
Lessons In Love For William & Kate From The Pop Charts

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On July 1st, Prince William will join his younger brother Harry on stage at Wembley for the Concert For Diana. As Dr. Janice Seto sees it, the Prince and his ex-girlfriend Kate Middleton could learn a few lessons in love from an unlikely source: the pop charts.

Remember when you last reached a crossroads in a connection and you had to decide whether to continue or disconnect? And by connection I refer not just to a relationship, such as a romance, but a wider definition of emotional connection including friendship or a job or even taking the plunge and emigrating to a new country.

The Kate – William saga brings to mind for me a few tips on reassessing our connections.

In other words, is there any point in committing more of my time, energy, resources into this connection? Englebert Humperdinck immortalized these first lines in the song, Last Waltz: "Wonder should I go or should I stay...?"

I will bring in other great songs from popular culture in illustrating my points.

"We'll be friends forever" shows up in many high school yearbooks – think of the closing song in Grease – however, quality connections are negotiated continually by the two people involved to be win-win. By that I mean mutually beneficial – you do a good job at work so they meet organizational goals and you get a paycheck and skills and camaraderie.

You certainly are at your best when the other is keen to make you happy. In non-profit organizations or churches, volunteers work extraordinarily hard as a dedicated team towards a clear and honorable goal. How many times have you fielded a call at 1am from an anxious friend? In the realm of romance, how heartening it is when the other fancies your fabulousness - Tom Jones expressed it in his rendition of the Bacharach/David What's New, Pussycat?: "I've got flowers and lots of hours to spend with you..."

And how willing are we to be available to such a suitor, as depicted in another Tom Jones hit: "Help Yourself" – "Love is like candy on a shelf, you want a taste so help yourself, the sweetest things are there for you, help yourself, take a few, that's what I want you to do..."

When it is mutual, you both benefit from the alignment of synergies like Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and her 'Bertie', King George VI or Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg and his Cuban wife, Grand Duchess Maria Teresa.

Despite the wonderful qualities in each of us, many connections come with an expiry date. Rightly so, we learn and move from life experiences and grow into our potential, as do 'The Other'. Enjoy it while it lasts, accept this fact of life, and have a contingency plan in place.

How reassuring that the coins bearing HM's face show signs of graceful aging. Otherwise we think Botox.

Given that fact, be aware "You are exceptional, you are not the exception" as Greg Behrendt and Liz Trucillo wrote in He's Just Not That Into You. When you see that the "writing's on the wall", it is time to move on.

Royals who respond to the signals and adapt have staying power. Sweden shifted after the death of Gustaf VI Adolph in 1976 with the new King retaining little of his grandfather's political power and paying tax.

{jumi [includes/jumies/rectanglew.php]}What can be gained by following the song I Keep Holding On by Simply Red? Or waiting, like Englebert sang in Quando Quando Quando. It brings to the mind's eye Miss Haversham in her yellowing wedding gown; or colleagues who hate their job waiting for their retirement date. Those standing in front of the wave of change are sadly, desperately clinging to the mythical golden past and in denial of today's reality.

This is how you realize change is in the air, the 3Ds. Most people — friends, ofirms, governments prefer not to deliver the bad news. It is human nature for the Other to prefer to give you every opportunity to bow out and save face. In Men, Love & Sex: The Complete User's Guide for Women, author David Zinczenko states that men want to leave a legacy of you thinking good things about him – and if you are not humiliated, and formally exit discreetly, then he is happy.

They want you to get the message of their actions. Only if you don't get it by being in denial does it escalate.

1. DISTANCING: Does s/he spend less time with you? And by time, the ratio of time s/he has free and the amount of time s/he chooses to spend with you. In a firm, are you cc'ed on meetings or excluded from social gatherings. In other words, are you experiencing distancing? ("I want space and would rather be with other people. Please do the same.")

There is nothing wrong with the other spending more time with the buds if you are secure in your connection. But is the other happy to see you or annoyed to see you?

In the case of William and Kate, he preferred to not spend Christmas and New Year's with the Middleton's at their rental cottage in Scotland.

Meanwhile, he's said to have told her not to make a second appearance in the Royal Box at Cheltenham without him and was therefore allegedly angry to discover she'd gone against his wishes when, just days later, she was back on the front pages, smiling beneath her beret at the festival.

As Englebert sang: "Please release me, let me go, I don't love you anymore...Please release me and let me love again..."

William has been unequivocal in his timeline – he is adamant that he won't contemplate marriage until the age of 28 or 30.

In comparison, Kate had her own agenda of a ring now. And the media bought into her cause.

Canadian Shania Twain puts this to music: "I'm gonna getcha if it takes all night, you can betcha bottom dollar in time you're gonna be mine. Just like I should, I'll getcha good. I've already planned it, here's how it's gonna be, I'm gonna love you and you're gonna fall in love with me."

The attitude seemed to be that Kate knew better than William what was in his best interests – that implies on a maternal role. Perhaps that was there from the beginning. Lore has her talking him into staying at St. Andrews University rather than chucking it in during their first semester and letting him be accountable for that choice and then playing house with him later on. (Ladies, please note unless his name is Oedipus, most men outgrow their mothers, not marry them.)

{jumi [includes/jumies/rectanglew.php]}Playing house does not encourage a man to marry his live-in lady. Although the rate of people getting married is going down, according to my European friends, in North America, those bridal magazines still sell out. Shows like I Do, Let's Eat have high ratings.

Why? Because women want vows exchanged publicly with all the trimmings. Plus the institution carries weight in our courts and our hearts.

