

“They say the unexamined life is a life not worth living. But what if the examining becomes your life, is that really living or just procrastinating? What if all those helpful lunches and late night phone calls to friends have made us all girl talk and no girl action. Is it time to stop asking questions?”

- Carrie Bradshaw, *Sex & The City*, 2004

you have to forgive me you have to forgive me you have to forgive me

by Brian Lobel

Intro: Carrie Bradshaw was a goddamn genius and an incredibly important part of my life and coming of age – she was with me through losing my virginity, my cancer, 9/11, coming out and so much more. While I appreciate that Carrie might be a controversial figure in the worlds of feminism, consumerism and late 90s fashion, in the years since the show went off the air, I regularly wonder where she is, what she’s doing, and what she’d think about my, or my friends’, crazy sex and romantic life. Whether or not Carrie, Charlotte, Samantha and Miranda were important parts of your sex/romantic life, I hope you’ll find the survey relevant. And I hope that by asking you to complete this survey before BINGE, you have time to reflect honestly and thoroughly about your relationships, sex, desires, turn-ons, turn-offs, and where you are today.

Season 1

1) How the hell did we get into this mess?

If you believe your love life to be a mess: How did you get into this mess?

If you do not believe your love life to be a mess, congratulations, you can skip to question 2:

2) If models could cause other rational people to crumble in their presence, exactly how powerful was beauty? (Circle answer.)

Extremely Powerful

Somewhat Powerful

Not Powerful

3) Is there a secret cold war between marrieds and singles? (Circle answer.)

Yes

No

Sometimes

If you’ve selected Sometimes, please submit a time when the secret cold war is in full swing:

4) Are men in their 20s the new designer drug? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If you've selected Yes, please submit specific name & contact information for said hot 20-year old:

5) Where is the line between professional girlfriend and just plain professional? (Enter coordinates, real or imagined):

6) How many of your friends are having great sex with people we're ashamed to introduce to you or their other friends? (Circle range.)

Shame-Sex Partners<2 2<Shame-Sex Partners<10 10<Shame-Sex Partners

7) Has monogamy become too much to expect? (Circle answer.)

Yes No Partner-specific

8) Are threesomes the new sexual frontier? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If you select No, the new sexual frontier is: _____

9) Is it time to settle for what we can get? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If Yes, an example of settling:

If No, a rationale for not settling:

10) Am I next? (Circle answer.)

Yes No Never Probably Soon Already Happened

11) How often is normal? (Circle answer.)

>2x/day 1x/day 1x/week 1x/month 1x/yearNever

12) Were relationships the religion of the 90s? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, relationships were most analogous to which religion: _____

If no, what was the religion of the 90s?: _____

Season 2

1) What are the breakup rules? (Provide one example.)

2) Are there still things in a relationship that one should never say?

Yes No

If yes, list a thing one should never say:

3) Are all men freaks?

They are, this is not a question. But if you wish to make a case arguing that not all men are freaks, space for that is provided here: ____.

4) Is it better to fake it than to be alone? (Provide short essay.)

5) Can a relationship bring you back to life? (Circle answer.)

Yes, I have evidence. Yes, but no evidence. No. Absolutely not.

6) What constitutes cheating? (Provide one example.)

7) Is it still possible to believe in love at first sight? (Circle answer.)

Yes, speaking from experience. Yes, I believe.

No, speaking from experience. No, I believe.

8) Are we willing to believe anything to date? (Circle answer.)

Yes No Dependent on Circumstance

If yes, please provide most absurd thing believed:

9) Can you change a man? (Circle answer.)

Yes No Some men

If yes, or some, please provide instructions:

10) Can we date outside our caste? (Circle answer.)

Yes, always. Yes, under certain circumstances. Never

Provide circumstances as appropriate:

11) Are we evolving past relationships? (Explain what makes you fit for survival. Or not.)

12) How do you know when enough is enough?

13) Do you have to play games to make a relationship work? (Circle answer.)

Yes, all kinds of games. Yes, one game in particular. Game play irrelevant.

If there is one game:

14) Were we all, in fact, just dating the same person over and over? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

Further information, where applicable:

15) When you sleep with someone, are you screwing the family? (Provide name of family who you would screw faster than an individual family member.)

16) How do we know if we are good in bed?

17) Twenty something girls: friend or foe? (Circle answer.)

Friend Friend, under certain circumstances Foe Foe, under certain circumstances

Circumstances, as appropriate:

18) Can you be friends with an ex? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, please provide helpful hint:

Season 3

1) Do women just want to be rescued? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, by whom:

2) Can there be sex without politics? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If no, name the most relevant political movement to your sex life:

3) Are there women who exist to make us feel bad about ourselves? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, please provide their name and contact information:

4) Has the opposite sex become obsolete? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, provide description of your sexuality (LGBTQQA etc) here:

5) In relationships, what are the dealbreakers? (List four.)

6) Are we sluts? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, Congratulations. This performance is against slut-shaming.

