

CAN THIS BE LOVE?

PEACE TREATIES Why it's smart to kiss eyes-open when you make up

Everybody fights. I wouldn't be surprised if even Princess Diana occasionally calls Prince Charles "a royal pain." But if fighting is a constant in relationships, so is making up. Everybody makes up (eventually) and knowing your partner's style of fence-mending can help you negotiate peace terms to your best advantage. See if you can recognize your own make-up artist among the following.

The Plea Bargainer: This is the guy who'll make you an offer you can't refuse, as in: "I'll say I'm sorry if you'll say you're sorry." Of course, he doesn't understand why you're so angry in the first place, simply because he told your mother that you like to

make love in cars, but he's willing to let bygones be bygones—that is, if you are.

Take his offer, lousy as it is. He's not going to make a better one, and you can always make him pay for his loutishness another way—for instance, by telling his mother how often he wears the same underwear two days in a row.

The Conciliator: The conciliator can't stay angry for long. He'll do anything to make you like him again—I mean, if you're furious with him because he forgot to do the shopping, this guy will go out at 1:00 A.M. and drive twenty miles to an all-night market to get what's on the list: a bottle of capers, some paprika and a frozen spaghetti dinner.

The conciliator is invariably ready to make peace before you are, and you should always accept his surrender graciously. You might even match his repentance with a little of your own, as in: "Okay, maybe I shouldn't have told your boss that he'd be doing himself a big favor if he took off some of that blubber."

Mr. Right: For men like this, saying "I'm sorry" is like saying, "I'm a spineless jellyfish and a disgrace to the male gender." If you don't want your fights to drag on to the next national holiday, you'll have to make the first move toward peace. Do so, and Mr. Right

will probably feel very generous. He might even admit that he could have found a better way to describe your father to his friends than by saying he was the original model for Mr. Potato Head.

The Seducer: The seducer thinks that sex makes everything all right. When you get angry at his response to your efforts at international cookery ("Is this veal piccata, or a medicated innersole? Ha ha."), this clown will nuzzle your neck and say, "You're the only dish I'm interested in tonight."

This man needs to learn the difference between sexual play and sexual placating. Ask him how he'd feel if you raffled off his autographed photo of Mr. T and then responded to his anger by patting his behind and saying, "You're the only hunk this household needs."

The Amnesiac: This man ends a fight by conveniently forgetting that it ever happened. He may remember the names of every model Plymouth ever made, but he can't recall the fight you had twenty minutes ago trying to place the blame for a parking ticket.

The best thing to do with this fellow is remind him of your fight, but tell him you're willing to forget it, too—as long as he promises never again to tap your forehead and say, "Nobody's home up there."

The Big Spender: This guy thinks that money can make everything better, and that your integrity can be bought for the price of a lobster dinner. My advice is not to let him know how reprehensible a notion this is until after you've accepted his peace offering. You haven't compromised yourself so much that you can't still make it clear to him that if he ever again does an imitation of your mother having a sinus attack for the delight of his friends, you will add to their merriment by showing them his membership card to The Hair Transplant Club of America.

The Analyst: The analyst wants to know "What's your problem?" He's not ready to make up until he understands why you willfully misconstrued a generous impulse and got mad at his offering your spare room for two weeks to an old girlfriend who just lost her job (as Miss California 1983).

Don't let him put you on the defensive. Ask instead why he can't seem to let go of the past, and if it has anything to do with the old Mickey Mouse doll he still keeps under some records on the floor of his closet.

The Court Jester: This man believes that laughter is the best medicine, and that it will cure any breach between the two of you. You may be determined not to talk to him after a fight over his seeming inability to be civil to your friends. (He tends to ask them questions like, "So, Marilyn, who are you trying to drag to the altar this week?") But suddenly he does his imitation of your mother having a sinus attack, and you crack up.

My advice: Enjoy this guy, and consider yourself lucky that he likes to make up by making you laugh, rather than by taking you to his brother's falafel restaurant for dinner.

Finally, remember that whatever your partner's style, to fight is human, to make up divine. And that's true no matter whose way you do it.

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