GOING STEADY

You just adore him. You can’t help yourself. Everything he says and does thrills you to the eyebrows. Being with him is heaven. The hours without him are so much waste time. You’ve gone off the deep end with your shoes on. And you’re sure it’s love!

I’m sure too. And he must be sure. And let’s hope he cherishes you with the same mad passion. It would be awful for you to ache unrequited.

Dollars to doughnuts you didn’t jump in without some slight sign from him that you were his only direction. You’ve picked each other and that’s all there is to it. Other people are too dull and uninteresting to be gone with. And so you go steady.

Everybody in your crowd goes steady. It means you’re always sure of having a date on Saturday night. You need never wonder which boy to ask—if it’s your turn. Everybody trots in neatly labeled couples. And it goes on that way for months. Until the big explosion when the apple cart’s upset! But you claim going steady is the only way, so here are a few highly spiced tips on swinging the deal. If you’re going to see him every day in the week, and keep on loving him, how are you going to do it? How will you stay in love?

How Much Do You Neck? Granted you’re both in love. And demonstrations of affection are outward signs of an inward seething. But how far are you going to carry this thing? Does every date dissolve in a huddle? Do you find it easier to pitch and toss a little than to sit and talk? Do you kiss him in public? And neck with him when another couple is along? And what if your mother caught you at the wrong moment?

When necking is your favorite indoor and outdoor sport with the boy you go with, you won’t go with him long. It has a strange way of loosening all the pilings of the dock you’ve tied up to—so that it crumbles and topples over. You’ll be bored faster than you dream possible. You’ll wake up some morning and wonder what’s happened. Your love has burned out—and there you are.

How to Keep Steady First of all, make each date with him special. Even if you see him every day. Be as enthusiastic about walking home from school with him as going to the biggest party. After all, this is your lad, and every minute with him is a delight. Or should be!

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Don't take him for granted. Yes, he's plopped his heart and his affection in your lap. But you've no guarantee they'll remain there. Don't count on anything. And what you get will be a treat! If he's the most important person in your life, act that way. And bend every effort to please him.

Don't take any chances that he'll find some other girl more attractive than you. Keep on pins and needles. Your hair always set; your clothes neat and tidy; your nails in shape. Keep making him think you're the loveliest girl in the world. And you can't do that if you slump. Let him catch you all awry half a dozen times, and he'll begin to have some doubts.

And relaxing goes for other things besides looks too. If your manners or your thoughtfulness or your cheery disposition were what attracted him to you in the first place, you can't afford to slip now. In fact, intimacy brings on many responsibilities. This lad means more to you than anyone else. Your prime job and delight rest in doing things for him. His happiness and comfort matter more to you than your own do. If you're really in love! His reputation is in your hands. His relations with other people are your affair. His success and accomplishments are your rewards. Everything that concerns him concerns you. If he comes first with you! It's the way girls are. His problems you add to yours. His moods color yours. His wishes and rules bind you. Caring deeply for the lad doubles your load, you see. And it's a responsibility to carry such a burden.

If you recognize that fact you'll not act as though you owned him. Be possessive, and he'll pull against the chains. Monopolize all his time and energy, and he'll struggle to be free. Give him the breezy air of independence. And give yourself the happiness of knowing that he stays by you because he wants to—and not because he feels he must!

Since he's your best friend, be honest and frank with him. Tell him your secrets. Ask his advice. Talk over your plans with him. Take him into your confidence, and wiggle your way into his.

For going steady is hardly just a sequence of dates with the same boy. It's a close relationship of friendship. It's not just a series of gala events. There are low moments too. And moments that just seem to stand still. You share experiences and ideas and thoughts as well as fun.

**Will You Share Him?** How is he around your house? At case, as he is in the bosom of his own family? If you're going steady with him your family probably sees plenty of him. Perhaps they can't see this wild amour of yours. Perhaps they're dead set against your
going steady with anybody. Well, if you'll give them a chance to
know your lad, perhaps they'll change their tune and be more ap-
preciative.

Grab his hand and scoot as soon as he calls for you, and they'll
never get to know him. Keep everything you do and say together a
deep dark secret, and they'll never understand how he works. Keep
this big love of yours completely unto yourself, and your family will
stand always on the outside. Take him into your family group, so
he's included in the family activities. That's engineering a plot that
will work out in your favor. As your family takes him in, their trust
and affection for him grow. And having the family on your side will
solve lots of problems.

How do you get along with his family? Somehow girls always
hold forth on their own family's hearth and front porch. But it's
not until a boy goes steady that he takes his girl home to present
to mamma. As far as most girls can tell, the boys they date don't
have any homes or families. The girl's radio gets used. It's her icebox
that's raided. It's her family's swing that succumbs to deflated
springs. It isn't too often that the boys entertain in their own homes.

But as soon as he signs a bargain for steady going, you can be
sure he'll take you home to show you off to his parents. And, of
course, they're pretty special people, his parents. And you're a smart
girl if you bother to keep in their good graces.

And how 'bout your girl friends? Are you afraid to let him out of
sight? Or can he take it all in his stride? Will he aid and abet you
with your girl businesses? Help to decorate for a club party? Drive
you and your pals to a meeting? Will he make himself useful to the
girls you like, just because he likes you?

If he will, he's a jewel, and worth all the time you spend with
him!

And will he let you in when he and the boys have something up
their sleeves? Will he bring other boys over to the house, knowing
you'll add to their fun? Will he care as much about making you
happy, as you care about him? Will he go out of his way to please
you? Will he get pleasure out of your every smile and chance re-
mark? Will he uphold his part of the bargain?

If so—tie to him! And run in a pair!

But don't forget that you can get this close to several different
boys—and all at the same time! I just can't resist saying this! For
I do believe that a girl can swing several perfectly grand friendships
with several perfectly grand boys—and keep all the cues straight.
There's such a thing as going steadily with more than one lad—and
knowing them all intimately. That's not going steady. It's much
more fun!