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A question of relationships: It's laziness that saps guys' interest

Published on September 19, 2005

The first few dates with my ex-boyfriend were quite fun. He drove me

around in his car and took me to dinner and the movies.

Inevitably, though, things changed after a year. He became a big fan

of the TV and we hardly did anything else anymore. He used to think up fun places to go, and was always polite to everyone who was close

to me.

After two years, the passion was gone. His sweet words were replaced

with belittling words, like "I'm really bored with the way you look." He started talking rudely to my friends as well, and wouldn't

greet my parents properly when he met them.

I rationalised. "Okay, he's a little insensitive. It's supposed to be that way in a relationship. The passion isn't here any more, and I have to live with it."

Chances are you've heard the term "comfort zone". Your man is glued to the TV screen and the couch, you become a wall he bounces things off, and in the worst cases he starts farting continuously - he thinks you adore him so much he can get away with anything.

I am a hopeless romantic, but the "comfort zone" is a real misconception about love, and the worst trap you can fall into in a relationship. It's like the reason you like Britney Spears (or any other played-to-death singers on the radio): Simply because you're so familiar with the popular tune, they play it non-stop all day. It's as if you're so in love with her voice, you won't dare glance at another, cooler singer who might come along. You'll think twice about spending a baht on a CD by Tori Amos, Sarah McLachlan or Hilary Duff, because you're in the comfort zone and you can't get out of it.

The comfort zone is an excuse some fashion magazines thought up so that people don't have to work too hard at love. I know men who are married or otherwise attached, yet they're not in that comfort zone with other women to whom they're attracted.

They might stop caring for the little things that matter to wives and girlfriends, but they'll never fail to impress a girl whom they've only known three months. They won't give up trying to impress her, no matter how long it takes, and spend more time with her, not because of puppy love or because she's better than you are,

but because so far, with her, it's not time yet to be lazy.

The fact is that men need to lay their butts on the couch and do nothing sometimes.

It's tough for a demanding woman. We prefer sitting on a harder chair that's not so comfy. If you're a highly demanding woman and ask that he be more romantic, sweet or sexy, you'll risk being called a "high-maintenance girl", a term that implies you'll only ride in limousines (a la Madonna), won't eat noodles or som tam and like your man to look good every day.

In reality, most women don't ask so much of a man, except for a little respect, understanding and communication.

For some men, though, it's easier for them to respect, communicate and understand a woman they've only known a short time - even though

they've been with you for ages!

Sometimes your relationship is in the comfort zone and he seems to care less not because you're growing old, not because you've been together for 10 years and not because the passion has faded.

It all amounts to the fact that he's too lazy, and men are known for

being lazy, especially if you let them get too comfortable.

Comments on this column can be sent to [relations@nationgroup.com](mailto:relations@nationgroup.com).

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