

Intertext

Volume 17


Article 14

1-1-2009

10 Ways to Fuck Up

Benjamin Harry Rosen

Follow this and additional works at: <https://surface.syr.edu/intertext>

 Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), and the [Nonfiction Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Rosen, Benjamin Harry (2009) "10 Ways to Fuck Up," *Intertext*: Vol. 17 , Article 14.
Available at: <https://surface.syr.edu/intertext/vol17/iss1/14>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by SURFACE. It has been accepted for inclusion in Intertext by an authorized editor of SURFACE. For more information, please contact surface@syr.edu.

10 WAYS

Rosen: 10 Ways to Fuck Up

to FUCK UP

Benjamin Harry Rosen



Artwork by Nicole Weiler

No. 1 Speak without thinking.

No. 2

Tell your friends' secrets.

No. 3

Curse just because you can, because it makes you look cool and laid-back.

No. 4

Protest the use of marijuana, alcohol, and other illicit substances, even though you've never tried them. Wait until you get to college. Change your mind.

No. 5

Forget to delete flirtatious text messages between you and another girl before you see your girlfriend. Leave your phone on the desk when you go to the bathroom.

No. 6

Tell your girlfriend you're staying in to do work. As you're walking back to your room, let yourself be abducted by your two friends – two very attractive girls. Later that night, send your girlfriend an instant message from one of the girl's screen names.

No. 7

Meet the cute girl who sits next to you in class. Find her on Facebook, then add her screen name without asking her for it. Send her an instant message shortly after she signs on . . . every time she signs on.

No. 8

First, meet a girl at a frat party. Don't drink, but get her a beer. Let her keep drinking, and ignore the fact that you have a girlfriend. Talk to this girl for a little while about how you two are in the same class. Leave earlier than you want to because your girlfriend had a bad night at the frat party she was at, hanging out with guys who wish she were single, because you're too nice a guy not to come at her beck and call.

Break up with your girlfriend for mutual reasons unrelated to the girl at the party. Learn the next day that your ex, who you just broke up with the day before, fucked someone else that night. Gulp down water because you're about to cry in the middle of a dining hall. Alone.

Make dinner plans with the girl from the frat. Ignore your ex's calls while you two are eating. Talk to her about her ex, and then make your way to her room.

COURSE: Wrt 114, Writing Culture

INSTRUCTOR: Izy Kleinbart

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The assignment was to write a lyric essay, a type of essay which can take pretty much any form—the kind of essay to use when I can't think of how to access the material or write the story in any other way.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This piece is striking because of the ability it has to convey an emotionally trying situation in a bold, unique, and, at times, hilarious way.

Rosen: 10 Ways to Fuck Up

Call her that night because you feel horrible.

Don't call her again.

No. 9

Meet your new female neighbors. Immediately arrange with your roommates which one you like the most. Flirt with her that night at your party while you dodge bullets from your two crazy exes who have discovered each other and keep talking about you, making you look like a complete asshole in front of your friends. Talk to this girl sporadically throughout the night until she gets so drunk that she leaves and calls her boyfriend, who lives upstairs, to come take care of her.

Take her out a few times over the next week or so with your roommate and her roommate. Put your arm around her and talk to her. Bring her back to your apartment and watch a movie with a few other people. Invite her to sit on your lap. Hold her hand and caress it gently with your index finger. Let her leave when she says she's going to leave.

Go for a walk the next morning and decide together that you'll stop whatever it is that's going on so she can continue to be happy with her boyfriend.

Let three weeks go by. Make out with her.

Avoid having your face broken by her boyfriend.

Avoid her.

No. 10

Invite a close girl friend to get coffee, and get to really know her. Talk about all the important stuff: G-d, family, love, life goals. Her favorite things including ketchup, Beyonce, and her Bichon Frise. Finish your drink and leave quickly because the creepy, possibly mentally challenged guy at the table next to you wants to teach you his quick methods of mathematical computation, or as he calls it, "math-uhh-matics."

Find a quiet spot at a park bench and continue to talk. Watch squirrels with foolish wonderment. When she excuses herself to go to the bathroom, feel the shivers run up your spine. It's not cold out.

Meet her at a party that night and bring her and her friends back to your apartment because your drunk ex is trying to tell you about the latest thing she's done to try to get you to like her again.

Put on music and play beer pong with her. Win seven games in a row. When you lose, take her to see your room.

Kiss her neck. Kiss her cheek. Kiss her lips. Shut the door. Lock the door. Take her to your bed. Take off your shirt but say it's just because it's warm in the room. Continue to kiss.

Take off almost everything, but don't be too eager to have sex. That will ruin it.

Stop by her room in the middle of the day just to see her, just to be with her for even a few minutes of your day. Show her what you've been writing, and let her rest her head on your shoulder; the distinct smell she wears is the same one she left on your sheets. Leave because you have to, not because you want to, even though she begs you to stay, and every time you get five more feet away, run back and give her one more kiss.

Take her out for sushi and bubble tea, and remember to pick up the check. Lose yourself in her wide brown eyes like ancient pennies, and when she calls you out on it, shake your head, give her a smile, and play with your chopsticks. Let her wear your track jacket because it's cold out, and even though you're only wearing an undershirt and a t-shirt, you'd rather freeze than see her uncomfortable.

Lend her a towel and shampoo the next morning. Watch her do her hair and smile. Share your music with her. Play guitar for her. Tell her she's beautiful. Mean it. Even in pajamas and a long sleeve shirt from the bookstore.

The next time she sleeps over, ask for a kiss goodbye before she gets on the bus. Don't think twice when instead of just doing it, she says, "Fine," then kisses you and leaves.

Meet her for coffee again after a few days because she says, "We need to talk" – she feels like it's becoming "a thing" and doesn't want it to. Say you understand, even though you don't.

Do not tell her you're in love with her.

Do not tell her you'd do anything for her.

And don't tell her that's why you'll let her go.

Let her go.

Don't be too eager to have sex. That will ruin it.



"All shined up and no place to go"
Terez Iacovino

<https://surface.syr.edu/intertext/vol17/iss1/14>