

Lie Detectors



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Lie detectors are unreliable but incredibly persistent. I am talking about human lie detectors, although the machines are unreliable too. If your partner is worried about whether you are faithful, drink directly from the milk carton, still love them or think they are fat, then they will be looking for evidence to confirm their suspicion. If you were guilty they would not expect to find much evidence because they credit you with superhuman powers of deception. Under these circumstances it doesn't take

much to find you *guilty enough*, which may trigger fresh investigations in completely different areas. Their investigations might encourage you to investigate back. It's a slippery slope and there are things that you have been cagey or downright secretive about. Of course there are. This does not necessarily mean there is a problem. Privacy is important.

Human lie detectors often mistakenly believe that they are investigating a simple truth, which is rarely the case. When the target of investigation is infidelity or the milk carton thing, there is an important sense in which it is either true or false. But when the question is about a subjective experience like love or the perception of fatness, then the truth is likely to vary over time and circumstance. It is easy to read too much into the discoveries that are made in such fuzzy territory. You have probably each investigated the other in this way to some extent. It is a good idea to examine your file of open cases from time to time, and to consider whether some of them can be safely closed. Trust me. Call me.

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