Guy Friends Who Go MIA
Posted by dawnalang - 2009/10/24 07:56

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Seeking some advice from men and women in this group. You see I always took pride in the fact that I was a guy's kind of girl and my of most closest friends since I was a kid have been men. Then one by one, as soon as they started getting married, they simply stopped talking to me.

Has this ever happened to any of you and how did you deal with the emotions of loss (denial, grief…anger)? Why do men feel like they have to pull away once they get married, please enlighten me!!!!

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA
Posted by krittie - 2009/10/24 14:18

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I always found this crazy too! However, I think this happens in both cases when guys who have girl friends get married they pull away and when girls who have guy friends get married they pull away too! I am not married nor have I ever been married, but from my experience with having 5 brothers I honestly think it is because priorities change when you get married. All of my brothers except with the exception of one have gotten married and have lost touch with some of their friends male or female. See, what happened to all of them is that they started putting their life into perspective and started looking at having kids and buying a house and their focus just changes. It really has nothing to do with the friends they had; I think they just realize that now they have another person in their life 24/7 they need to focus on things that they want together and strive to get that. I know this may not help you very much but it is what happened to all of my brothers and some of my friends too!

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA
Posted by MissyE543 - 2009/10/24 17:10

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It is ashame when this happens and I agree with Krittie that this is true for both guys and girls. I feel that when men get married, they grow up and it is the next chapter of their life. They may feel like some of their friends are still "boys" but the guy now feels like a "man." Married men may feel that their friends will only want to party and meet women at bars which is not appealing now that they are committed. The friendship slowly drifts apart since they are no longer interested in the same things.

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA
Posted by catherinette - 2009/10/24 19:04

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You, my dear, are not alone. I've had several male friends that up and disappear once they've said their wedding vows. It's painful to be left behind, losing a friend always sucks.

I agree with what Krittie has said as well. And, I'll throw something else in there: sometimes I think the friendship dissolves because they don't need us anymore. In some ways, I think that sometimes we provide our male friends with more than just companionship (I'm not talking sexual here), there's just some kind of guy/girl connection that is replaced once they get married.

Something else that I've experienced is that my friend's significant other doesn't care for our friendship so he was made to choose between her or me. That really sucked.

Hope your friend comes around.

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA

Posted by lipsmacker - 2009/10/24 21:58

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I struggled with this issue quite a bit myself and it took me a while before I realized this:

In many ways, friendships are like surrogate "relationships". In our friendships we learn how to develop the social skills that we will later, hopefully, use with our significant others.

I believe it is true that most men develop relationships on a physical level while women develop relationships on a chemical or emotional level. :blink:

So, when our guy friends are settled into a relationship with a significant other, they no longer need the learning relationship they have developed with you because now they are getting all of the satisfaction of a "friendship" as well as the physical satisfaction they need from a "partner".

Along with this, the commitment and loyalty they feel towards that physical satisfaction prevents them from looking towards us for any additonal "satisfaction". :(

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA

Posted by thediva - 2009/10/24 22:31

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It's sad to say, but I doubt it has anything to do with the guy as much as it is the insecurities of his new wife and his wanting to "keep the piece" at home.

I would love to say that I wouldn't mind my husband having female friends, but I know I would. :(

I've been in your shoes and it came out of no where! I was friends with a guy, and his fiance, but once they were married we saw less and less of each other. I don't take it personally and you really shouldn't either.

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA

Posted by michellecpa - 2009/10/25 01:41

Throughout the years I have always had more guy friends than girlfriends - though that's another topic in itself. With respect to this issue, I have been through this more times than not. In the rare instances where I didn't lose the closeness or consistency of the friendship was when I also became good friends with the women in their lives, and everyone was comfortable that I wasn't a threat to the relationship of the couple. Again, this was a very rare occasion.

Men pull away for various reasons...but take a minute to step into the wife's shoes. Even if you don't feel you pose a threat to the relationship, a wife still wants to know and feel that she is the one that her husband is sharing his intimate thoughts, hopes, dreams, etc. with. The fact that a husband respects his wife enough to want and actually do so says a lot about his character.

