

Outlook on Lifestyle

DEAR MEG



Meg Whitcomb

Woman loses trust in her gentleman

DEAR MEG — I have been seeing a gentleman for almost two years. The first 18 months everything went fine. We even went on vacation to Paris together. We talked about getting married when my divorce became final. I spent half my time in his house. Then one night I stopped by without phoning. A woman was just leaving. He stood with his head hanging down and said they were "friends." But when I looked around, none of the photos and presents I'd given him were in sight. Also, until that encounter he had

been getting calls late at night and hanging up without talking. He claims they were wrong numbers, but I wonder if it was the other woman. The mysterious calls have stopped, but my trust in him is gone. I'm not sure if I want to marry him. — UNSURE, PA.

DEAR UNSURE — His stories are so fishy I can smell them from here. Level with him about your doubts. Delusions make a rotten basis for romance, let alone marriage. If he can't substantiate his whoppers better than he has, try your luck elsewhere. There are plenty of other fish in the sea. This guy isn't worth baiting your hook with.

DEAR MEG — I'm confused about proper forms of address. Are unmarried and divorced women Miss or Ms.? And should a widow be addressed on a formal invitation as Mrs. John Doe or Mrs. Jane Doe? And do you put a man's or woman's name first when both first names are used — for example, Jane and John Doe or John and Jane Doe? — JANE DOE, TEXAS

P.S. I'm in a hurry for the answers because my daughter wants a formal wedding, but none of the etiquette books agree!

DEAR JANE — Strict rules of etiquette are appropriate for formal wedding invitations. But personal preferences should also be considered. For instance, unmarried women may be correctly addressed either as Miss or Ms., no matter how much they

may hate the latter. Few divorced women follow the traditional practice of substituting their maiden name for their ex-husband's first name, as in Mrs. Jones Doe. If a divorcee is using her first name and her ex-husband's surname, the correct title is Ms. (not Mrs.) Jane Doe. A widow is addressed as Mrs. John Doe.

Both first names are never used in addressing a married couple sharing the man's surname. So the correct titles and order are Mr. and Mrs. John Doe. If, perchance, the wife has kept her maiden or professional name, the invitation is addressed Ms. (or Dr.) Jane Jones, followed on the next line by Mr. John Doe.

Clear as mud? If you don't have a headache by now, I do! Enjoy the wedding anyway.

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Photo Tips

by Peter Moss

HELPFUL HINTS FOR POINT AND SHOOT CAMERAS
No doubt over this past holiday season many of you received autofocus cameras in your stockings. Here are some useful Do's and Don't's for your new camera gear.

1. Use only alkaline type batteries in your camera. Not carbon or flashlight type, and definitely never use NI-CAD rechargeable batteries. Check your individual instruction booklet for confirmation on battery recommendation. If you are able to use NI-CADS your instructions will tell you.

2. Keep the two oval or rectangular autofocus windows (located just above lens) clean all the time.

3. The flash in your autofocus camera will still work best in the 12 to 15 foot range (despite great improvements in modern electronics). If you have to photograph farther than the above distance, I would suggest that you try a faster film than you normally shoot with. For example, if you have been using 100 ASA/ISO film try a 200 speed film; it will allow the working flash distance to be increased by approximately 5 feet. A 400 speed film will add about 5 extra feet over a 200 speed film and so on.

Please keep in mind that ceiling height has a great deal to do with flash capabilities. It is always advisable to use your flash in a room with a 7 or 8 foot ceiling, anything higher cuts down on your working distance.

4. A common problem with built-in-flash cameras is the curse of "Red Eye". This frustrating situation is made possible because the flash is (by virtue of the camera's compact design) located too close to the lens. The easiest remedy to this gremlin is to angle your position about 45° to your subject and shoot. Do not shoot straight on. Another trick is to have your subject turn his head slightly, just enough to stop that "staring down the photographer" look. The resulting pictures will be more relaxed and balanced.

THE WIDE ANGLE LENS SYNDROME
Your new AutoFocus 35 mm is equipped with a wide angle lens. In other words this lens "sees" more view than both your own eyes when looking straight ahead. Therefore, if you are attempting to do portraits or are working very close to a subject, you will encounter the problem of "wrap" or distortion of the image at the edges of your photo. When working with people, back up a bit, five feet will be safer for you than the three feet that the camera is capable of. Try it! You will notice the difference on your next roll of film.

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