

You Can't Shun the Obvious  
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It's funny but Mom always had some precaution for me to take heed of every time I went on a date. Do this, don't do that, make sure he doesn't do this and be careful about that. That's how all her conversations started or ended. I always thought she was overly worried but then maybe it was because Dad wasn't around anymore to protect both of us. He loved us both and we him and when he died it was a great loss for us. Well, I was going out tonight and Mom started again.

"Yes, Mom, yes. Oh, Mom, would you do me a favor and put these in the dryer? Oh, and Mom, John asked me out to a food fair Sunday afternoon."

"A what?"

"A fair where you sample and buy food. Don't look at me, he suggested it!"

"Well, you can't say he doesn't take you out on original dates. Where are you going tonight?"

"Oh, Alex is taking me to the movies. And don't worry. I won't forget to chew some gum."

"It's not that I don't trust you dear. It's the guy you go out with. I mean there's nothing like a mouthful of chewing gum to stop him."

"Oh, Mom."

"Well, you may think it's ridiculous but the most ridiculous things have the most amazing results. I can remember one time when I was on the subway going to work and there are dirty old men on those subways. I was about twenty then. Anyway, the man kept putting his hand on my knee and all I could think of was laughing so I did! He was so embarrassed. He quickly moved away and I had no more problems. Another way of taking care of those men is to take his hand, raise it high in the air and shout out 'Who's hand is this?' Ridiculous isn't it, but it works."

"Well, Mom, I'll keep you in mind if I get on any subways."

"Okay, so it's weird. But just remember it when you go out tonight."

"Yes, Mom."

"I couldn't sleep and you know what, warm milk tastes horrible."

“Oh, Mom, okay I’ll tell you what happened. I had the gum in my mouth before I left the house and kept it there until the intermission. I then continued to stuff myself with popcorn, bon -bons, and cracker jacks keeping my jaws constantly in motion. Afterwards we went for a soda, again occupying my moth. The only advances he made were putting his arm around me in the movies, holding my hand while going for a soda, and kissing me goodnight. Listen, Mom, I’ve gone out with Alex before and no matter what I do he’s not going to be so lightly passing, you have to know that. Don’t worry I’ll keep my senses and remember what you’ve said but it isn’t as if couples need chaperoning until they’re married now a days.”

“I know dear, but I just worry.”

“Worry, about what? You trust me, right? Maybe you have something in the back of your mind that you’re afraid will happen to me. Maybe it’s because it happened to you. And if that’s so wont’ I be informed about how to cope with it? I mean you tell me about every other precaution to take.”

“Okay, okay, I see your point. But is it all right if I still worry?”

“Yes, it’s all right. Only don’t drink anymore warm milk, you’ll probably get indigestion.”