That being said, it doesn't take away the hurt that you feel when it happens. It is a loss. A loss of intimacy, of friendship, and it's just as painful as an actual breakup - sometimes even more so. Know that it's not something that you did wrong, but something that you did very right...you chose an honorable guy to include in your circle of friends.

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA

Posted by 1shauna1 - 2009/10/25 10:19

I would have to agree that it is probably the new wives' insecurities making the men stay away from female friends. Although, this doesn't only happen with male friends; I've had female freinds who become ensconced in their new married lives and forget about their single friends. Only suggestion I can think of, is more single friends! You can keep trying to be friends with these type of people, but it becomes awfully tiresome (and one-sided).

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA

Posted by Steve02 - 2009/10/25 14:29

Hey it happens to guys too. We have guy or girl fiends who disappear once they get in a relationship. I think the key is that you need to invite your friends plus their other to events or even when some of you or just you want to go to the movies, for instance. And if they still pull the disappearing act you take your friend out for coffee and, without whining or seeming needy, frankly and tactfully call them out on the behaviour. If you're right, they'll know it. And if it is a controlling partner they are dealing with, at least they know that you can be a lifeline and dose of reality. :silly:

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA

Posted by Singletude - 2009/10/26 22:47

I've also had this happen to me, both with male and female friends, but usually the female friends come

back around once the honeymoon stage is over. The men seldom do.

I think there are two factors at work here. One, as some have already pointed out, is the wife's insecurity. Sometimes even if she hasn't expressed jealousy, the guy feels like it's his duty to back off from his female friends so his wife won't doubt his fidelity. Two, I want to echo what Catherinette said here: I think that many guys, sadly, only desire a limited amount of connection with women. When they don't have relationship partners, they get that connection from female friends. But when a relationship partner comes along, they don't "need" their female friends anymore.

Now, is this behavior right just because it happens so frequently? No! Here in the U.S., a lot of us have a kind of "cult of the couple" mentality that believes one person should be EVERYTHING to us, and that person should be our marital partner. This is a relatively new way of thinking that's only been around for the last century. The problem is that a) one person can't possibly be "everything" to anyone and b) it's cruel to drop a good, faithful platonic friend as though she was worthless as soon as the guy finds someone to have sex with, which is what this situation amounts to.

Others here have suggested that you try to be tighter with the wife, and that's definitely an option, especially if you think the two of you could make good friends, as well. But, as I see it, if these guys valued your friendship, THEY should've made the effort to introduce and include you. If they don't want to be bothered to do that, then I'd say they aren't such good friends after all, and you might be better off without them.

It's definitely painful to lose friends in this way, but if they're not responding to your attempts to keep the friendship alive, you may have to let them go. My best advice would be to seek out more female friends and other friends who are single, especially if you intend to remain single for the indefinite future. Some people actually like being single and intend to stay that way. It's not uncommon to find men who never want to marry. Such people may be more dedicated to their friendships and less likely to drop them in the event of a relationship or marriage.

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA

Posted by Singletude - 2009/10/26 22:55

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Also forgot to add that you may want to develop friendships with guys who are already married and have wives who are cool with them having female friends. I know a few married couples like this, so they're definitely out there.

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Posted by JasenCordiero@yahoo.com - 2010/04/03 22:59

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA

Posted by luisfer65 - 2010/07/24 20:45

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i know what you mean sometimes people think they are special for being married both sides man and womans they do the same but also whend times goes by they miss been single again and hang out like singles do

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Re:Guy Friends Who Go MIA

Posted by Steve02 - 2010/07/29 16:35

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One thing we know for sure is that the grass is always greener on the other side! :laugh: Some people indeed get wrapped up in their married lives to the exclusion of single persons from their social circles. While it may be a natural occurrence, both the marrieds and the singles need to act with the knowledge that friendships ought not be taken for granted, and need attention and work like any good relationship.

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