

## CASE STUDY: Stay Or Leave?

Here's a situation where Rick O. has come to me for advice.

First up will be a background into his unique situation, followed by my response.



----- EMAIL from Rick O. -----

Hi Jay. So lets go!

We have been together for 6 years, and it's both our 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage. We don't have kids together. We lived in her house.

She's a secretary / PA, and I'm a real estate developer on the way back up again after having lost loads of money 10 years ago.

She wanted to improve herself, and had some money from the sale of her last marriage home. When we started dating, we both wanted 50:50 on expenses. I.e. meals out, utilities and everything.

But her tastes not the same as mine. I.e. my tastes are more upmarket and she did not run to that!

As the relationship matured, she then started saying she can't pay for the hotel / meal and so on. She loved the high life, but I ended up paying for all.

Vacations, Antigua, Europe, weekends away, luxury hotels, work on her house, her mortgage costs etc. So lets say I was paying 80% of her lifestyle.

We then moved house which we both wanted to do, but I saw the credit crunch, and she did not. I became moody and sour and was happy to stay put til the recession passes!

So now 10 months ago, she became depressed and met a Don Juan on a girls night out. After that she started arguing with me, and reacting on the money I spent on her house. She became annoyed and feeling strong with her Don Juan in the background.

Unknown to me, she was thinking "I don't want to pay this money back". Her new guy was making her feel strong and she had lost faith in me.

Two weeks later, her children were upset and she locks me out of the house!

I reacted as one would! Annoyed, upset, and in shock!

It takes me 3 weeks to find out about Don Juan, who is well known locally!

Don J appears for 3 months-ish, and then her house gets flooded which I get blame for!! She has to move out to her parents empty house, until late March this year.

I had some of her clothes and jewellery which I have now returned to her.

My lawyers threatened legal action for 4~5 months, which I then withdrew in January 09. Never having wanted to get money really but felt like I was used. I decided it's better to stop as it was killing me!! I then left her with lots of goods i.e. TV's, beds, linen, music players etc etc.

So she's been back in the repaired house for 8 weeks now and has been on 3 weeks vacation with the kids.

She started a new job 6 months ago, and getting on with her life.

I sent your letter 6 weeks ago, ...and on your advice sent back her clothes and jewellery 10 days ago!!

She still has things of mine i.e. presents she gave me, some clothes, and a house full of my other items!

I sent her many letters, never pleading but, saying we got this wrong, mistakes etc., why don't we do this etc., which has annoyed her and fallen on deaf ears I assume.

I heard she was annoyed and was thinking whether she was going to give me my things or not!! All before I gave her jewellery back.

She may be dating, no one obvious yet! But will be trying but knows I am kind, caring, and probably too soft!

I'm sure she was desperate to make our relationship work until "something snapped", (her words). She got spooked and lost faith in me, which is a big point as the recession hit me hard and whilst she may feel some sympathy, she will probably be justifying her actions by where I am now.

She thought I had loads of chances to get what we wanted, but she didn't see the problems coming.

So Jay, I accept all your points of her not feeling appreciated, but there were lots of good times and she really enjoyed herself I know.

There is an element of spite, for me getting where she wanted, and she may be trying to make me pay? So do I call her up and try the coffee routine?

Remember, she still has things of mine. Do I appear concerned over presents from her, the tennis racquet, a few clothes etc?

How do I restore her faith in me? Thanks Jay.



## **NOW FOR MY RESPONSE**

Here's the answer to your dilemma Rick.

You created a monster and now you're dealing with the consequences. Yep, I know, it's harsh.

Let me point out all the things that were red flags waving that this woman was going to be trouble. Hopefully you can learn from this relationship to avoid the same mistakes when you find a new lover to share your life with.

### **It Was Her Second Marriage**

Sure, we all make mistakes. Divorced people aren't "damaged goods." But there's always a reason why the first marriage dissolved. You don't mention what that was, but I wouldn't be surprised if it were money issues.

### **You Started Out On Uneven Financial Ground**

She's a secretary and you're a real estate developer. Even if she did have money from the sale of her house, she knew that was a limited amount of cash and she probably assumed from the start that you'd cover the gap once her cash ran out.

### **You Introduced Her To A Lifestyle You Knew She Couldn't Afford**

If you really wanted a 50/50 financial relationship, then you needed to scale back YOUR tastes to fit HER budget.

You took her out to fancy restaurants, luxury hotels, and other things she normally wouldn't have gotten to do.

Did you really think she'd be able to pay for these things on a secretary's salary? Did you really think she'd be able to lose her taste for the high life once you got her hooked?

### **You Enabled Her After Her Money Ran Dry**

Instead of saying, "Let's try and get a better rate on a hotel," you decided to keep up the appearances and pay for the lifestyle yourself. If it was your money paying for it, you got to make the call.

You should have been the man and stood up to her and reminded her of the 50/50 arrangement. But instead you let her have whatever she wanted (and couldn't afford).

### **You Let The Recession Affect Your Relationship**

Sure, money problems can suck, but a strong relationship is a strong relationship regardless of the finances involved.

If you truly love someone and they truly love you, then both of you will be happy and in love when the going gets tough.

## **You Still Want Her, Even Though She's Cheated On You**

If she's going to turn away from her relationship with you and seek comfort in the arms of another man, then she's going to do that EVERY TIME there's a bump in your relationship. If not this Don Juan, there will be another. And another. And another.

## **You Were Used**

It's pretty obvious that while she may have had feelings for you at one point, they were tied up in the lifestyle you provided for her. Since you're not providing that lifestyle anymore, she's moving on.

Does it hurt? Yes. Does it totally suck? Yes. Is she a horrible person for doing these things to you? Yes. Are you making it worse by your actions? Yes.

The only way to get her back is to start showering her with gifts and a lifestyle of the rich and famous again. But do you really want to go down that path again?

## **Drop It And Move On**

What's more important – money or being free of this emotional torment?

Getting paid isn't going to make things all better. It's like people who get into giant car crashes, break multiple bones, and sue the other driver.

Sure, it's nice to have those medical bills paid off and have the money to live on, but you still have two broken legs that hurt like hell.

In a situation like this one, it's best to pull out 100%, heal yourself, and move on with your life, knowing you'll never make a mistake like this again.

I really do wish you all the best. The road is only going to get better if you force yourself to move on now rather than hurting yourself even more.

Take care,  
Jay.