

thelondonlove

Email love@thelondonpaper.com
Web www.thelondonpaper.com/love

LOOKING FOR LOVE? VISIT OUR DATING WEBSITE
www.thelondonlove.com

THE HEART SURGERY YOUR RELATIONSHIP CLINIC

Going the distance is not always easy

Q I'm about to move to Hong Kong for a year. My man of 10 months wants us to stay together, but I don't think it will work. Should I ditch him now and risk regretting it?

A **WE SAY:** Hmm, you don't exactly sound keen on keeping him. Ten months is a tricky time: it's still new, but long enough for you to be part of each other's life. Also, he's a man, not a T-shirt, and you can't cling on just in case you find something cracking to wear him with in a year's time.

That's not to say that, if you do decide to go for it, you won't sail through your year abroad happy as Larry and come back into each other's arms.

But to do that, you need commitment and the chance of seeing each other a few times while you're out there to keep things zinging along

– Skype's great, but it's no substitute for a kiss.

If the reason you don't think it will work is that you just don't like him enough, then yes, ditch him. And if it's that you think there'll be new people and places to see and things to do, you're right – there will. Long-distance isn't something to take lightly.

Without the joint effort of letters, phone calls and a good solid relationship, it can suck massively. Regret is easier to remedy than the guilt and self-loathing of breaking someone's heart. Better to call it a day now than ring him when you get back, than to dump him by text message while you're out there.

YOU SAY

WEENS: Long-distance is fine if you're both committed and you know there's an end in sight. If there's any chance you suspect you might not come back, then it's better to make the break sooner rather than later. There's nothing worse than feeling like you can't make the most of your time abroad because you're missing someone or worrying about when to call them. It's still worth downloading Skype whatever happens – friends of mine had great fun stripping for each other on the web while they lived apart.

KELLY: I think you know what you should do. Long-distance relationships can be difficult. It takes the commitment of both partners, who both want to make it work, for a long-distance relationship to succeed. If you already think it won't work, then you're probably right. You may break his heart and you may regret it. Break-ups are always sad. But why not part now on good terms and as friends, rather than in a few months' time over email, when things have gone sour? And what about the things you may regret by staying in a relationship you don't believe in? You're about to go and experience a new country and a new culture for a whole year. Do it with your whole heart and have the best



experience you can. Besides, I know it's a cliché, but if you're meant to be together, you will be. You'll be back in a year.

DAISY: When I went on my year abroad at uni, I went long-distance with a guy I'd been with for three months. It was tricky, but I lived with girls who also

had boyfriends back in the UK so we all supported each other, and of course there was Christmas and so on. It can work, but only if you're really up for it.

MARK: If you don't cheat on him, he'll cheat on you. Sorry, but unless you're solid as a rock, it's not meant to be.

girl about town

LAURA TAIT



DOC LOVE, AS SEEN ON TV

Why does that never happen to me?" I shout at the TV. It's a classic plot: girl meets handsome stranger – he asks her out within minutes.

Gemma and I are into DVD box-sets at the moment. I hardly watch anything on TV, but give me three months' worth on one disc and I'm hooked. This is *Grey's Anatomy*, season three. It's only OK, but there's Patrick Dempsey, aka Dr McDreamy, so, like I say – I'm hooked.

A few days later, I'm saying to my workmate Lu: "If this was a hospital drama, the doctors would all be fit."

We've just arrived at The Royal London Hospital. Lu took ill at work and I'm trying to lighten the mood. We're in for a pleasant surprise! First comes a doctor who looks like George Clooney, then a cute male nurse and then, as we're giggling like schoolgirls, Thomas turns up. Lovely, young, handsome Doctor Thomas – I have an instant crush. But it's hello handsome man, goodbye Laura's ability to be cool.

He's all charming and funny as he tries to get Lu to overcome her fear of needles so he can take her blood and I try to think of something helpful to say. Suddenly, perching over staff and calling Lu an attention-seeking bitch doesn't seem to be an appropriate line.

I need a witty story that says to Thomas: "Look, I'm funny AND good in a crisis." Can't think of one, so I sing: "Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens..."

Smooth. And as if that's not the least cool thing I could do, I forget the next bit so I go: "Ladadadada..."

Then Thomas makes me fall in love on the spot. He saves me. Him: "Brown paper packages tied up with string..." Us both: "These are a few of my favourite things."

If this was a TV drama, we'd share a moment at this point. Make eye contact and smile. What actually happens is he leaves with the blood, Lu's boyfriend arrives to look after her and I go back to work.

Real life sucks. He's probably married, gay, or called Tallulah on weekends, but because I'll never see him again he is, in my head, my perfect match.

"How's Dr McFitty?" I ask Lu in a text. "He's in A&E now," she replies.

