



One thing you do not want bestowed on you

“My Ex Sued Me for Leaving Him”

Jill dated a handsome lawyer who swept her off her feet with pricey gifts and dinners. But when she ended the relationship, he took her to court...and won.

By Anonymous

■ I met Brett* at a neighborhood bar in March 2002. I was gathering my coat to leave when I felt a hand on my shoulder. “Don’t go. Why don’t you stay and have a drink with me?” asked a tall guy with sharp blue eyes. How could I say no? We got cozy in a banquet...for the next five hours.

He was funny, confident, smart (Ivy grad), successful (partner in a law firm!), sexy, single, and at 36, the perfect age: old enough to be ready for a commitment but not too old to be set in his ways. We began a fast and furi-

* Names and some identifying details have been changed.

ous courtship: He wooed me with flowers, long walks on the beach, romantic picnics...even a trip to Paris. Like most women in their early 30s, I was in search of someone I could spend the rest of my life with. I thought I’d found him in Brett. After about four months or so, we talked seriously about moving in together.

Then everything went wrong. He began acting as if he owned me. He freaked out if I made dinner plans without him and didn’t want me to spend time with my friends. He also whined about my long hours working in advertising. We were bickering a lot, so I put the kibosh on shacking up.

Over the next two months, things between us deteriorated. Brett went from hot and charming to needy and clingy, which only made me pull away further. The more I pulled away, the more paranoid he got. Six months into the relationship, we broke up.

A Moment of Weakness

Brett begged me to come back. He called at all hours, wrote letters, and eventually showed up at my door, crying. I hated seeing him hurt, but I didn’t want to lead him on. It took four months before he stopped calling.

I resumed dating, but after countless dates with countless losers, I began to miss the sparks Brett and I had shared when we’d first met. So when he phoned one day, I suggested spending time together, casually, to see what happened. But I made it clear that I wasn’t ready to date exclusively.

Apparently, he didn’t really hear that last part. With the door cracked open, he barreled in, and I let him. He took me to lavish restaurants and bought me a \$4,000 designer gown to wear to his brother’s wedding. We had fun and great sex. Yet I still wasn’t ready to call him my boyfriend again.

Two months later, a friend introduced me to an attractive guy. We sent flirty e-mails and went out a few times. I didn’t consider that cheating on Brett. We were not “together-together” after all. But it wasn’t long before I realized that I wanted to date New Guy exclusively. I nervously broke the news to Brett over French toast at a sidewalk café. I fidgeted as I gently told him there was someone else.

Breaking Up Is Expensive to Do

Anna Murdoch, ex-wife of Rupert, and Phyllis Redstone, ex-wife of Sumner, are both thought to have scored as much as \$1 billion settlements from their media-baron ex-husbands.