

Get into yourself if he's not

For generations, women of all ages have wrestled with the following dating predicament: "I went out with this guy last week. We had a wonderful time. In fact, it was instant attraction. Bells rang and everything was perfect. He was kind, considerate and gorgeous to look at. He kissed me goodnight and then said he'd call. That was two weeks ago and he still hasn't called. What did I do wrong?"

Those two weeks are probably the longest in any gal's life because I know they were for me. Hibernating in my home like a black bear in



Generations

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winter, I never dared to be more than a few feet from the phone other than to go to school or later on in life to go to work. Trips to the bathroom were timed to 30 seconds flat. Family members were forbidden to use the phone except for emergencies and the ring

was turned so loud, the walls would shake.

Sadly, the days would pass with no call and eventually the memory of a glorious date would fade into the recesses of my mind of yet another disappointment in life. But one thing didn't fade: what on earth had I done wrong?

Now, decades later, the answer has become crystal clear. I didn't do a darn thing wrong. The reason the boy/man/older man didn't call is right there in the title of the 2006 best selling book, "He's Just Not That Into You." Authors Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo, those kicky writers of the hit show "Sex and the City," decided to share a new set of dating standards for women and one of the items they tackled was the call back ... or rather the lack of the call back.

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Usually, a woman's first instinct is to make a mental assessment of how she looked and how she behaved on the date. Did she look fat in the dress she wore? Was there lettuce stuck in between her teeth during or worse after dinner? Should she have ordered a la carte rather than the whole expensive dinner? Should she have stuck with a sandwich rather than order that difficult to roll spaghetti? Did she laugh too much? Worse, did she laugh when she shouldn't have? Was she boring? Did she talk too much? At one point, she took a quick breath after a long dissertation about her dog. Did he notice?

Ah ... and the goodnight kiss. Was it a pity kiss? And when he jotted down her phone number and said he would call, did he somehow lose the scrap of paper? Had it wiggled out of his grasp and shoot straight up into oblivion?

No, apparently all the mental torture after each one of these disappointments wasn't necessary. The six little words, "He's just not that into you," sums up exactly why the phone refused to ring. And it's so liberating to finally know the truth.

If I had been told those six little words by anyone on earth during my two weeks of phone watch, whether it be by my parents, siblings, friends or even enemies, my natural reaction would have been,

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GENERATIONS: Get into yourself

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"Oh. Well, OK. I can live with that." The ego would have remained in tact because the mystery had been solved. No more trying to figure out if I should have done something different. My problem had become his problem. He had, after all, made a blunder by not calling.

The book also has an answer to another common scenario. Suppose you spot the fellow who said he would call and didn't weeks, months, or even years later, perhaps across the room at a party, and the first words out of his mouth are, "I was busy." You haven't said a word, but he figures that's what you will ask him. "I was busy" really means, according to Greg who made an appearance on the Oprah show: "Busy means I'm the President of the United States. I'm an astronaut, and I'm on another planet. I'm in a really successful band. What it means in relationships is 'I'm just not that into you.'"

So, when you hear the words "I was busy," it should now be your cue to smile, pretend to spot another friend on the other side of the room, give a quick wave to that person you don't really know, and quickly walk away. Stroll over to that complete stranger, don't look back, and instead concentrate on what to say now that you've gotten the atten-

tion of a very handsome man who happens to be standing in front of you wondering who you are.

The book goes on to set some excellent standards for women to raise the bar for themselves so I thought I would share them with you. Tell yourself, "I will not go out with a man who: (a) keeps me waiting by the phone, (b) is not sure he wants to date me, (c) makes me feel sexually undesirable, (d) drinks or does drugs to an extent that makes me uncomfortable, (e) fears talking about the future or (f) is married."

Finally, use a mantra that is probably the crux of the entire book: "I will not, under any circumstances, spend my precious time with a man who has already rejected me or who is not clearly a good, kind, loving person."

And the next time you find yourself wondering if that cool guy you met a few nights ago lost your phone number, grab your keys and go out and catch a movie or pay a visit to a family member or a good friend. If you dare and truly have the courage, take another giant step before you leave the house. Turn off your answering machine off.

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