



**DO YOU REALLY ONLY GET ONE
CHANCE NOT TO MESS UP?**

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The other day I happened to catch the tail end of a conversation between two legendary college football coaches on ESPN.

The basic point they were trying to make is that if they were to tell their players “not to fumble”, those players would be MORE likely to fumble.

On the other hand, if they rephrased their exhortation as, “Make sure to take care of the football”, they’d be LESS likely to fumble.

Essentially, the positive visualization promoted positive results. Meanwhile, the negative visualization was more likely to result in a negative outcome.

It’s sort of like the old saying, “Whatever you do, don’t think of a pink elephant.”

Boom. You probably thought of that pink elephant in a flash just now.

Well, I’ve been giving a lot of thought lately to how forcefully we’re taught in the world of men’s dating advice that we CANNOT, under any circumstances EVER make a mistake with a woman...lest she kick us to the curb mercilessly.

And it’s really true that we’re led to believe as such, isn’t it?

Man, we’re told that if we make even ONE “needy” comment, or if we say even ONE wrong thing in general there’s NO CHANCE of getting a second date.

When you add in the fact that most dating experts out there would also have you think that creating attraction involves a massive choreography of connecting dots and remembering a certain sequence of events, there’s really no wonder so many of us end up with MORE problems with women AFTER we start learning how to allegedly get better with them than before.

Under such circumstances, how can you NOT be wadded up in nerves when you’re finally in front of a real, live woman?

After all, she’s pretty much poised and ready to SHOOT YOU DOWN with pure glee at the first notion of imperfection...um, right?

Come on, man.

You already instinctively know that what I’ve just described sounds preposterous, if not straight-up ridiculous.

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The TRUTH about getting in front of a real, live woman is that SHE is most likely going to be EVERY BIT as concerned about “messing things up” as you are.

As it turns out, you see, there’s ample evidence to suggest that women fear and loathe “mess ups” on dates even MORE than men do.

One time I read a “dating disasters” column on some website where a woman said, “Well, I spilled my coffee on the table by mistake...so needless to say, there wasn’t a second date.”

I can assure her that if there indeed wasn’t a second date, it WASN’T because of the coffee.

It COULD, however, have been because she became so disengaged from the guy she was sitting in front of due to self-absorbed embarrassment that he quickly grew disinterested.

Perhaps he even thought SHE was disinterested in HIM.

Check it out. This whole “fear of messing up” thing is starting to look more like a self-fulfilling prophecy than anything else, isn’t it?

Make no mistake: When one is so wadded up in his or her obsession to NOT MESS up, it’s kind of hard to help that person across the table feel comfortable around you at all...let alone get to know him or her better, right?

That alone should get our attention. Simply SHUTTING DOWN the obsession to “get things right” is likely to, ironically enough, help us do a better job at getting things right.

But there’s more.

Despite what “conventional wisdom” in the dating world suggests, I’m far from convinced that women even WANT us to be 100% “mess up” free.

After all, we’re all human. If we somehow find ourselves in the presence of a woman who’s so freaking perfect, do we actually LIKE HER MORE...or is the truth of the matter that we’re equally likely to RESENT her?

Good grief, there are already a bunch of “lady gurus” telling perfectly normal women that they’re “divine goddesses”. What if they actually succeed at getting them to believe that?

How much pressure is THAT worth in today’s dating economy?

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Forget it, man. At least as far as I'm concerned, I'd rather she spill her coffee on the table and free me up to relax a bit myself.

And guess what? That's yet another principle that is NOT gender specific.

Here it is, guys. I've written before about the "85/15 Rule". If you're on top of the "big four" and are the masculine, confident, comfort-inspiring man of character you really want to be 85% of the time, then the 15% of the time you demonstrate some manner of human imperfection may actually be a RELIEF to any red-blooded woman out there.

Now to be sure, I'm not talking about major breaches here. If you do something REALLY CREEPY like rolling your eyes and drooling, or if you lift a finger to harm her or something, all bets are off.

But not getting one of her jokes? Temporarily misunderstanding something she said as a direct insult? Having an unexpected allergic reaction to the guacamole? Even farting in public by mistake?

Things like that are going to happen...and probably more than once per date.

And guess what, the ONLY determining factor of whether or not it craters your budding relationship with the woman is how YOU RESPOND TO IT. Remember, women follow your lead.

If it's a big hairy dealbreaker to you, it's more likely to be one to her also...although probably STILL not. But if you can pass it all off with some humor, so will she. And that goes DOUBLE if the *faux pas* was hers.

Enjoy your time getting to know a great new woman, gentlemen. That's what it's all about. Give yourself—and HER—a break for a change.

Be Good,



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