



Dear Barry,

My boyfriend that I have been dating for the past 6 months wants me to move in with me. We are both professionals in our 40's and make very good money.

I have always lived within my means, putting money into stocks, savings and retirement accounts. I own a house that is almost paid for, and have no credit card debt. My boyfriend lives way above his means, running large balances on his credit cards, and has no real savings.

Since meeting him, I have been trying to keep up and have found myself going into my savings. He is sexy, handsome, smart, charming and has lots of friends. I think I love him, but am concerned about our differences in how we handle money. He told me, that if I am not committed the way he is, our relationship is over. I do not want to lose him, so what do I do.

Signed – Going into Debt

Dear Going into Debt,

First off, you are not in your 20's. Dating for 6 months, you are just getting to know your boyfriend. What you do know is that your boyfriend is in debt, and irresponsible with money. If you stay with him, he will convince you to keep spending money, so he can continue his image and life style.

If someone tells you that your relationship is over if you are not ready to live together, I would tell him goodbye. He knows you have money, so he is not going anywhere.

If you really want to find out if he loves you, give it another year before living together. Learn to set boundaries around spending money and watch how he reacts. Nobody is worth going broke for. When the stocks are sold, savings gone, the house will be the next source of money.

When it is all gone.... He will be also. Then where are you....broke like him and alone.