

## the art of love | BY LUCIA

Dear Lucia,

My "fiancé" and I met about a year ago. The first three months we dated, he showed me a lot of respect, in every possible way.

His plans were to get to know each other, date, move in together and soon after that, get married. Since I've known him his biggest dream is to get married and have a big family with me.

At that time, I had family problems, and I needed to move out. He offered to help, so he got me an apartment.

It was no ordinary apartment – it was a luxury apartment. He even furnished it, paid the rent and gave me a weekly allowance. He said he didn't want me working at all.

The first three months in the new apartment were great. I had my own place, and he had his.

I was living a good life, going out and partying. I hung out at bars or with friends because he was hardly ever around.

One day, I suddenly realized that this wasn't what I wanted, that I was only going out because he was always working. I began to notice a pattern: He was never around on the weekends. I

would confront him all the time, but he always gave me lame excuses like, "I took a pill, and it knocked me out."

Every Monday, without exception, he starts calling me. When he is at his house, he doesn't answer my calls. When I had the apartment, he only stayed over two or three times within six months.

The next three months, I became even more suspicious. I tried to talk to him, and he always gave me the same answer – that he is not married.

I decided to move out and back with my family. The holidays were coming, and I knew that he wasn't going to spend them with me.

We are supposed to move in together in the next few months, when we are supposedly "engaged." I've never been to his house. I know where he lives, but I've never been invited over – and what's more confusing, I don't know his family.

I have his home number because I found it on the Internet, but he has never given it to me. We only go out on my side of town, not his.

Could I be so blind? I mean, he is not a bad person: he's very religious and conservative. He

doesn't drink or party, and he is a boring person.

I'm almost ready to move on. I just want to know the truth, but I don't want to stalk him. That is not me.

—Caryn

Dear Caryn,

Wow. You're almost ready to move on?

How many red flags do you need before you're willing to see that he's married or living with someone? What does a red flag have to do? Chase you down and hit you over the head?

When a person's words are the opposite of their actions, ignore everything they say and only look at what they do. So, let's review:

He didn't give you his home number.

You've never been to his home.

He's never around on weekends.

You've never met his family.

He's only slept over two to three times.

He didn't spend the holidays with you.

Do I need to go on? I guess he's not a bad person, if you don't consider cheating and lying bad.

And exactly which religion condones infidelity? Don't be fooled. A lot of conservative, boring people who don't drink or party have no problem being unfaithful.

So, now you know the truth. Asking him why he lied to you will only lead to more lies.

There is nothing here for you. Learn your lesson and don't look back.

Dear Lucia,

Do you think that women who are looking for a husband and a father have different standards in their dating partners? I would never go on a date with someone I could not see as potentially having my child.

—Chris

inner circle



Dear Chris,

If they don't, they should. When women want to get married and have children, they need to find someone who has their act together – mentally, emotionally, financially and spiritually.

If they did maintain different dating standards, the divorce rate would be a lot lower. ☘

**Remember: Love inspires, empowers, uplifts and enlightens.**

Write to Lucia at [www.theartoflove.net](http://www.theartoflove.net).

Read an excerpt from Lucia's Lessons of Love at [www.lessonsoflove.net](http://www.lessonsoflove.net).

Listen to Lucia live every Sunday at 3 p.m. PST on [www.bbstalkradio.com](http://www.bbstalkradio.com).

## curtain call | live on stage

### 'VICTORY'

Now-March 23 @  
The Fountain Theatre

BY MIKE BUZZELLI

PLAYWRIGHT ATHOL FUGARD OFFERS a view of life after apartheid in "Victory." Victoria (Tinashe Kajese) and Freddie (Lovensky Jean-Baptiste) break into the home of a wealthy white man, Lionel Benson (Morlan Higgins). When Benson returns home, he confronts the burglars and is saddened when he recognizes Victoria as the daughter of his former housekeeper.

Kajese delivers a brilliant performance; Victoria is the most multi-faceted character of the play. Freddie is all rage, but Jean-Baptiste manages to give the character some nuances. Higgins, a recent recipient of his second Ovation Award, is, however, the weakest link.

"Victory" is a potent political play, brutal



Victoria (Tinashe Kajese) is up to no good in "Victory."

and violent. There are no clear winners, except the audience. ☘

Fountain Theatre is located at 5060 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles. For more information, visit [www.fountaintheatre.com](http://www.fountaintheatre.com).

## game on | BY SCOTT STEINBERG

### PLAYERS ONLY Several Rising Trends

**Digital Distribution** – With Electronics Boutique to Sony's PlayStation Network offering downloads on-demand, shopping's never going to be the same.

**Indie Titles** – Quirky outings built by small teams and buoyed by word-of-mouth are to gaming what indie flicks are to Hollywood. Thanks to professional channels like Nintendo's WiiWare and amateur-friendly vehicles such as Xbox Live's

Community Games, they're poised to explode.

**Serious Games** – Companies like Persuasive Games and Impact Games are convinced games can promote peace and teach about the world.

**Social Networking** – From Zynga's Facebook/MySpace-friendly gaming applications to Super Smash Bros. Brawl's user-generated content and LittleBigPlanet's community features, get ready to connect. ☘

Scott Steinberg is the author of free-to-download Get Rich Playing Games ([www.getrichgaming.com](http://www.getrichgaming.com)).

## on the menu | a taste of l.a.

**MILK** | 7290 Beverly Blvd.,  
Los Angeles

BY SHEILA DICHOSO

EVEN IN THE DEAD OF WINTER, WE all still scream for ice cream. Thank goodness Los Angeles has got Milk, where the classic feel-good treat gets a modern update.

Executive Chef and owner Bret Thompson and pastry chef Richard Yoshimura create a menu that's both savory and sweet. Chef Thompson suggests the Strawberry Shortcake Malt, which is sweet, light and happens to be his favorite. Chocolate lovers are blown away by the MILKIE Way Malt: a luscious chocolate drink made with vanilla ice cream, malted milk powder and finished off with a chocolate-caramel swirl.

Served in tall glasses, topped with whipped cream and overflowing ice cream, the shakes and malts embody old-fashioned Americana, but the flavors are more sophisticated than those of yesteryear.

Besides satisfying your dairy fix, Milk has an array of savory sandwiches and salads served in hefty proportions. The California

Chicken Salad with mixed baby greens, garbanzo beans, chicken and red tomatoes in a lemon vinaigrette tastes summery and market-fresh.

Among the sandwich selection, the Media Noche is highly recommended. Succulent pulled pork and ham smothered in manchego cheese and garlic mayo, it's bound to be your regular order.

Don't forget to leave tummy room for the punky cupcakes that tease you in the glass displays.

Are you a Red Velvet lover? The blueberry-infused Blue Velvet Cake is innovative, moist and luxurious; it will leave your tongue blue (and convert you to the blue side, too.)

Milk is where you explore your ice cream dreams – and more. This isn't ice cream from a truck, so save those quarters and head over to this urban ice cream parlor to relive your childhood reveries. ☘

For more information, call (323) 939-6455.



Savor old-fashioned treats at Milk.