

He Still Hasn't Popped the Question. Should You Give Him an Ultimatum?

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By Terry Hernon MacDonald

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You've been dating the man forever, and he has yet to cough up a ring. You spend every single weekend with him. You endure his flatulent buddies from college. You put up with his lunatic mother. You alternate spending holidays with his family and yours, spending handsome sums on gifts for his nieces and nephews. You cook for him. You've baked him birthday cakes. Occasionally you even do his laundry.

Should you give him an ultimatum? Doesn't he owe it to you to marry you after all you've done for him?

No.

After all, it was you who decided to endure people you don't like. It was your idea to cozy up to his nieces and nephews to show him how much you love children. You cooked and baked and did his laundry to prove that you're superior wife material. All this in the hopes of winning the ultimate prize package: The ring! The dress! The 7-day/6-night trip to the romantic destination of your choice!

And all he ever does is take you for granted.

Of course he takes you for granted. You don't have a life of your own. Your goal in life is to get married, you're pinning your hopes on him, and he knows it. Put yourself in his place: Wouldn't you take you for granted?

If you truly love him (and consider this carefully; do you love him, or do you love the idea of getting married?), don't give him an ultimatum. It's never smart to give any man an ultimatum. Ask yourself: Do you really want to marry a guy you had to strong arm? Don't you deserve better?

Ask yourself what marriage to an ambivalent husband might be like. If the guy takes you for granted now, how bad will he be in five years when you've given birth to children who scribble on the kitchen

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wall, and he remains slumped on the couch while you scurry to scrub it off? How bad will he be in 10 years when, on top of cooking, cleaning, and laundry to do, you still have homework to supervise and Halloween costumes to make?

Stop yourself now. Otherwise, one day sooner than you think, you will find yourself among the legions of women who complain that their husbands never do a damn thing around the house, and you'll have nobody to blame but yourself.

So, take a step back. Decide what you really want from life. Determine whether this particular man is the right companion for the trip. Cease spending all your free time with him. Replace a bad habit with a good one by taking a class, signing up for yoga, or going away for the occasional weekend with the friends you've been neglecting since you hooked up with What's-His-Name. In other words, don't be so available.

Fill your time with opportunities to meet new people. Get to know yourself better (you're worth getting to know). By all means, hang out with the guy from every now and then but limit time with his family. Resist all inclinations to "wife and mother" him. Let him bake you a cake for a change.

Will he come to his senses? Will he fall on both knees and make all your Cinderella fantasies come true?

Well, here are three possibilities: 1) He won't miss you all that much, freeing you to find happiness elsewhere; 2) You'll realize you don't miss him all that much and hold out for a man who'll love you as much as you love him; or 3) He'll ask you to marry him, and you'll tell him yes or no, confident that you're making the best choice for your own future happiness.

Keep in mind that if you say yes, the guy's obnoxious college buddies and lunatic mother are part of the package. If you're clever, you may get away with scaling back on his nieces and nephews' gifts a bit. How much baking, cooking, and laundry you take on, however, is entirely up to you.

Terry Hernon MacDonald is the author of "How to Attract and Marry the Man of Your Dreams" and the host of "Romance Talk with Terry" on

radio. Visit her website at

Fun Kid Party Balloon Games

By Anne-Marie Killer

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Here are some kid party balloon game ideas your kid and his/her guests will love!

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Have lots of prizes for the winners.

These games are best played outdoors!

"Easy Teams" The kids have to line themselves up from shortest to tallest – BUT they are not aloud to talk! They may use gestures etc. but no talking. Once lined up, let alternate kids step forward. This is one team – the kids remaining in line is the other team.

"Nose the Balloon" Let the kids make teams of two. Each team gets a large balloon they must blow up. Between them, they must keep the balloon in the air bumping it only with their noses. Each time it falls on the ground they loose a point – each team starting with say 100 points. The team who takes the longest to loose all its points is the winner

"Pass the Balloon" Each team gets a sausage balloon they must blow up. Line the teams up, giving the kid in front each a balloon. They must squeeze the balloon between their knees, balloon pointing forward. On the word go, the kids must pass the balloon to the next kid in the line, without using hands and without dropping or popping it! A dropped balloon must be picked up using knees only. A popped balloon is replaced with a new one, but the team must start again. Have prizes for the winning team.

"Stomp the Balloon" Each kid gets a balloon and a piece of string about a yard long. They must blow up the balloon and tie the string to the balloon and to his ankle. There should be enough string between the foot and the balloon. The kids must now try to stomp and pop each other's balloons. The winner is the last one with an un popped balloon.

"Balloon Relay" Each team gets 10 balloons. The first one to go in each team must blow the balloon up, then run to a marked line and then pop the balloon by sitting on it or stomping it. Once the balloon has popped they must run back and tag the next team member who repeats the process. The winner is the team who has popped all its balloons first.

"Toss the Water Balloon" Kids stand face to face in pairs holding one water balloon per pair. They toss it to each other. After each successful toss they take one step back. The pair whose tossing distance is the greatest, without dropping the balloon, is the winner

"Have a Popping Balloon" Kids in pairs stand in a line, back to back. Each pair has a balloon held between their backs. On "go" they should try and pop the balloon using only their backs. First pair whose balloon pops is the winner. Play until all balloons are popped.

"Balloon Number Game" Kids stand in a circle all numbered from one onwards. The kid with the highest number goes in the center. He holds a balloon, shouts a number and throws the balloon up in the air. The kid whose number was called must catch the balloon before it touches the ground. He or

she then repeats the process. Whoever fails to catch the balloon is out. Have a parent throw the balloon when only 2 kids are left.

"Water Balloon Relay" Divide kids into two teams. Provide each team with a number of water balloons.

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(At least one balloon per team member) The first one to go in each team must place a water balloon between its knees and hobble to the finish line, dropping the balloon in a bucket without using hands. He/she then runs back to the team, tags the next kid and the process is repeated. If the balloon is dropped the kid must grab it by hand, run back to the start and start all over. The winning team is the one who manages to get the most balloons in their bucket.

Anne-Marie Killer is a mother of two teenagers and a toddler. She is the webmaster and owner of www.Perfect-Party-Ideas.com Read her blog where she documents the process of setting up <http://www.Perfect-Party-Ideas.com> at <http://www.perfect-party-ideas.blogspot.com>

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