

ASK COLLEGE GIRL

No question's too heavy—or too *naughty*—for College Girl! By Jess Beaton, 20

COSMOGIRL.COM/LOVE “Know that you're the one for me/It's clear for everyone to see/Ooh baby, you'll always be my boo.” —“My Boo,” Alicia Keys and Usher

sweet nothing

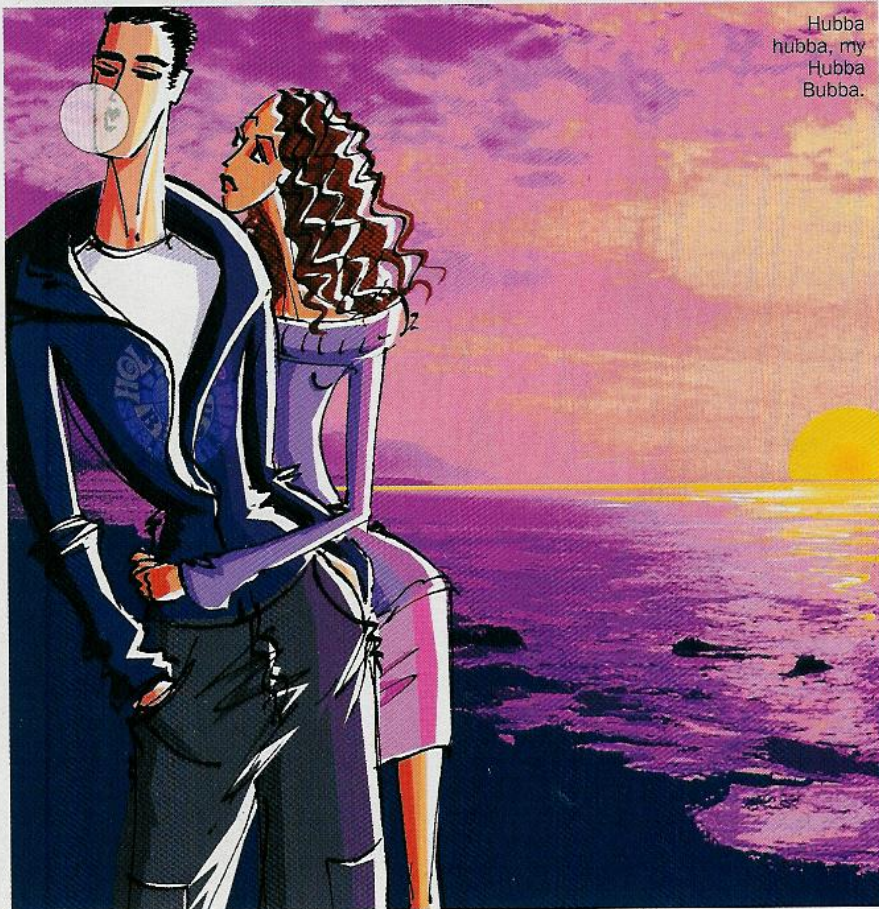
Q “My boyfriend isn't romantic. How do I get him to loosen up?”

—Valeska, 17, Houston, TX

A A friend of mine recently admitted—um, *fumed*—that her boyfriend didn't do anything romantic for her anymore. At the risk of getting screamed at, I gingerly asked her, “Well, when was the last time you did something romantic for him?” She replied, “He hasn't done anything for me; why should I do anything for him?” Does anyone else see the problem with this logic? I'll be the first one in line for the guy who knows how to do all the right things at all the right times—but let's face it, guys aren't the best mind

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readers. So you've got to lead by example. I'm not saying deliver a bouquet of flowers to him in the middle of class or spend your savings on season tickets for his favorite football team. It's the small things that make a difference. Leave a cute note in his backpack or make him a mix CD to listen to while he's studying. By subtly teaching him how to give you the kind of attention you want, you'll show him that you're thinking of him in meaningful ways and inspire him to do the same for you. Just don't let him take your sweet gestures for granted. If you feel like you're doing all of the giving and none of the receiving, you probably are. So why not suggest a double date with another (romantic) couple so he can see that other guys are okay with romance? If he *still* doesn't get it, explain that you're not asking for sunset walks and candlelit dinners. You just want him to



Hubba hubba, my Hubba Bubba.

show that he cares, because knowing is great, but a little romance makes it feel like so much more.

three's company

Q “My boyfriend wants to hang out with his ex. He claims they were best friends and that he wants to be friends again. When I said it was cool as long as we could all hang out, he got quiet. Do you think he still wants to hook up with her?”

—Nicole, 16, Atascadero, CA

A Your boyfriend has a right to be friends with his ex, but trying to keep you out of the friendship is a little shady. Let's give him the benefit of the doubt: If I were trying to reestablish a friendship with an ex, I wouldn't want my current flame at my side as we negotiated the first few weird “I'm-used-to-hooking-up-when-we-get-together”

meetings either. But I'd also understand if he asked to come along now and then—especially if I wasn't hiding anything. If you're lucky, you've got a typical guy who can't handle his past and present colliding. So try calmly saying that he's welcome to spend time with her but that you'd like to be included eventually. Offer to go out in a group so he doesn't have to fear the ex-girlfriend/new girlfriend face-off scenario. (If he still tries to keep you two apart, tell him it's hard not to think something's going on.) That should make him feel more comfortable, but if he *still* pleads the Fifth, I suspect something *is* going on—so be ready to give him an ultimatum. If he doesn't choose you over her, then you're definitely better off without him. This sucks, but it's listening to your gut that will keep you safe from even *more* hurt. **Q**



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