

DAVID:

HOW TO BREAK HIS (or any boy's) HEART

■ There are lots of ways a boy can break a girl's heart. He can ask her to go steady—and say he wants his ring back three days later. He can break up with her and start dating her best friend. He can dance with her all night at a party, give her a tender good night kiss and then never call her again. He can tell **his** friends, who tell **her** friends, that he likes her—but never give **her** the slightest hint. He can stare at her whenever they're in the same place, and then ignore her when she tries to be friendly and show him that she likes him.

But it isn't always that way. Girls can—and do—break boys' hearts. Here are some of the ways it happens.

Unsteady Steady

When a guy tells a girl he's been dating that he wants to break up, that he likes someone else, chances are she'll be hurt and she'll show it. She may not actually start crying, but he'll probably be able to tell how she feels.

How will **he** feel about that? Well, if he really liked her in the first place, he'll probably feel a little guilty and upset himself. And he'll probably feel sorry for her for liking him more than he likes her. But in the back of his mind, he may be thinking how lucky he is to be moving on to someone new, while she's just sitting there crying over him.

But think how much different he'd feel if, instead of getting upset when he broke the news, she said something like, "Oh, that's fine. I don't mind. Actually, I've been thinking we **should** break up. It was just that I couldn't tell you. I didn't want to hurt you. I'm glad to hear you feel the same way as I do about it."

As you can imagine, it isn't easy for a girl who's really been hurt and shocked by learning that her boyfriend wants to stop dating her to conceal her true feelings this way. But if you ever have a chance to try it, you'll probably find that the rewards are well worth the effort.

What's likely to happen? First, your boyfriend will probably be **very** surprised to hear you take the news so lightly. He probably won't know what to say, but he's sure to be thinking, "I wonder if she's seeing someone else."

And he'll be convinced you **are** seeing someone else if you ask him about his new girl and then say, "Maybe we can double date one of these days." If he asks you who you're going out with next and you don't have anyone, all you have to do is smile secretively and say, "I'd rather not talk about it right now."

He'll probably go home feeling as if **he's** the one who was broken up with. And if, deep down, he still really likes you more than the new girl, he'll begin to realize it. Before long he'll be back, hoping that you won't break **his** heart again. If you say yes when he asks you out next time, he'll feel like the luckiest guy in the world.

"I Know He Likes Me, But. . ."

How many times have you heard a girl say that? How many times have you said that? And what can a girl possibly do about that boy who gives all sorts of signals that show he likes her, but never gets around to doing anything about it?

One possibility is to break his heart exactly the way he's breaking yours. If he stares at you in class, stare back at him. If he talks to other