

By Courtney Sandora



I Love Him, But... HE'S INCREDIBLY JEALOUS

At some point every person who's ever been in a relationship has been jealous. While sometimes that jealousy can be a bit endearing, other times a guy can cross the line. Marilyn Anderson, author of *Never Kiss a Frog: A Girl's Guide to Creatures from the Dating Swamp* (Red Rock Press, \$14), had a date accuse her of sitting too close to the guy next to her in a movie theater.

"Jealousy is ultimately a sign of a man's insecurity," Anderson reveals. "You need to evaluate on what level your man becomes jealous. If he won't let you drive a car because driving offers you too much freedom, then jealousy becomes a problem. However, if he is slightly jealous when another guy is paying attention to you at a party, that can be harmless and even flattering."

I Love Him, But... HE'S A FIRST-CLASS SLOB

Your man cuts his toenails and lets them fall on the carpet as you watch TV; he thinks his floor is the appropriate place to "hang" clothes and a nasty funk is growing on the dishes piling up in his sink. You love him, but will you still love him after picking up his dirty gym socks month after month?

Anderson suggests taking a long, hard look at how much you are willing to put up with when it comes to issues of cleanliness, and then ask your man to make these changes. "A guy will make an effort to change if he cares enough about you, and you deserve someone who wants to make you happy," she assures.

Draft a mental list of ways he can, literally, clean up his act. Talk to him in a non-threatening manner about how these changes in his behavior are important to you and see if he responds. If he does make an effort, he could be a keeper.

I Love Him, But... HE'S SO SECRETIVE

There are times when you wonder if your guy is actually a CIA agent. He is vague about where he's been, what he's up to this weekend and how he knows his female friends. Can you love a man without knowing everything about him?

"In the beginning a mystery man can be exciting, but if he's mysterious for too long, you should disappear," advises Anderson. "Ask yourself why he's being so secretive and why you are allowing yourself to be with someone who holds back."

Evaluate what stage in your relationship you are in to determine how much he should still be holding back and whether you feel like he's leaving you in the dark too often. If he won't give you his number or let you see his home, take these signs as red flags.

I Love Him, But... HE'S A SPACE CADET

Sometimes you wish you were a sports announcer. Maybe then your man would pay attention to what you're saying for more than five seconds. You know your boyfriend cares about you, but when it comes to listening, he tends to tune you out.

"More often than not, men are missing the communication gene," reveals Anderson. But, if a guy never listens to your "everyday" talk—frustrations at work, with family or friends—then he may actually be very selfish. "If he doesn't listen, he basically doesn't care what you have to say," believes Anderson. "It's like having great sex with no intimacy. Someone who doesn't listen will leave you emotionally unfulfilled."

I Love Him, But...

HE'S AN OBSESSIVE WORKAHOLIC

If your boyfriend gave you even half the attention and passion he dedicates to his job, you would be a happy woman. Unfortunately, your man is more concerned with advancing his career than his relationship with you.

"If business consumes him every minute, when he comes home to bed, don't you be in it," warns Anderson.

But if you're not sure if he's simply very ambitious, rather

than a complete workaholic, Anderson advises you to look out for these signals that interfere with your relationship: he constantly breaks plans with you, arrives late for dates and regularly handles work calls on his cell phone when you're out together.

If his 100-percent commitment to his career doesn't thrill you now, it probably won't make you any happier 10 years down the road, either.