



I'm in love with my boss

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DEAR CHIEF: I am a female employee who works in my company's mail order department. For the past year I've had a crush on my boss--he's everything I want in a man. In fact, I'd have to say I'm in love with him. I flirt with him but he never responds like I want. I'd like to pursue a romantic relationship with him but my friends and family tell me not to mix work and pleasure. Heck, I'd be willing to quit my job if that were necessary to avoid a conflict of interest. Is there a way this kind of relationship can work? How should I proceed with this?

HOPELESSLY IN LOVE



DEAR HOPELESSLY IN LOVE: Your friends and family are mostly right; however, there are exceptions to the "don't date at work" rule.

Occasionally, married couples or dating partners do succeed in mixing work and pleasure. This is the case when both parties are truly in love with each other and both are totally in sync with each other's goals and values. When partners are not truly in love and/or have different goals and values pertaining to discipline, ethics, and budget management, then trouble looms on the horizon.

I've witnessed some couples do

quite well in entrepreneurial ventures, small restaurant ownership, and even as a real estate agent team, but I've also seen other couples struggle in similar situations, particularly when one of the partners is an extremely jealous person or lets their personal relationship issues creep into the work environment. Quite often when things aren't going well at home, the emotional lines can become blurred between work and home.

To gain the proper perspective of your situation with your boss, answer the following questions:

Is your boss in love with you? (It's been a year now since you've supposedly been in love with him. Romantic love should be a two-way street. Yours appears to be a one-way street. You flirt with him and get no response. Maybe he isn't interested in a romantic relationship with you. If this is the case, you're wasting time and energy pursuing him.) Is there a fraternization policy at your workplace that doesn't allow supervisors to date subordinates? Is he just as appealing to you when he's away from work? How does he treat his friends and family? What does he do in his spare time? What are some of his habits? What are his philosophical views? What does he value? What are his likes and dislikes? What does he aspire to become? What's his favorite movie or book, and why? How about his favorite color? If you can't answer these

questions with any degree of accuracy, then you really don't know him like you think you do.

Also, when couples work together, it can be very difficult for them to turn off the relationship switch while at work--and this can lead to relationship burnout. If burnout does occur, it may very well be in the relationship's best interest for one person to seek employment elsewhere in order to preserve the romance.

And should a break-up or divorce occur, it can certainly be very difficult to see and possibly interact with a former partner at work. It may stir up old emotions, good or bad, and can result in a continuous mental distraction, leaving one or both parties feeling unmotivated throughout the day.

So based on how you described your situation, I would recommend you not proceed in trying to start a romantic relationship with your boss. Perhaps getting out and meeting other people could spark a feeling for someone else. A wise old Indian once told me the best remedy for getting over someone who does not love you in return is to fall in love with someone else. Good luck!



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