

**(First published in SomeOtherMagazine.com)**

## **Is This Love? Yeah, Right**

by Shelly Mazzanoble

We've all been there. You meet someone who knocks your socks off, followed by various other articles of clothing. I'm talking about the one who makes you say, "I never do things like that," even though you just did. Twice. In a public restroom, no less. Your BAC might have been higher than your college GPA when you decided to introduce a lover to your Pima cotton duvet cover, but that didn't stop you from spending a great night, or at least a few seemingly long hours together, doing all those things you said you never do. Again.

And before the morning paper has been christened with the first drop of dew, your strange bedfellow is gathering his or her Gap goods from your bedroom floor and preparing to flee the scene. Still in your stupor, you're wondering how this person is going to remember your cell phone, home phone, and pager number when you can't remember a name. So, is this person a keeper or a late-night sleeper?

Sometimes you get lucky, and that four-leaf clover you netted calls again. But sometimes you notice that Mr. Graham Bell shows no love until well into the double digits of the evening. As you get more after-hour calls than Yellow Taxi, you're beginning to wonder if Doorbell Dick has any daytime potential. Ring ring: booty call, and it's for you.

Before you jump to any conclusions faster than you did the bones of that beer-logged barfly in the corner, I'm here today to give you 10 easy steps for determining whether you're heading for the Long Haul or paying tolls to the Booty Call.

*The Long Haul:* Pampers you  
*Booty Call:* Pages you

*The Long Haul:* Knows your friends  
*Booty Call:* Sleeps with your friends

*The Long Haul:* Spends the night  
*Booty Call:* Spends you

*The Long Haul:* Asks how work was  
*Booty Call:* Asks how he was

*The Long Haul:* Knows when your birthday is  
*Booty Call:* Knows where your birthmark is

*The Long Haul:* Thanks you  
*Booty Call:* Spanks you

*The Long Haul:* Knows what you want  
*Booty Call:* Knows what he wants all damn night

*The Long Haul:* Remembers birthdays  
*Booty Call:* Remembers birth control

*The Long Haul:* Calls you by a pet name  
*Booty Call:* Calls you by your pet's name

*The Long Haul:* Congratulates you on your new position  
*Booty Call:* Congratulates you on your new position

Understandably it's difficult to know what position you're in when the sun comes up (or even how you got into that position), so if you're still unsure where you stand post-witching hour, follow this easy scoring system to see where you're heading.

If you answered 0-3 yeses for Booty Call, lay out the saucer of milk and get ready to pounce. This little kitty is looking for a forever home. Meow!

If you answered 4-6 yeses for Booty Call, get a swinging door because this one is used to the freedom of an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. But wishy-washy doesn't always mean noncommittal. Inspire this tomcat to roam by your home with a little fancy feasting. After all, don't we all just want a warm lap to curl up on?

If you answered 7-10 yeses for Booty Call, call the authorities! You've got a feral friend that no amount of training can tame. Cut your losses if you're looking for love, and remember to be more specific when praying for a little pussy.

*Shelly Mazzanoble lives in Seattle with a bad cell phone plan she blames for her lack of booty calls.*