

## In Control

*LUCY is feeling dissatisfied with her boyfriend Gary, who never seems to stand up for himself. She thinks it may be time for her to break it off with Gary.*

**LUCY:** This time I'm going to do it. Definitely. No weakness. Just finish it.

He comes in and I say: "Hello, Gary." Serious. Don't smile.

"You OK?" he'll ask.

"Yes, but I've something to say."

"Oh." And then he'll sit down, all attentive.

"Gary, it's over!" No no, too brutal. He'll just burst into tears.

"Gary, you know I like you, don't you, and you like me, and we like each other, both of us, together, the two of us, we've had some great times, smashing times, you and me, and..." Oh for goodness sake! He'll be asleep before I get to the good bit.

"Gary, I know we've been going out for three months, one week and two and a half days, but..." How did I know that? Can't say that, he'll think I'm still keen.

"Look, Gary – oh don't pull that little-boy-lost face. I'm trying to tell you something serious here. I don't want to ... I know we... I don't..." Oh why is this so difficult? I don't want to hurt him. He's really nice but I don't feel anything for him. Why?

'Nice'. Yeah, 'nice'. That's the trouble. Too accommodating. Too soft. There's nothing exciting about him. Nothing challenging.

"For goodness sake, Gary, get some backbone. Stand up to me sometimes. Fight back."

*Continued* ▶

"But I don't want to fight you," he'll say. "I just want to make you happy."

"Then stop wimping round. I want a boyfriend, not a lap dog. Make some strong decisions, surprise me, make me respect you. Gary, don't just sit there, *do something!*"

*(Her mobile rings)*

Who's this? A text. 'Lucy, I'm bored with you. We're finished. Gary! Bored? With *me*? I don't think so! Just wait till I see him. I'll give him a boring black eye with my boring handbag. *(Striding off)* This is what I call a relationship!

*by Clifford Jury*