
Don't let your fingers talk

Slick City by Heather Setka
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My single girlfriends have been bemoaning technology lately. Texting has improved shopping, dining and socializing in infinite ways. But it's become a dating detriment. Here's a typical exchange:

Him: Hey what's up? You: Not much. You? Him: Not a whole lot. Wanna to do something 2nite?

What happened here? Did he seriously deny me the thrill of hearing him squirm his way up to The Question? And what do my fingers say back?

I called Cara Anderson from Calgary-based Six Minute Dates for her take. (Six Minute Dates is just what it sounds like, but don't necessarily let that deter you. They've had 65 permanent couplings since they started in 2002. And there are several August events planned for age groups up to 45. Hit up www.sixminutedates.com.)

Is it possible, I asked her, men are so intimidated by women that texting has become a saviour of sorts for their physically debilitating timidity?

"If a man is choosing to only communicate by text, he's got something else going on. No matter how shy," Anderson says.

Well, don't go sugar-coatin' it.

Anderson says texting should compliment dating communication, not take it over. Sweet nothings like, "Thinking about you" are acceptable. But technology hasn't revolutionized dating protocol beyond the need to dial a woman's digits. Especially for a first date.

So as my civic duty, here's a list of things that should NOT be requested over text:

- A date
- Forgiveness
- Sex
- Money
- Divorce/A Break/Permission to cheat

For those guys paying attention (the ones not composing a text to solicit one of the above), an army of PDA-wielding men has made things real easy for you. A basic phone call is so thrilling that it might melt a woman's heart. She may actually agree to your proposition. For a date, that is.

But if you're calling her today, you're cutting it close to the weekend. So you'd better make it good by offering her a ticket to Cirque de Soleil's Corteo (www.cirquedusoleil.com) or the Calgary Fringe Festival (www.calgaryfringe.ca), beginning tonight and Friday respectively.

Now, those are creative dates we won't say no to, even if we're just not that into you. And maybe even if you ask by text.

But if you do, this is how Cara Anderson says a lady's fingers should respond: **Sounds great. Call me.**

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