

Survive & Thrive



Black Girl

*Dating
Rules*

Ashan R. Hampton

Dedication



To Jessie McFadden, 38 who was soaked in gasoline and burned alive by her boyfriend.

To Lacrisha Foot, 33 who was shot by her husband and left for dead in the street.

To all of the women who have senselessly died for love. God rest your souls.

To Anna Williams, Patricia Pie and all the ladies who have so enthusiastically supported my work.
God bless you!

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Three Rules

*A wink may get you in trouble
and foolish talk will lead to your ruin.*

Proverbs 10:10

Have you ever seen the show *Who the Bleep Did I Marry?* on the Investigation Discovery channel or any fatal attraction dating show that makes you just want to eat, sleep and stay in the house? After watching a few episodes, you'll notice that all of the women have something in common when they give their reflections at the end. In hindsight, they all admit to ignoring numerous warning signs before the guy completely flipped out. Something told them to leave, stop, and move on, but they didn't.

As women, we tend to ignore our intuition or sixth sense, because it comes as a quick, illogical thought. Intuition says, "*Leave this man alone.*" However, our logical female minds might say, "*Why? He has never hurt me.*" That is often the end of the conversation. Intuition got shut down and stopped speaking. When this happens, God is trying to tell us something, but many times, we just don't listen.

Unfortunately, women die for love every day, unnecessarily, by staying in questionable relationship situations. Considering the crazy times we live in, letting go of a man who does not treat you well can actually save your life. Think about that for a moment. How many

stories have you seen on social media about women being killed by men they dated and trusted? Regardless of your age or how long you've been out on the dating scene, there are three rules you must follow when you start feeling uncomfortable:

1. Leave.
2. Stop.
3. Move on.

Leave the bar, restaurant, apartment, house party or whatever situation that makes you feel uncomfortable. Once you decide to leave, **stop** contacting him. You might have to gently let him down with a final phone call or a text, but do not agree to see him again in person. **Move on.** Do not allow Mr. Man, fear or loneliness trick you into going back to a bad situation. Even if you have been dating him for months or years, when you start noticing any of the 100 warning signs in this book, stick to these three rules, and get prepared to leave that man alone.

For black women, dating is not just about being fun and sexy, but about surviving and thriving long enough to find a suitable partner to settle down with. That is the unavoidable truth. Dating can be dangerous, so you must be smart and safe while getting to know a potential mate. ***Black Girl Dating Rules: Survive & Thrive*** helps you to answer two important questions: *How do I know when to stop dating someone? What are the signs I should look out for?* Plain and simple. Yes, go out on dates, but trust your gut or your *first mind*, and be careful.

Sign 1



Mr. Man pushes for sex too fast.

You promised the Lord you would not rush into a sexual relationship with another man, unless he was marriage material. (Because waiting for marriage is not likely for most of us. Don't lie to Jesus.) Mr. Man respects that, but still wants to do it. Now. He has reached his two week maximum. So, you're either going to open the cookie jar or close this relationship.

Let's assume you have not teased him to the point of no return. If you have told him no, with all of your clothes on and underwear intact, but he tugs and pulls at you anyway, you need to let him go. Mildly sexually aggressive men eventually become dangerously aggressive. Is he truly interested in you or just sex? His future behavior will answer this question.

If he stops quickly, apologizes and continues to pursue you, then perhaps he was just really excited to be next to you. However, if you have to channel *Stone Cold Steve Austin* to get him off you...girl, please. Things will only get worse if you continue to see him. If he calls repeatedly after the wrestling match asking to see you again, please refuse and make a clean break from this psycho.

Sign 2



Mr. Man always texts you, but hardly calls.

The Robert Glasper Experiment featured Jill Scott on a wonderful song titled, “Calls.” If you listen to the lyrics, you’ll discover that Mr. Man is happily available to the woman he cares about and always answers her call. Call. Phone call; not text. The human voice is intimate. Text messages are cold and emotionless.

Lovers *speak* to each other. Booty calls *text* each other. See the difference? Think about it. When you text Mr. Man, he texts right back...lightning fast. But, when you dare to call him, voice mail picks up. A while later, he texts you to acknowledge your call, but he never calls back. You get another text. Girl, please. What is he doing? What is really going on? Is his 24-hour job preventing him from making and accepting phone calls?

In most *Lifetime* movies, a guy in this situation is either married, imprisoned, a criminal or luring young girls online into his basement where does unspeakable things. Is he really worth a full out investigation? Stop being curious and let it go. You probably don't want to know what is happening on the other end of that cell tower.