2. DISRESPECT: If you don't get the message from distancing, the next escalation is to make you pull the plug through acts of disrespect. It has gone to making it very public and obvious that: "Look here, I don't care about you. You are not important enough for me to stand up for you".

William went out with other women. Posing for photographs with his arms around other women — however innocent such meetings were — the media-savvy Prince must have known the pictures would appear in the papers, in turn giving Kate photographic evidence of his wish to enjoy a social life far from her side?

William also appeared to do nothing to counter his friends' louche comments about Kate's family, especially the remarks about the social standing and etiquette of her mother, Carole.

Meanwhile, some observers questioned why Kate was often left to catch a taxi following a night out with her Prince (although the royal men, including Charles with Camilla — pictured departing a party in a taxi — have a history of leaving their ladies to be protected by friends and officials).

At least Princess Masako's husband, Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan, stood up for the woman he loves.

Too many men and women let themselves be humiliated by their man's antics and bullying – "What kind of woman will put

up with that treatment?" Catty people would reply: "Someone who loves the idea of becoming a princess enough to put up with his shoddy treatment of her."

When William did not care enough about his girlfriend of four years to be discreet, it seemed clear it was in order to send a clear message to the world declaring: "She's not the one!"

At this stage, 'The Other' may still leave his toothbrush around but it is just for the physical relationship. Amazing that some men believe they can have the sex with no side effects. Amazing that women believe in the efficacy of using sex to get love – which confuses things.

{jumi [includes/jumies/rectanglew.php]}Remember Carrie and Mr Big's first date in Sex & The City? Bridget Jones & Mark Darcy? That clouded things to the extent that it took weeks for both marrying-minded women to discover neither man wanted to marry again. Unfortunately many women believe their man will do an Englebert and sing "After the Lovin' I'm still in love with you."

The only four-letter word here is HOPE. As the prurient press has implied, continued intimate sexual relations enable her to rationalize the meager amount of time together and the massive amounts of bad behaviour into hope. Denial is not just a river in Egypt...

Similarly, on a larger scale, in China after the communist revolution in 1949, Cantonese families like mine who operated small businesses did not like the writing on the wall of the new government vis-à-vis capitalists and fled with just the clothes on their back. Others like Mrs Nien Cheng stayed, running Shell from Shanghai into the 1960s.

But, as she recounts in her book, eventually the Red Guard came for her too.

3. DISMISSAL: This is where the other person cannot stand your continued presence, perceives time and energy on you is a waste! He is even willing to sacrifice his legacy and earn the label of cad, just to get rid of you. As Donald Trump says: "You're fired!"

Would it have been better for the royal dynasty had both the present king of Nepal and France's Louis XVI woken up earlier? Because at the DISMISSAL stage, the hard line has been drawn in the sand and the previous willingness to negotiate evaporates.

When they start renaming places and limiting use of your language, they don't want your kind at all. Get going or your stay will be in a cemetery.

To tell a person "All the fun has gone" (as William reportedly said to Kate) clearly spells out the message: "It's not fun anymore" but, more baldly, the sentiment: "You're not fun anymore".

And "I don't want to be nailed down" supports why William says he is not ready to get married. Sure, he is old enough to walk down the aisle but as they say about former American President Bill Clinton: "He's a hard dog to keep on the porch".

Kudos to William for being honest at age 22 and reiterating it now at age 24.

In the aftermath, William's reported scream of "I'm free..." — like Henry Higgins' declaration: "Thank God that's over" — and his flirtations indicate his eagerness to Kiss (another hit for Tom Jones with the Art of Noise) and reminds us of the lyrics: "There ain't no sign I'm more compatible with, I just want your extra time...I just want your body, baby, from dust to dawn..."

{jumi [includes/jumies/rectanglew.php]}Will this lead to a Charles-Camilla redux? There is no valid comparison – Charles gave her up because he could not marry her and she was a relative secret.

No one in the media ever thought Camilla was Princess of Wales material, unlike Kate....whom William does not want to marry.

So don't wait for William to regretfully sing "Mandy" (good thing too, as no one can do it like Barry Manilow).

When he is ready, William will look around and find someone.

The reality is there are plenty of great women out there, although he faces the added burden of finding someone who is acceptable to the world.

What should you do when you see any of these Ds? Three more Ds...

1. Get out first – If you discreetly separate, great but don't let him hijack the press in his favour. Make it known you are DUMPING him. (Prince Felipe implied it was Eva who ended it and spoke well of her. Regardless of the truth, this was old-fashioned manners to allow the woman to hold her head high with dignity).

Should you find out your Prince wants to romance other women, let him go on his way.

Even Liz Hurley released Hugh Grant back into the wild, although it's best if you don't take your time like Sienna Miller....that gets tired.

2. DELETE his phone number – so William rang Kate to commiserate with the press braying at her mother? He may miss her but not enough to marry her.

What has changed? Nothing, so no more parenting, Kate. Take no more calls!

Get on with life like Princess Irene in the Netherlands. Embrace your new job – and if you are emigrating, speak nothing bad about the new country that has rolled out the welcome mat. Because the response is: "If your old country is so great, go back!" And you never want to go back to someone or someplace that does not want you.

3. And follow the advice of Myreah Moore and Jodie Gould, in the book, *Date Like a Man*, do DATE a Pair and a Spare. No more exclusivity until he begs you to wear his engagement ring. Samantha Jones may be a fictitious Cougar but the former Princess Alexandra of Denmark got her 28-year-old second husband, Martin Jorgenson — that's one lady who can take care of herself!

{jumi [includes/jumies/rectanglew.php]}If you want to marry a prince of a guy, first find a prince who wants to marry. Are there mature men who will chase after fabulous princess material?

Take heart – as Tom Jones sang: "It's Not Unusual".