

ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS

Romantic walks along the beach, candlelit dinners and serendipitous sunsets – if all of that has given way to fights and threats of heading home, **Rhea Dhanbhora** suggests you read this article



>>Read our article to find out what you need to do in order to avoid a fight on your romantic holiday

You and your partner have finally managed to co-ordinate your leave and are heading off into the sunset to enjoy the picture-perfect vacation you've been planning in your head for months. But, instead of lounging around in each other's arms, you've been doing nothing but fight! Before your trip, money and affection go down the drain, read on to see what you should avoid fighting about on your vacation together:

TOO MUCH TIME TOGETHER

Yes, spending all day together can be too much of a good thing. You may want to spend every living moment with each other — but that's going to lead to a lot of bickering! Instead, consider a little R&R by yourself in between your vacation. This will allow both of you to do things that you enjoy, without fighting over the itinerary. Like they say — distance makes the heart grow fonder. A little time apart will make the time you spend together much more enjoyable, leaving little to no room for disagreements.

EXPECTING TOO MUCH

Think of it this way, the lower your expectations are, the less likely you're going to be disappointed. This might sound silly, but it's true. Instead of spending all your time crafting the perfect

vacation and then being disappointed if it doesn't happen, we suggest going with the flow. It will avoid a lot of fights and disagreements that can be borne of disgruntled disappointment.

SPENDING ISSUES

Work out a budget in advance. If you're the spender and he's thrifty (or the other way around) you're going to end up in a lot of fights. Don't give him hell about the 'useless' souvenir he's picked up, but on the other hand, don't wildly spend on a shopping trip or go on the most expensive boat ride just because it 'looks' romantic. Have a plan and work out a budget for each of you to spend on souvenirs. That way, you can each buy what you want to without getting embroiled in a bitter financial battle.

TAKE IT AS IT GOES

Now, no vacations come without unexpected hiccups and the most common holiday fights include a blame-game when something does go wrong. Instead of debating over who should have been watching your stolen bags or who booked the room at the hotel that messed up the booking — learn to go with the flow and make the most of your trip, disasters and all. After all, the point of your vacation is to have a good time together, isn't it?

Getting through the disasters together will, in fact, leave you with some colourful tales to recount over the next few years.

GET LOST!

Forget about reading the maps, figuring out directions and arguing about who got whom lost. Instead, enjoy exploring the new city/ town you are in together. You'll be surprised about how quickly a disaster can turn into a great new experience.

CHECKLIST

This list is far from over! To keep your head cool no matter what, here's a list of things that might get you hot and bothered. Remember that the secret to a great vacation is compromising on all counts.

- Your man drinking too much:** He's on vacation too! Let him enjoy himself.
- Checking out other women:** Alright, this can be hard to ignore. But, you should be secure enough to know that your man is only admiring. At least it gives you license to do the same. Just remember, no flirting!
- Dressing up:** Instead of fighting when he complains, simply explain that you want to look the best you can — for him!
- Packing too much:** Face it, airlines have baggage constraints. Don't stress yourselves out by packing your entire world into your suitcase. Besides, the less you have on your way there, the more you can bring back.

<< DEAR GRACE, I HAVE A PROBLEM...

Dear Grace,
My boyfriend and I have been having terrible fights. We've been going out for over seven years and he's suddenly started complaining about all the things he could have done if he hadn't 'wasted' all those years with me! Help!
— Gayatri Mehta, Ghatkopar

Dear Gayatri,
Your boyfriend seems to be going through a quarter/mid-life crisis of sorts. Has he recently been laid off or is he unhappy in his career? Talk to him about what is troubling him. Putting the blame of his failures on your shoulders is a very immature, unfair thing for

him to do. If he continues to rail and rant about how much better life would have been without you, tell him that he has the freedom to go ahead and try it. Don't hang on if he does decide to leave. There's no point being in a one-sided relationship.

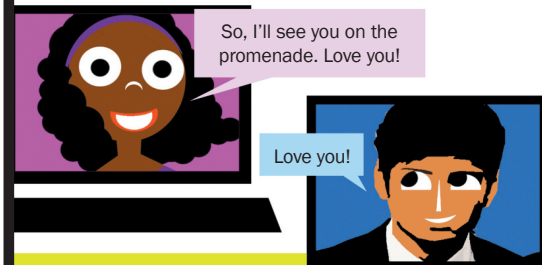
Send your questions to womansworld@aftermoondc.in

<< SOS: SOLVE OUR SITUATION! Think you can fix our readers' complicated problems? Read on...

Gynelle Alves

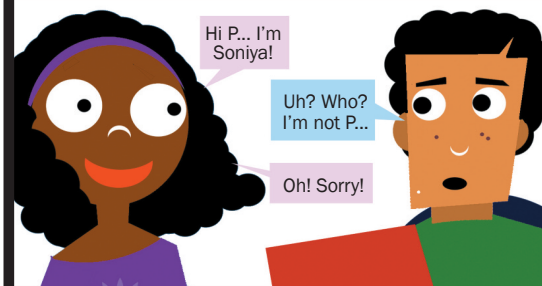
I am 15-years-old. For the past three months, I have been in a relationship with P, who I met online. We live far away from each other and haven't actually met. We just chat online and sometimes, talk on the phone. Since we're both on summer vacation, we decided to finally meet.

Until a few years ago, she was my best friend and loved me...



He is the same age as I am, only much more sophisticated. I can't believe he is my BF!

Then, on the appointed date and time, I went to meet him. I saw someone who looked my age and a little like his picture. Not a lot like his picture, but I know pictures can be deceptive. So, I went up and said "Hi" and...



I was so embarrassed, I decided to just wait and let P find me, as he had promised. I waited for over an hour. And there was no sign of anyone my age, who looked like him or who looked like they were looking for me.



So, I decided to call him. Then I noticed this weird guy, about 20-years-old, who had been sitting near me, get a call and move away.



I then realised that this weird guy was talking to me on P's phone number! I didn't walk home, but went to a busy cafe.

"I was scared, so I called my mum so pick me up. My parents don't know about P and he said his phone was stolen, so could we meet again. I am so confused. What should I do?" — Soniya

- a) Do you have any friends in common? If not, you won't know if he is the creepy guy or not. Please inform your parents. This is serious!
- b) Maybe his phone was stolen and this guy saw your SMS to meet. Tell P to inform the police of the theft and about this man talking to you. Meet only with a group of friends, in a public place!
- c) You are fifteen! Meet real people, not strangers online!

LAST WEEK: Yuv should pick Option B: Give her a hug! Is she stressed out? Ask her about herself!

Send your solutions to womansworld@aftermoondc.in