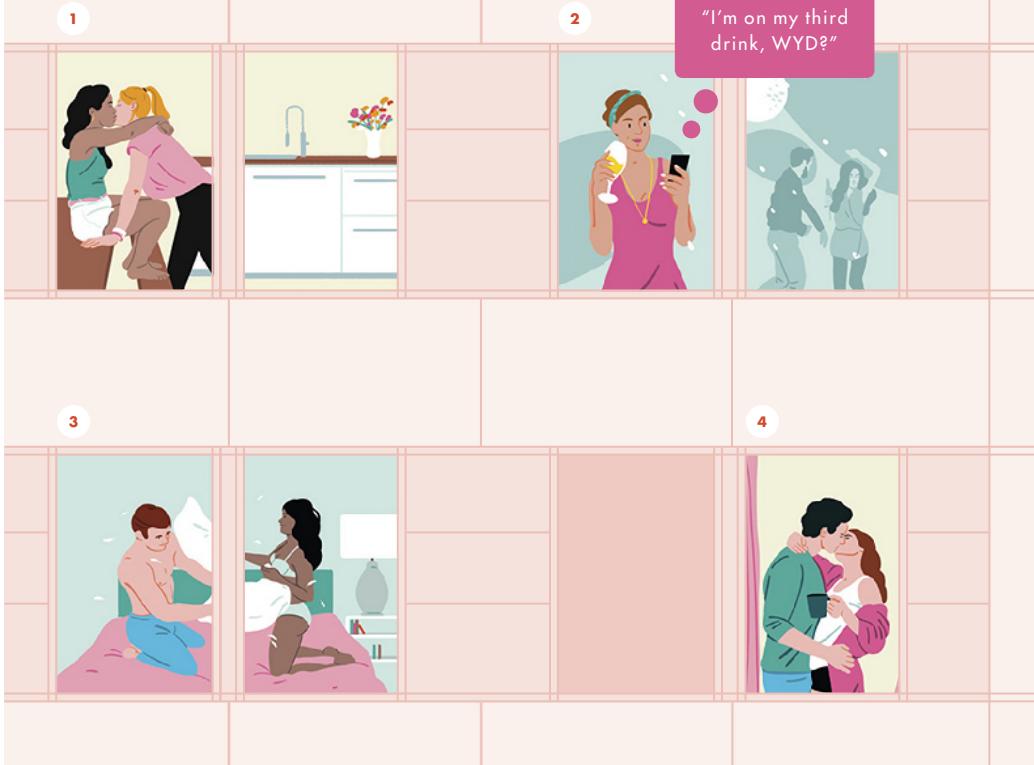


10 situationships you didn't even realize you're in

You're not BF/GF, but you're definitely...something.

By ASHLEY MATEO



If you're not sure how to DTR besides calling it "a thing," you're probs in a situationship. Maybe you're having sleepovers with this person three times a week but you forget they exist when Mom asks if you're dating anyone. Or maybe you're sliding into each other's DMs daily but you haven't actually hit the Follow button yet.

Sound familiar? It takes six weeks, on average, for new couples to put any kind of label on their relationship, according to a recent survey from sex-toy brand EdenFantasys. That is, if you want to be official at all. Maybe The Safety Crush works just fine for you, thank you very much. Here, the full cast of characters you could be dealing with.

1 The Sex Snack

You two have been hooking up again, and again, without developing ~feelings~. Maybe you're not looking for a relationship, or perhaps you just want to explore some new kinks. Either way, you both know what's up and keep things strictly between the sheets.

2 The Free Pass

Whether you're blowing up their phone or vice versa, the only words you two exchange are "u up?" This happens when one of you is (a) drunk, (b) lonely, or (c) both. There's no need for romance...your bodies are doing the talking.

