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How To Turn A Fling Into A Relationship



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In my mind, every relationship pretty much starts off as a fling. We live in a world now where courtship, as they once called it, kind of doesn't really exist. We meet people through friends or at bars or shows, and we drunkenly hook up. If the sex is decent and that person doesn't totally repulse us when the sun rises and we sober up, we might think about giving them a text again some day. This is one version of the way we shack up.

The other involves the internet. Forget about the mundane regularity of dating sites (meeting someone online is no longer just reserved for so-called pathetic nerds and widows, but for all of us), social media and online profiles allow us to completely scope out, stalk and judge potential suitors from the comfort of our smartphones.

We can communicate in the online world for months without ever meeting IRL — that's web talk for "In Real Life" — and get to know that person through our carefully calculated online personalities and Facebook profiles. So, when we eventually do meet up IRL, we feel as though we know one another and **intimacy occurs** quickly.

Today, courting, dating and waiting for that first kiss are pretty much an old-school joke. We have careers to focus on, friends to hang out with and our own satisfaction comes first. Flings just work in our fast-paced world.

But what happens when your hookup partner starts to seem like an attractive option for a real relationship? How do you venture into that new territory? How do you turn a fling into the real thing?

Read The Signs and Ask The Questions

Let's assume that you and your fling have been hooking up for a seemingly significant amount of time. This is why you're interested in taking it to the next level. Before vocalizing any interest in turning your casual hookups **into a full-blown relationship**, I suggest perception. Look at the nature of your current situation.

Do you only text one another for late-night sex? Do you hook up when you are sober or just drunk? Do you have sleepovers, or do you leave after the sex is over? Have you ever shared a meal, hung out and actually had a decent conversation?

Who does the initiating of your meet-ups? Is it generally even? Do you know one another's friends? Is your sexual relationship a secret or is it known by your friendship circles? Do you feel respected by him/her on a human level? Could you imagine being friends with this person?

From my experience (and, trust me, I have a lot of experience) the most loving, lasting and healthy relationships are the ones where you feel as though you are **dating your best friend** — someone you trust indefinitely and can grow with.

Is This Really What You Want Right Now?

When we are post-coital snuggling in someone's arms, the idea of doing that every night can seem extremely attractive, but the reality of a full-blown relationship means compromise and commitment. When we begin relationships, we never think about how they will end (and they do at some point). When you commit to an actual boyfriend-girlfriend situation, you have to remember that whatever relationship you had prior to dating will be forever changed, and things might never go back to the way they were.

Additionally, **relationships are a commitment**. Do you really have time for such a commitment in your life? Look at your career, your social life, your family and your recreational desires, and factor in that other person. Is this really what you want in your life right now?

Bridging The Gap

I remember one fling I had with a guy friend of mine. It started off as a **casual hookup relationship**. At the end of drunken party evenings, we merely texted one another the simple phrase, "My place or yours?" We had an understanding: This was purely about sex, not hanging out, and we liked it that way.

Then, one day, he suggested coming over to have an evening together of normal people stuff. You know, watching television, drinking beer and actually engaging in conversation. He bridged the gap. I was hesitant, but agreed. He opened up and so did I, and we developed a nice friendship when we realized we had a lot more in common than we thought, plus the sex got better because we were starting to actually trust each other.

We communicated clearly on what we wanted from one another — "Yes, I like casually hanging out and having sex. No, I do not want us to publicly date." It was healthy, happy and very satisfying. But it worked because we were both cautious and asked a lot of questions before jumping into anything. Although we hung out together in pseudo-date situations, we both had clearly communicated that we did not want to be labeled as boyfriend-girlfriend.

Communication is key. No one can read your mind. You must vocalize what you want.

So if you've decided that this person meets all the requirements of the perfect partner, then I suggest starting slow to bridge the gap. Ask the person on a real date. Nothing too crazy (do not invite the person to your office Christmas party or sister's wedding), but just a casual date that takes you out of the bedroom and out together into the real world. Try this for a while, and if it seems to be going well (i.e. he/she wants to keep hanging out, you are having fun together and the sex is getting better), then the relationship should progress organically. When two people are right for each other, nothing is forced or manipulated. You will feel it click naturally and, before you know it, you'll be fighting over eggs and coffee like everyone else. Kidding.