

Dear Heart Beat,

BY PARI LIVERMORE AND GRETCHEN WENDEL



DEAR HEART BEAT,

My fiancée just told me that he wants to break our engagement although I have already purchased my dress and selected my wedding invitations. He bought me a beautiful engagement ring which he says he wants back. He feels that the ring belongs to him, I believe it belongs to me. What do you think?

STOOD-UP AND MAD

Dear Stood-Up,

Zsa Zsa Gabor once said, "I never hated a man enough to give him back his diamonds." We checked with some attorneys who told us that it is part tradition and part the law when it comes to engagement rings. If the ring is an heirloom it is returned to the original family. If the woman breaks the engagement the ring belongs to the man. If the man breaks the engagement the ring stays with the woman. We say the ring is yours, have it reset and wear it in good health. Pari & Gretchen

DEAR HEART BEAT,

I am a fit and healthy 57 year old man who has achieved great financial success in the real estate business. My wife of 34 years died last year. Since then I have met a wonderful 29 year old woman who says she sincerely loves me. My children think their old Dad has lost his marbles and say our age difference is obscene. Can a woman in her 20's love a man my age?

HAPPY FELLA

Dear Happy,

We think she could be sincere. A woman should be the one to decide whether a man is too old for her. However, many young women who date men 30 years older are more interested in finance than romance. Be prepared to dust off your credit cards. Pari & Gretchen

DEAR HEART BEAT,

I am generally considered to be an intelligent and attractive woman with a friendly personality, but I hate dating. After going out only a few times, men start talking seriously to me about our relationship. I don't like to hurt anyone's feelings, but it's very hard for me to tell these men I'm not interested. I always feel so horrible. Surprisingly, I met a wonderful man three weeks ago, and I think I could fall for him, but he's already starting to talk about the future, and I'm not ready. What should I do?

INDEPENDENT WOMAN

Dear Independent,

Just because you get on the bus, doesn't mean you have to go to the end of the line. Tell Mr. Lucky to put on the brakes, but tell him the truth, he should be patient because you are getting to like him more all the time. Pari & Gretchen