection to feel fulfilled. Agreeing about politics, toothpaste and who sleeps on which side of the bed is enough for such people.

But it doesn't sound like you're that kind of person.

At the moment, you don't have enough motivation to leave, and you're not yet old enough to be paranoid about wasting your life. But sometime when you and Tom have a fight, you'll probably lack the incentive to patch it up, and you'll just drift apart like two little dandelions.

DEAR MS. BEHAVIOR:

I've known Jane for about two years. We hang out with the same group of friends; go to bars, movies and soccer games; and flirt with each other a lot.

I've had the feeling we've been moving toward getting closer—maybe toward sex, maybe toward a relationship. She's been single



Ms. Behavior

for a year now, and so have I.

The other day at a soccer game, one of our mutual friends clapped her on the back and said, "Hey, congratulations!" Jane got very shy and blushed and wouldn't tell me what the comment was about.

I teased her all night about keeping secrets from me, which simply isn't allowed. Finally, she told me she'd been celibate for a year, since she broke up with her last girlfriend.

Apparently, most of her other friends have known this. I hadn't known celibacy was a goal of hers at all and felt a little stung about being left out of the loop.

Do you think Jane kept it a secret because she wants to get together with me? Or do you think it's something more complicated than that? Maybe she doesn't want to have sex anymore.

I really like Jane a lot. How can I find out how she feels about me?

—Wishing She Were Mine

DEAR WISHING SHE WERE MINE:

Don't despair; Jane will want to have sex again.

When a lesbian decides to be celibate after a relationship ends, it's usually because she's afraid she'll leap into a new pair of clingy arms too quickly. Lots of lesbians claim to want casual sex between relationships, but most can't do it. The misguided urge to pack and move in often follows on the heels of even the most meaningful sweaty interlude.

Jane's year of celibacy probably helped her to feel protected from this. But unless she's taken a religious vow, she's likely to be relieved that her

year of sexual deprivation is over.

If Jane is flirting with you and blushing and withholding secret celibacy information, she's probably interested. Let her know how you feel about her, without talking it to death.

Looking someone in the eyes is seductive. Telling someone you find her attractive is sexy.

Open communication is sexy. Expressing your every neurotic fear isn't.

And if anything kills romantic desire, it's processing. Please pass this information on to every lesbian you know. ☐

Write your confused and conflicted heart out to Ms. BEHAVIOR at MsBehavior@aol.com.

