



Would You Ever Give Your Significant Other A Freebie?

What keeps a couple together—and can a relationship survive the perils of a one-night stand?

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16 Awful Places To Dump Someone

Here are some other awful places to dump someone — add your own places in the comments!

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or two. I've had my share of disaster dates, beer-goggled hookups, and I'm over my loner, "there is dignity in being single" phase (thank you "Singles," the movie). Every time I am out in my hood, my eyes are peeled, but Jen is in my apartment for four days and conjures up a man? What the hell?

A few days later another email came through:

From: JEng
To: TLynch
Subject: Score
He took me to Sixth Ward and then we went back to his place. His apartment is sick ... the sex was great.
 Jen

I bristled at my computer screen. *That's MY block, MY dog ... that should be MY great sex!*

I've long suspected that I haven't been using Max to his full potential after seeing the loads of adoration he gets while on our daily walks through the 'hood. I've witnessed the biggest tattooed tough guys crack their angry façade to bend over and play kissy face with him. He was a man magnet.

I slapped my laptop closed. That was it. I was putting that dog to work the minute I got home!

Sunday morning bath time was extra long so Max's black coat and white tuxedo markings were shining. The both of us smelling fresh and lookin' fly, we stepped out for our morning walk, which ended at the local coffee spot. All the other dogs were tied up and relaxing, sniffing each other's butts, while their owners sat lined up on the benches. I tied up Max, found a spot on the bench, and let him do his thing.

"Is this your son? He's a cute little guy." One of the old toothless regulars I'd seen here before put his hand out for Max to sniff and lick. I smiled, knowing Max's charms were starting to work.

I sat and read while couples brought their kids over to play with Max, other dog owners grilled me on his age and breeding, and the coffee lovers that milled in and out of the store told me how adorable he was. So far it was a good morning.

"What's his name?" I heard behind me and turned to see dark eyes, dark hair, and muscular arms embracing Max. Caught—hook, line, and sinker! I put on my best smile and tried to reel this one in.

We talked about our mutual love for Frenchies—he had two—while Max hopped on his back legs for attention.

"Sit!" I stood and barked at Max. *Chill, son, your work is done!*

"He's great."

"Thanks." I moved closer.

"You live around here?" he asked. He checked me out for a split second.

"No, I'm closer to Delancey Street, but this is a nice walk in the morning. You?"

"I'm up the street." He pointed with his coffee cup in hand.

Our conversation switched to the lure of the coffee spot, the welcomed arrival of fall—it's been too hot—and my recent trip to Asia, about which he seemed genuinely interested.

"I should get moving. Maybe I'll see you here again?" he said with a smile and what sounded like a little hope in his voice.

I nodded. "Yeah, maybe," I said with more nonchalance than I felt.

He gave Max a pat and waved as he took off down the street.

I bent down and gave Max a pat and a scratch behind the ears.

"Good boy, Max. Good boy!"

Photo: iStockphoto

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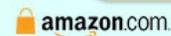
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