

HOW TO NOT Break-Up WITH MARGARET

1.

Never break up in the afternoon.
Late at night is the best time.
Or early in the morning before either of you
have had your coffee.

2.

Try not to sit on the couch.
Too many good things have happened there.
It will remind you of all the cuddling, the kissing,
and the nibbling. You may be tempted
to do these things again.

3.

Remind yourself about your freedom.
That is important to you. You need it badly.

4.

Do not let her fix you a drink.
That is how the two of you got together in the first place.

5.

Say no when she offers to warm up some homemade lasagna.
Forget how much you like it. You're going to have to learn to live without it.
Somehow.

6.

Ignore the cat.
Especially, if you love the cat.
You bought it for her.
No one stays in a relationship for the cat.
Not even you.

7.

Pretend she's not wearing your old sweatshirt.
Your favorite from college.
The one that looks better on her.

8.

Avoid looking at all the photos hanging on the wall.
You may look happy in them, doesn't mean you were.
Pictures lie.

9.

Stop listening to the person practicing the piano in the apartment upstairs.
It may sound like the music from a romantic scene in a movie, but it's not.
You are not Brad Pitt. And this is not a movie.

10.

Ignore the tears running down her cheek.

11.

Keep from holding her tight.

12.

Do not kiss her.
Do not kiss her.
Do not kiss her.

13.

Never say, "I love you."
If you say it, you will never be able to leave.



Wayman Barnes is a writer's writer. He has been published in The Funny Times, Comic Relief, Vox Populi, Digress Magazine, Ad Infinitum, and Fetus Noise and has a chapbook titled, Titty Titty Caca. He once studied sketch writing and improvisation at the Second City and the Improv Olympic in Chicago and has performed at On the Rug, the Seattle Fringe Festival, the Big Stinkin' International Improv and Sketch Comedy Festival, Autry Museum of Western Heritage, the Comedy Store, the Hollywood Performance Marathon, RUPO, the Seattle Poetry Festival, and the LA Times Festival of Books. He runs the creative non-fiction writing workshop at the Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center and is a founder of Off Limits Improvisational Theatre, Opening Night: the Improvised Musical, and LitRave. He also owns a cat that he is very allergic to.

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