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Features

Motown Lowdown

The Essential Detroit music and entertainment scene.

Should she meet e-mail pal and under what terms?

JUL 9 years old and hasn't had a serious boyfriend in two years. My aunt set me up with this guy she knows who lives in California. I haven't met him yet, but we've been e-mailing each other for three months and exchanged photos. He wants me to come visit, out him and stay with him. It seems a bit extreme to spend a weekend together for a first meeting, but I am dying to meet him. Should I stay or go?

-Guesting in Groove Points

Dear Guesting:

You are Tim's e-mailing, girl. Pack your bags and get ready to have some fun. Make sure, however, to book your own hotel in case he's psycho or just not what you expected. This way you have an escape. You don't want to end up in a miserable or uncomfortable situation all weekend.

- Rehan

No way! That is too scary. If you really have to meet him, have him come visit you. That way, you are in a familiar place. Plead family and friends around in case something happens. Spending the weekend together upon your first meeting is a little extreme, don't you think? Instead get him to have a hotel room and meet in a public place. You can never be too careful.

- Leena

If your aunt set you up, then what the hell are you? Just don't go with any intentions of getting married. Go with the intention of meeting a new friend and going on vacation in California. You have a free place to stay, the mountains and the beach. And from what it sounds like, you have a nice host. Check your luggage and earn some frequent flyer miles.

- Rehan

Give it some time before you make a commitment to meet. You may also feel more comfortable meeting him in person if you spend more time speaking with the phone. There is something about e-mail, although convenient, that is just too impersonal. You may develop new feelings, good or bad, once you get more personal on the phone.

- Rubi

Have a friend who I have known for about five years off and on. We never dated because she was married at the time. She has been divorced twice since then. We have met for drinks probably twice since then. Recently, she broke up with her boyfriend of two years. We went to a concert and she said she had a good time. I have called her once on the phone, and we occasionally e-mail each other. I have asked her to do things but she had to decline due to her having plans already. She has never asked me to do anything. Sisters, what would you be your advice? How would I tell her that I would like to spend more time with her? Should I just directly ask or maybe date versus just hanging out once in a while?

-Suffering in Sterling Heights

Dear Suffering:

For all you men out there, if you like a woman, then ask her out on a formal date. There is nothing more attractive than a confident gentleman. Just pick up the phone and ask her if you can take her to dinner Friday or Saturday night. Then you drive her to her house and pick her up. You open her door, you delight her with witty conversation. Share a bottle of wine over a five-course meal, flirt and compliment her. Finish the evening with walking her to the door. Call in a few days to tell her you had a fantastic time and that you'd like to do it again. I'm sure if you follow my directions exactly, she will accept your next offer.

- Rehan

She just broke up with her boyfriend of two years. Give her a little more time to get used to being single again. Be a good friend and be there for her. Be supportive and maybe you won't have to say anything, maybe things will just happen naturally.

- Rubi

Unfortunately my advice is to direct your energy toward a new pursuit. You've asked her to do things, and she politely declined. If she hasn't reciprocated the invitation, I'm sure she's not interested.

- Rehan

Just let it out already? You need to sit her down and tell her how you feel without any hesitation, but before you do, just be prepared for whatever you might hear. The situation may be awkward if the feelings aren't mutual.

- Leena