

Game theory applied: (Ir)rational romance recommendations

Author's Statement

The following work contains sexist and problematic beliefs as well as highly unethical ideas. The suggestions in this fake email should not be taken seriously.

This piece was written for 88-225: Strategic Decision Making with Professor Russell Golman in the Department of Social and Decision Sciences. The goal of the class was to learn how to apply game theory strategies in social situations. As the culmination of what we discussed every week, we could use any techniques we had learned and apply them to the scenario of our choice.

The prompt for this assignment was as follows:

Put yourself in the shoes of an advisor, be it to a business, an elected official, a friend, or someone else. Apply 2-4 principles from this class to a strategic problem they're facing. Be creative when thinking of a strategic problem to analyze. Explain the principle and its relevance to the problem. Assume your advisee knows nothing about our course topics and has a short attention span, like most elected officials and supervisors you may work for.

This was one of my only major writing assignments last semester, so I wanted to have fun with it and let my “creative juices” flow. Part of what I learned in the class was that strategic decisions appear in every aspect of our lives. This gave me endless possibilities to choose from as premises for my piece. I came up with the idea to write a satirical email poking fun at relationship coaching services and toxic sexist ideas in general. I was also making fun of the course a bit. Our serious decision making strategies were applied to a lighthearted topic and warped into unreasonable schemes. This contrasts with examples from class that were always rational. I wanted to make the advice as ridiculous as I could, and I feel like I succeeded since none of this is a good idea. This piece should not be taken seriously, but the decision-making strategies included have plenty of real applications.

-Amalia

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To: michluvsdogs13@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Relationship help needed ASAP!

Dear Michelle,

Thank you for reaching out to **Gaming Love♥ Inc.** with your query. You've definitely come to the right place, since our services are specially tailored to the needs of people struggling with their relationships. It must be stressful to imagine the possibility of your boyfriend leaving you, but we're confident that with our help you can fix your problem.

For the trouble you've described with your boyfriend, I highly recommend our **RelationshipRepair+** package. This bundles two of our most popular products together and has a 95% success rate. Below, I will explain how the products in the **RelationshipRepair+** package can ensure that you rekindle your bond:

Added Value Vixen:

Right now, your boyfriend is questioning the added value that you bring to his life. He might think that there are other fish in the sea, and is considering pursuing other women. To change this thinking, we will hire an ugly and annoying woman to flirt with him. By paying a competitor to enter the scene, your boyfriend will see just how superior you are. Once he reassesses your value, he will definitely want to keep you by his side!

We understand that our Added Value strategy does not always work. For situations where our first attempt fails, we have another tool you can use:

Brinkmanship Breakup:

You'll receive coaching from one of our experts on how to scare your boyfriend into staying with you. The goal is to threaten him with something horrible if he breaks up with you. An example of this might be threatening to leak his nudes. To execute this properly, you'll need to convince your boyfriend that you're capable of leaking his nudes even though it will make you look bad. Getting him to believe that you are committed to taking this drastic action is the only way to spook him into staying with you. This is just one example, and our expert will come up with a personalized plan for you to use brinkmanship to keep your boyfriend close.

Purchasing the full **RelationshipRepair+** package bundles **Added Value Vixen** and **Brinkmanship Breakup** together with a 20% off discount if you bought them individually! You'll also get 5% off any future orders from **Gaming Love♥ Inc.**

Something to keep in mind is that men are trash! If your boyfriend doesn't want you, we urge you to consider dumping him. Leave your partner and look for someone who's going to respect you! If the **RelationshipRepair+** package doesn't work out, we're here for you and want to see you find love. That's why we offer our **Glow Up Gals** program for recently single ladies to become more desirable. That's for another time, since our primary goal is to help your

relationship reach an equilibrium. Reply to this email or visit our website to place an order.

Cheers,
Mx. Strata Jeas
PR Manager
Gaming Love♥ Inc.