

# Beyond the Boardroom:

*What's Really Going On at Work*



With a significant portion of our lives being played out at the office, it's no wonder that we tend to push the limits of acceptable workplace behavior from time to time.

As part of this year's *Romance Report* survey, we asked men and women around the world to share the good, the bad and the ugly...

Based on our survey results, we determined that every office, no matter what size or location, is home to at least one of the common characters described below.

### *Office Opportunist*

#### **The Telltale Signs:**

- Flirtatious, talkative and touchy-feely with others around the office
- Regularly suggests after-hours get-togethers with colleagues
- Speaks openly about dating, previous relationships and other personal matters

#### **What to Consider:**

With so much time being spent at work, the office opportunist likely finds it easier and more efficient to explore romantic relationships within the workplace. Before you succumb to that cry for love, consider where you stand within your organization and the consequences that an intra-office relationship could have for your career.

Ninety-three percent of you said that people should be able to canoodle with their colleagues, but it's important to remember that workplace romances bring added pressures.

### *Cruisin' Coworker*

#### **The Telltale Signs:**

- Relentlessly reminds coworkers how busy he/she is
- Is often found wasting time socializing, panicking when deadlines arise and completing personal tasks during the work day

- Has been spotted out for long lunches with friends instead of clients

#### **What to Consider:**

With 31% of survey respondents admitting to calling in sick when they weren't, and one in 10 admitting to misbehaving on business trips, the cruisin' coworker certainly has a bad reputation in the workplace, so make sure you dissociate yourself as much as possible without being too obvious.

You might be anxious to confront the cruisin' coworker, but it's important to know that he/she might be defensive. The cruisin' coworker will eventually be exposed and disciplined for his/her behavior. In the meantime maintain your composure, be patient, and keep your distance.

### *The Anti-Social Associate*

#### **The Telltale Signs:**

- Typically quiet, shy and less outwardly social than others
- Often caught daydreaming and staring off into space as the clock ticks away
- Extremely secretive and somewhat mysterious

#### **What to Consider:**

Don't underestimate the anti-social associate. He/she may have a very active social life outside the office but is unsure of how to approach business relationships. With 28% of

survey respondents admitting that they fantasize about someone they work with and 15% fantasizing most about having sex at work, the anti-social associate might have a few secrets up his/her sleeve. It's usually the quiet ones who end up surprising you the most.

### *The Crafty Colleague*


#### **The Telltale Signs:**

- Sly as a fox and too smooth for anyone's good
- Has all the latest office supplies stocked in his/her cubicle
- Never turns down a free drink after work, or a free anything for that matter

#### **What to Consider:**

While stealing office supplies from the workplace may not seem exactly criminal, it could be symptomatic of more devious behavior. Be careful and look for signs that the crafty colleague is at work. Be sure to label your lunch, lock your cabinets before leaving for the day and always keep tabs on your personal effects.

The crafty colleague is sneaky and tends to look out for number one no matter who their actions affect, so be careful and don't be taken in! ♥



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