3 The Benefriend

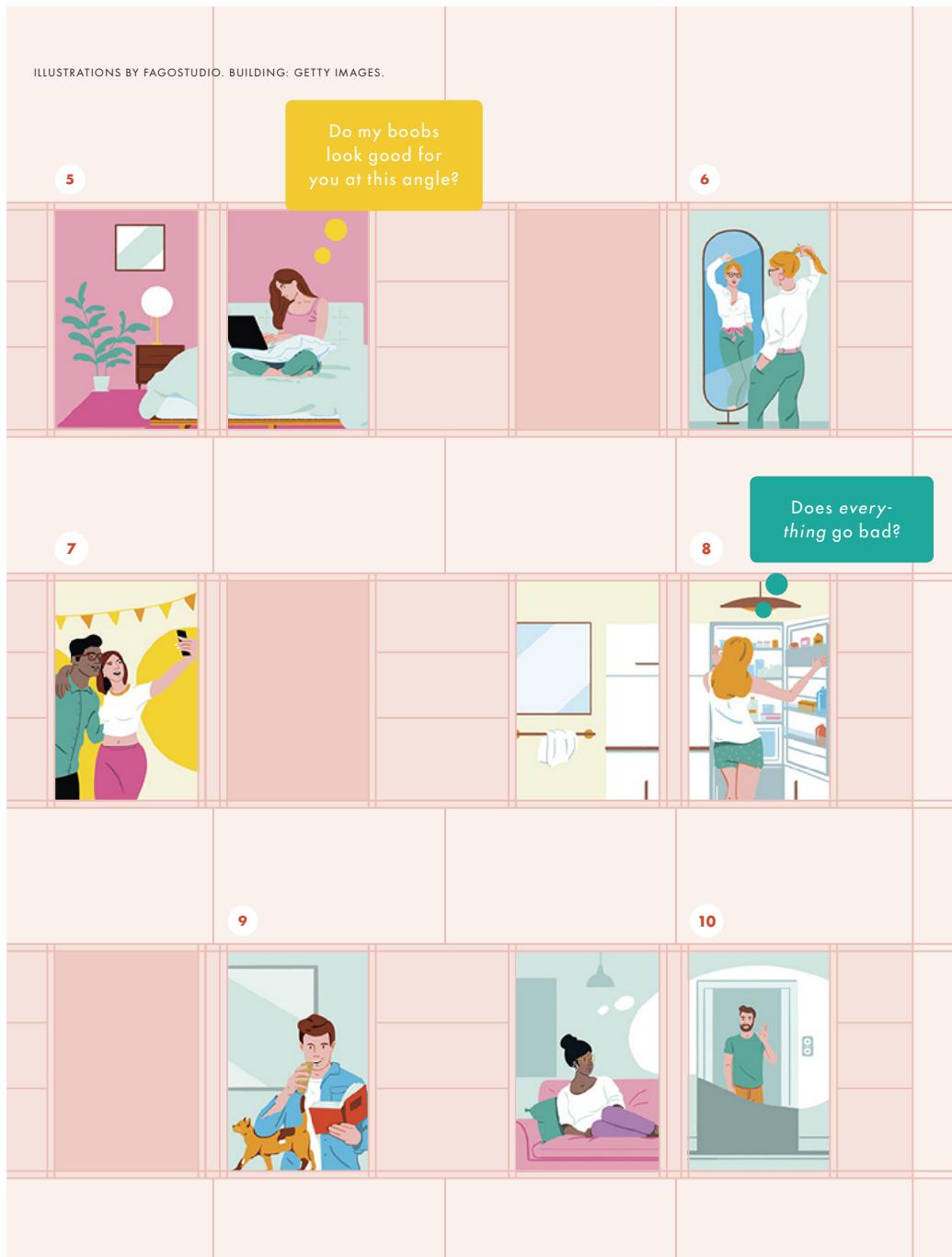
Sure, things get physical, but you're probably going out to brunch the next day too. You trust this person enough to ask for their opinion on your dateability (even when you're naked) and know they won't be bothered or jealous.

4 The Sidebar

You hit each other up for self-esteem boosts whenever the people you *actually* like dip out. They'll say you look amaze and how that match was an idiot to ghost you. You've never gone past a "thank you" make-out tho.

5 The Imaginary Eff

Not only are you into heavy sexting and getting into deep convos over iMessage, but you also ask each other how your work presentations went. The problem? It's all on your phones. IRL hangs are rare or, eep, have never happened.



Do my boobs
look good for
you at this angle?

SO, WTF DO YOU DO NOW?

If you're...

...totally fine
with your
situationship:

You do you, boo. "Just be really transparent about what your goals are," says clinical psychologist Jenny Taitz, PsyD.

...losing sleep
over living
in this gray area:
Consider whether the stress is worth it, says Taitz. "The pain may outweigh the thrill of the moment."

...ready to take
things to
the next level:

DTR. Stat. Avoiding it gets uncomfortable, "especially if you want something different," says psychologist Niloo Dardashti, PsyD.

...pretty positive
you want out:
Treat them the way you'd want to be treated. "Just be honest, and own it," says Dardashti. Whatever you do, don't ghost.

6 The Safety Crush

Cute banter, do-me eye locks, lingering-a-bit-too-long hugs... except nothing sexual has really happened here because it's too nice to live in that early relationship-esque bubble where shit can't possibly go wrong.

7 The Plus-One

Who doesn't love that lifesaver who will suit up for everything from your office holiday party to your sorority sister's wedding—no questions asked? People think you look great together, but you have no real spark off the dance floor.

8 The Expiration Date

You like each other and are "dating" for all intents and purposes—except there's a hard stop when you know you'll need to cut things off. Maybe they're about to move across the country or this is a fun summer fling before school starts.

9 The Breadcrumber

They throw out "crumbs" of attention—sporadic flirty texts, comments on your 'grams, super-vague plan suggestions—to keep your interest but never follow through on anything. This person gives you the absolute bare minimum.

10 The Missed Connection

Your first date went so well you closed down the bar...but date two didn't happen for six weeks. You can't tell if it's not getting serious because you're just not feeling it or the timing majorly sucks.