God, people who have accidents are so lucky.

laura.tait@thelondonpaper.com

>> NEXT WEEK

I started dating this guy and we get on really well. He's quite flaky though, missing phone calls or going out and not inviting me. I want to talk about it, but don't know how to bring it up.

Have you got a question or an answer?

Email your dilemma or advice to love@thelondonpaper.com by 5pm Wednesday.

We can keep your name confidential if you prefer.

LOVESTRUCK CHANGE YOUR FATE

♥ Central line, Thursday, 5.30pm, gorgeous blonde with black heels. Our eyes met for a moment and you smiled at me. Drink? **H**

♥ Blonde girl with pink heels, Thursday, 5.30pm to Norwich. You got off at Ipswich, I got off at home. Health-conscious dinner date? **HILARY SLEDGE**

♥ To the gorgeous boy in denim shorts in the Woolpack, Bermondsey, Thursday night. I was next to the guy who couldn't take his eyes off you. Drink? **PINSTRIPED SUIT**

♥ Vanessa, I really enjoyed our walk to the Brazilian

ballet on Thursday night, St Martin's Lane. I should have asked you out. What do you think? **SAM**

♥ Northern line, Thursday. You: Irish, me: Kiwi. You: wanting a job, me: wanting swine flu to strike schools. Would love to buy you a Guinness. **KIWI**

♥ To the Spanish girl in Leicester Square for the Quentin Tarantino premiere. I was next to you, we held hands, you wore glasses. Meet up? **ENGLISH GUY, BLACK SHIRT**

♥ Thursday, after 6pm. You were the gorgeous dark-haired girl on the 67.

You got off at Shoreditch. Drink? **GUY AT THE BACK OF BUS**

♥ To the ticket inspector on the 7.09pm from Waterloo to Portsmouth who woke me up for my ticket. Would love to meet for drinks. **GUY WHO GOT CHANGED**

♥ Girl in a shiny blue top after a few too many at the Charlotte Street Hotel. I was the blue-eyed young guy in the dark suit at the bar. **DRINK AND MORE?**

♥ To the hot Indian girl on Eastcheap who works at Clyde & Co. Fancy a drink? **CHEEKY COCKNEY**

♥ You were the mind-blowingly beautiful girl wearing a white cardigan at Waterloo on Thursday, 6.45pm. Lunch? **ASIAN GUY READING THE LONDON PAPER**

♥ **Luis, you waited on me at Giraffe, Spitalfields. You're beautiful**
GIRL IN STRIPED BLOUSE

♥ Moustache man with spectacles drinking at the Lord Clyde, Essex Rd, Thursday evening. Scrumpy some time with the Welsh girl? **BUDD**

♥ To the gorgeous blond guy who sat next to me on the Northern line. We

both got off at Bank. I would have said hello, but was too nervous. Fancy a drink? **GIRL IN RED JACKET**

♥ You were on the 5.53pm from Fenchurch Street on Thursday wearing a grey pashmina and got off at Southend East. Drink? **GUY OPPOSITE YOU**

♥ Gorgeous blonde in white Hilfiger polo. We shared the train to work and back. Drink to see if it's fate? **LIP-RING GUY**

♥ To the tall, sexy, suited man outside Southwark Tube. That SW coin was lucky – I met you. **MISS TIDY**

♥ Girl with white hair at Liverpool Street before 8pm. Your beauty captivates me. Drink? **GINGER IN GREY HOODIE**

♥ Oasis girl with the dark hair. We met at Wembley. You thought I was northern. Get in touch. **ROCKER**

♥ Shoreditch House, Saturday. Dark-haired lass in a purple dress who looked beautiful. We exchanged compliments. Drink? **SCOTTISH LAD**

♥ Blonde girl on Jubilee line, Thursday, 4pm. You got off at Southwark. Old boy with blond hair. Drink? **BLUE SUIT**

♥ To the beautiful Asian lawyer who was also the lady in black from Hounslow East, would you like to marry me? **J**

♥ Jimmy, we met at the bar at the Bethnal Green working men's club "Tournament of Tease". You're lovely. Tease me? Get in touch. **POPPY**

♥ A thank you to the cute girl in black and pink on the District line, Wednesday. You got off at Victoria and gave me a smile that made my day. **MAN IN BROWN SHIRT READING BOOK**

WIN! If you are any of these people, let us know and you could win a meal at an ASK restaurant. Email love@thelondonpaper.com

Terms & conditions apply, see www.thelondonpaper.com/lovestruck Find your nearest ASK at www.askrestaurants.com

If you have seen someone you fancy in London...
TEXT **88855** Text LOVE, followed by a space and then your message, to 88855. Texts cost 50p plus standard network extras. Printing is subject to the editor's discretion.