



It's Complicated

Life coach and motivational speaker Fléchelle Morin addresses your relationship questions. This month: *Getting to 'I do.'* —How to let go of Mr. Wrong

BY FLÉCHELLE MORIN

Q. I am twenty-seven years old and have been with my boyfriend for eight years now. I want to be married and start a family and I thought he did, too. But he's told me for the last three years that he is going to propose to me and never does. I'm tired of waiting for him to give me a ring every holiday or special occasion that goes by is torture wondering if *this* is the one when he will finally propose. This past Valentine's was the last straw. Instead of a proposal I got a pair of goggles and a snorkel, along with a brochure to a Cancun resort. I can't hide my pain anymore and it seems that our relationship has become a sparring match of me nagging him and him dodging my blows. As many times as I've tried, I just don't have the courage to leave him and start all over again with someone else. How can I get my boyfriend to propose so I can start planning our future together?

A. I hear from women all the time who find themselves in exactly your situation and feel helpless—and hopeless—to change it. Like you, these women, have become desensitized to men who refuse to move forward in their relationships or to make a commitment to marriage. And, overtime, the more desensitized these women become, the more tolerant they are of men who fail to deliver on their promises.

The reality is, men are as good as women require them to be. You *can* get what you desire (perhaps with your boyfriend; if not, someone else), but the road to happiness...and marriage...must begin with YOU!...

Make the commitment to be married.

You have to first commit to *yourself* to be married, and then act on that commitment, before you can find a man in search of the same thing. Just like networking to land that perfect job or going to Open Houses in search of your dream home, you need to put yourself in the right place, both mentally and physically, to make your goals a reality.

You *say* you want to be married, but yet you have stayed with a man who clearly does not want to be married to you (at least not right now, anyway.) So what does that say about *your* commitment level to marriage? A woman who truly wants to be married rub elbows with marriage-minded men. Period.

Have conviction.

Be confident in your belief that being married is the future you want and the future you will get, and your conviction will give you the strength you need to move forward. You say your boyfriend doesn't want to be married? Respect his position; then move on to find someone you could find love with that who does.

Feel the fear and do it anyway.

After spending eight years with your boyfriend, and hanging on for the last three expecting a proposal, I understand the fear you must have about leaving him to start over with someone else. But unless you have the courage and the conviction of your desires, why would your boyfriend ever feel compelled to ask for your hand in marriage?

After all, he knows you won't leave him no matter how many times he dodges his promises. In the end, if you don't take your commitment seriously, why should he?

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“A WOMAN WHO TRULY WANTS TO BE MARRIED RUBS ELBOWS WITH MARRIED-MINDED MEN.”

Be prepared if he decides to walk.

The only way you can 'get a man' to propose to you is by letting him do so *if* he wants to, *how* he wants to and *when* he wants to. I know some women who have used manipulation to get a man to marry them, but a proposal founded on cunning and coercion does not a happy marriage make.

Instead, give your boyfriend (or any other man in your future) the opportunity to willingly propose to you. Begin by telling him that you love him very much, enjoy his company and truly appreciate all he has done for you. Tell him also that you understand and respect the fact that he does not want to be married to you and, although it saddens you because you would have liked to marry him, you will no longer be able to date him exclusively. Explain that you need to start to dating other men who share the same commitment to be married as you do, and because of this, you will also need to stop being intimate with him.

Do not say this as a threat, as a way to make your boyfriend propose to you or to force him prematurely into marriage. Instead, say this so you can keep your commitment to *yourself* to be married. That is all.

Your declaration may give your boyfriend pause for thought about what he truly wants...ultimately ending in a marriage proposal. Or he may walk. Either way, you must act on your commitment to be married to get what you truly want: a man who wants to be married and build a family with you....

Fléchelle Morin is a Certified ASR Coach, Dating to Marriage Coach & Motivational Speaker, and the author of the book, "Kissing or No Kissing; Whom Will you Save Your Kisses For? A Dating Guide to Creating Your Dreams." Email Fléchelle at flechelle@nokissing.com or visit nokissing.com for more information about Fléchelle's book, dating philosophy or to schedule her as a speaker at your next event. Copyrighted 2010 by Fléchelle Morin



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Pookey: Yes! And Jennifer Anniston, too. 'Eat you heart out Brad!'... What did you think about Julia Roberts' dress?

Muffy: I think she was perfectly dressed...for a backyard ho-down! Personally, I couldn't take my eyes off of Nicole Kidman. Her skin is just flawless. She must really have good genes.

Pookey: Or a cosmetic surgeon on retainer. Speaking of which, have either of you had anything 'done'?

Daphne: No. But I would love to!

Muffy: Yeah, I got Botox and I was hooked after the first time.

Daphne: Does it hurt?

Muffy: No, they put numbing cream on your face first so you only feel a little prick of the needle, but you can hear the solution going in...

Daphne: (loud gasp)

Muffy: Especially if your skin is real tight.

Pookey: Well, your skin is beautiful... you know it...and we hate you. Just kidding...I think. So where exactly did they put it?

Muffy: On the lines on my forehead and the fine lines around my eyes. I don't know why they call them 'fine'; there's nothing fine about them!

Pookey: And the results?

Muffy: I definitely looked younger and the lines around my eyes were almost gone—even after years of playing tennis in the sun. My forehead looked like a sheet of glass!

Daphne: Can I use that on my Marriott lines?

Pookey: Marriott is a hotel chain, sweetie. You mean *Marionette!*

Daphne: (laughing) Oh, well, you know what I mean!

Pookey & Muffy: (together) Not always!

Pookey: Well, speaking of looking new and improved...remember the last time we got together, we talked about Kate Gosling's new hair extensions?

Daphne: I still haven't seen a picture of her yet.

Pookey: Well, too late! After spending \$7,000 on her new look and showing off her extensions on the cover of *People* magazine, she just had them chopped off to shoulder length. Evidently she was quoted as saying, "My hair looked too over-processed and I didn't want to look like one of Tiger Wood's bimbo's!"

Daphne: Or John's?!

Pookey: *Ooh, zinger!* I bet you Sarah Palin would have a field day with that. I just read Fox TV offered her a multi-year deal as a news commentator and she accepted. And today I read she might even consider running for President in 2012. What do you think she (or any other woman) might bring to this position that a man hasn't?

Daphne: Common sense!

Muffy: Practicality!

Pookey: No mistress! But seriously, I don't know if Sarah Palin would get my vote, but there is one woman in politics right now who really has my interest—Meg Whitman, former President and CEO of eBay. She wants to run against Arnold for Governor of California in the next election...and with her brains and the money she got from cashing in her stock options... she just might pull it off!

Thanks for joining us. Until next month, 'See you in the chat room!'

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