7) Do we need drama to make a relationship work? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, provide example:

8) Is timing everything? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

9) Is it smarter to follow your heart or your head? (Circle answer.)

Heart Head Other body part: _____

10) Can we have it all? (Circle answer.)

Yes, and I do. Yes, but I don't. No, but I could. No, and nobody can.

11) Is sex ever safe? (List favourite safe sex practices.)

12) Is honesty really the best policy?

13) Can you ever really escape your past? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, provide strategy:

If no, provide example:

14) Is it what's on the outside that counts? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, provide contact details of person w/ best outside:

15) Are we 34 going on 14? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

16) Are we getting wiser, or just older? (Circle answer.)

Older, exclusively Wiser, exclusively Both older and wiser Neither older nor wiser

17) Is there such a thing as relationship karma? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, describe yours:

18) Is the problem us? (It probably is).

Season 4

1) Soul mates: reality or torture device? (Circle answer.)

Reality Torture Device

If reality, provide evidence here:

2) Do we ever see ourselves clearly? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, name a time recently when you saw yourself clearly:

3) What really defines a relationship?

A relationship is _____

~~**4) What comes first, the chicken or the sex?**~~ (Epically stupid question, ignore)

5) When a relationship dies, do we ever really give up the ghost or are we forever haunted by the spirits of relationships past? (Circle answer.)

Give up the ghost Forever haunted

If forever haunted, name the spirit that haunts you most:

6) In matters of love, do actions really speak louder than words? (Circle answer.)

Actions>Words

Actions=Words

Actions<Words

7) Can you ever really forgive if you can't forget?

8) No question as per Carrie's crashed computer.

9) When does the art of compromise become compromising? (Identify the moment.)

10) Are men just women with balls? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

11) Are we there yet? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

12) In matters of love, how do you know when it's right?

13) What are we fighting for? (List 3 things.)

14) To be in a couple, do you have to put your single self on a shelf? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, list any benefits.

If no, list any benefits.

15) Do we really want these things or are we just programmed? (Circle answer.)

Really want these things Just programmed

If just programmed, provide name of the programmer:

16) What's it all worth? (Circle answer.)

<£5 £5<£20<£100 £100< Not valued in money.

17) How much does a father figure figure? (Circle answer.)

Lots Somewhat Neutral Not a lot Very little Nada

18) Can you make a mistake and miss your fate?

Season 5

1) Have we missed the boat? (Circle answer.)

Yes No This question makes no sense.

2) What's the harm in believing? (Identify 2 potential harms in believing)

3) If we know the house always wins, why gamble?

4) Should you judge a book by its cover? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, describe your cover:

5) Why does one, minus a plus one, feel like it adds up to zero?

6) Why do we believe our worst reviews? (Provide review of this performance/survey)

7) Are we the new bachelors? (Circle answer.)

Yes No Dunno

8) Is a relationship a relationship without the zsa zsa zsu? (Ignoring that zsa zsa zsu is a mostly-stupid made up term for butterflies in your stomach, clearly invented to meme-ify – or whatever they had in 2002 – a piece of sex/love terminology, or to make the full question “When saying ‘I do’ – is a relationship a relationship with out the zsa zsa zsu” into a cheap rhyming couplet...)

Yes No Sometimes:

Season 6

1) Why do we keep investing?

2) Why is it always something?

3) Can you get to a future if your past is present? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

4) Are there times when the ladies should just ‘Shut the Fuck Up?’? (Please note that this is a direct quote, from Carrie Bradshaw. This doesn’t make it better, but makes me – potentially – sound like less of a misogynist, sexist, condoner of the silencing of women. Saying this, Circle answer.)

No No

5) Are the men today less threatened by a woman’s power, or are they just acting?

(Circle answer.) Less threatened Acting It’s an act of performance art, really

6) Do we need distance to get closer? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes, submit the ideal distance for getting closer:

7) Do we search for lessons to lessen the pain? (Circle answer.)

Yes No Sometimes

If yes, submit most helpful lesson:

8) When did it stop being fun and start being scary? (Submit estimated date.) _____

9) When did we stop being free to be you and me? (Submit estimated date.) _____

10) Did we have it right in high school? (Circle answer. Submit college for high school where relevant.)

Yes No Hell yes Hell no In some things

More information:

11) How dangerous is an open heart? (List four dangers)

12) When will waiting for the one be done? (Submit estimated date.) _____

13) Even when we try to keep it light, how do we end up in the dark? _____

14) Have we become romance intolerant?

Yes No

If yes, describe any specific intolerance: _____

If no, describe anything you can still put up with, despite yourself:

15) Why are we should-ing all over ourselves?

16) Denial: Friend or foe? (Circle answer.)

Friend Foe

17) Without sharing your worlds, can even the hottest relationships stop cold?

(Circle answer.) Yes No

18) Is it time to stop questioning? (Circle answer.)

Yes No

If yes or no, submit time taken to complete this survey:
