

DAWN PORTER *shares...*

EACH WEEK, THE INTREPID JOURNALIST BARES HER SOUL

Oh dear. She's just not that into me

There's this girl I really like. I invite her to everything although she is rarely able to come, and when we do make plans, it isn't uncommon for her to drop out last minute. Which is weird, because when I do see her, she tells me continuously how her favourite thing in the world is hanging out with her girlfriends (that's me, by the way) and sends me really sweet emails. But that's pretty much it. Emails.

Now. If she were a guy, I wouldn't be putting up with any of these shenanigans. If she were a guy, I'd have taken the hint and stopped bothering ages ago (after lots of text analysis and 'do you think he's playing hard to get?' conversations with friends, naturally). But she's not a guy. Which is why, despite her giving me such blatant signs she doesn't want to be close to me, I've still been persisting.

Last week was her birthday. I was really excited to see her and, even though I was late, was one of the first to arrive. Which was slightly awkward, to be honest. I sat at the bar chatting to a guy who was also there for her birthday whose eyes kept disappearing over my shoulder, clearly hoping to be 'saved' from me. Hardly surprising really, seeing as my sense of misplacement was causing me to talk about the weather and driving

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penalties in California... Ugh! Honestly, sometimes I wonder where my charm goes when I am talking to strangers.

Anyway, she arrived 20 mins late with a group of five girls, two of whom I know very well and who apologised for being late due to their dinner running over.

"Oh, you went for dinner?" I said.

I wasn't invited. I suddenly felt even more stupid for thinking we were closer than we are. Still, I tried to be logical: why would she invite me? No reason really, other than I would have loved to have gone.

When she saw me, I braced myself for a big I-haven't-seen-you-in-months cuddle, but instead I got a very quick 'Hello you' and then the pleasure of watching her adore everyone else.

Oh my God! How had I got this relationship SO wrong!

I spent the next few hours orbiting her like the Moon until I took a deep breath, elbowed my way through the crowd and started a conversation.

"How are you? I've missed you," I said, to which she told me how things were "just OK" in work and love and nothing was really happening. She then said: "Anyway, I'm going to find you later" and skipped off again, after which I watched her have numerous 'fun' conversations with other people, not once mentioning how dull and "just OK" things were.

Wow, maybe that's why she doesn't like hanging out with me? I bore her to tears and bring out the bad stuff? Maybe I should just have talked about the weather...

I sat and wondered why our friendship had never taken off and talked myself out of being offended - there was no point in that. To her, I'm just an acquaintance, part of her satellite group, not her inner-circle birthday-dinner group. It was futile trying to push my way in.

I left the party clinging onto my dignity. Like many relationships with men that have gone a similar way, I needed to hold my head up high and admit defeat. I didn't do anything wrong, nor had she: she's just not that into me!



Bloody Marys - bloody great. I think Bloody Marys must be the best drink ever. Vodka, ice, lemon juice, Tabasco, Worcester Sauce, salt, pepper, celery salt (the key ingredient) and tomato juice (also a key ingredient, along with the vodka, obviously). They're like the drink equivalent of an LBD: they're great before meals to take your edge off hunger, great as an afternoon tippie with friends and GREAT for a hangover cure. Love 'em!



DOMINOES ARE BACK

The game of the moment is Dominoes. I bought my boyfriend a vintage set for his birthday and we are playing it all the time. I used to play it a lot with my grandpa when I was little and have always wanted to try it again. Not at all a disappointment, just so much fun - and slightly addictive. Especially because I keep winning, WOOO HOOO!!

