

They began with  
so much joy,  
so much  
confidence.

# SOME VERY BRIEF AFFAIRS

<b>B.</b>	<b>L.</b>	<b>J.</b>	<b>E.</b>
<small>...of the subject's consciousness. The Other may or may not yet arouse strong feelings in the Subject. The Other, however, stands out and belongs to the category of potential mates for the Subject. They make eye contact. The Subject looks at the Other, then looks again. The Subject is intrigued and would like to know more.</small>	<small>...either by pure chance, or by human machinations, the Subject and the Other are brought into a proximity allowing for conversation. They talk. The Subject enjoys the conversation and what the Other contributes to it. Eye contact is frequent and sustained. Body language is inviting and comfortable. The Subject feels compelled to talk with the Other again. In subsequent conversations, the Subject acts and speaks in a manner that is uncommonly generous and playful, and enjoys doing as such. The Subject begins thinking about the Other.</small>	<small>...An invitation is offered by the Subject or by the Other to meet in a more intimate and quiet setting. The invitation is readily accepted. They are going on a date. The consciousness of the Subject is obsessed with the Other, with visions of both aggressive sexual congress and soothing parental embraces, as well as more complex scenarios of long-term courtship, marriage, domesticity, and child-rearing. The Subject is in a euphoric state, despite memories of past erotic experiences that began similarly but then terminated acrimoniously. The Subject knows that such dissolution could occur again, but does not care. In preparing for the date with the Other, the Subject thoroughly bathes, applies perfumes, and grooms the pubic regions with particular care.</small>	<small>...The Subject perceives the presence of the Other. The Other has breached the threshold of the Subject's consciousness. The Other may or may not yet arouse strong feelings in the Subject. The Other, however, stands out and belongs to the category of potential mates for the Subject. They make eye contact. The Subject looks at the Other, then looks again. The Subject is intrigued and would like to know more.</small>

## 1. FIRST ENCOUNTER

The Subject perceives the presence of the Other. The Other has breached the threshold of the Subject's consciousness. The Other may or may not yet arouse strong feelings in the Subject. The Other, however, stands out and belongs to the category of potential mates for the Subject. They make eye contact. The Subject looks at the Other, then looks again. The Subject is intrigued and would like to know more.

## 2. CASUAL INTERACTION

Either by pure chance, or by human machinations, the Subject and the Other are brought into a proximity allowing for conversation. They talk. The Subject enjoys the conversation and what the Other contributes to it. Eye contact is frequent and sustained. Body language is inviting and comfortable. The Subject feels compelled to talk with the Other again. In subsequent conversations, the Subject acts and speaks in a manner that is uncommonly generous and playful, and enjoys doing as such. The Subject begins thinking about the Other.

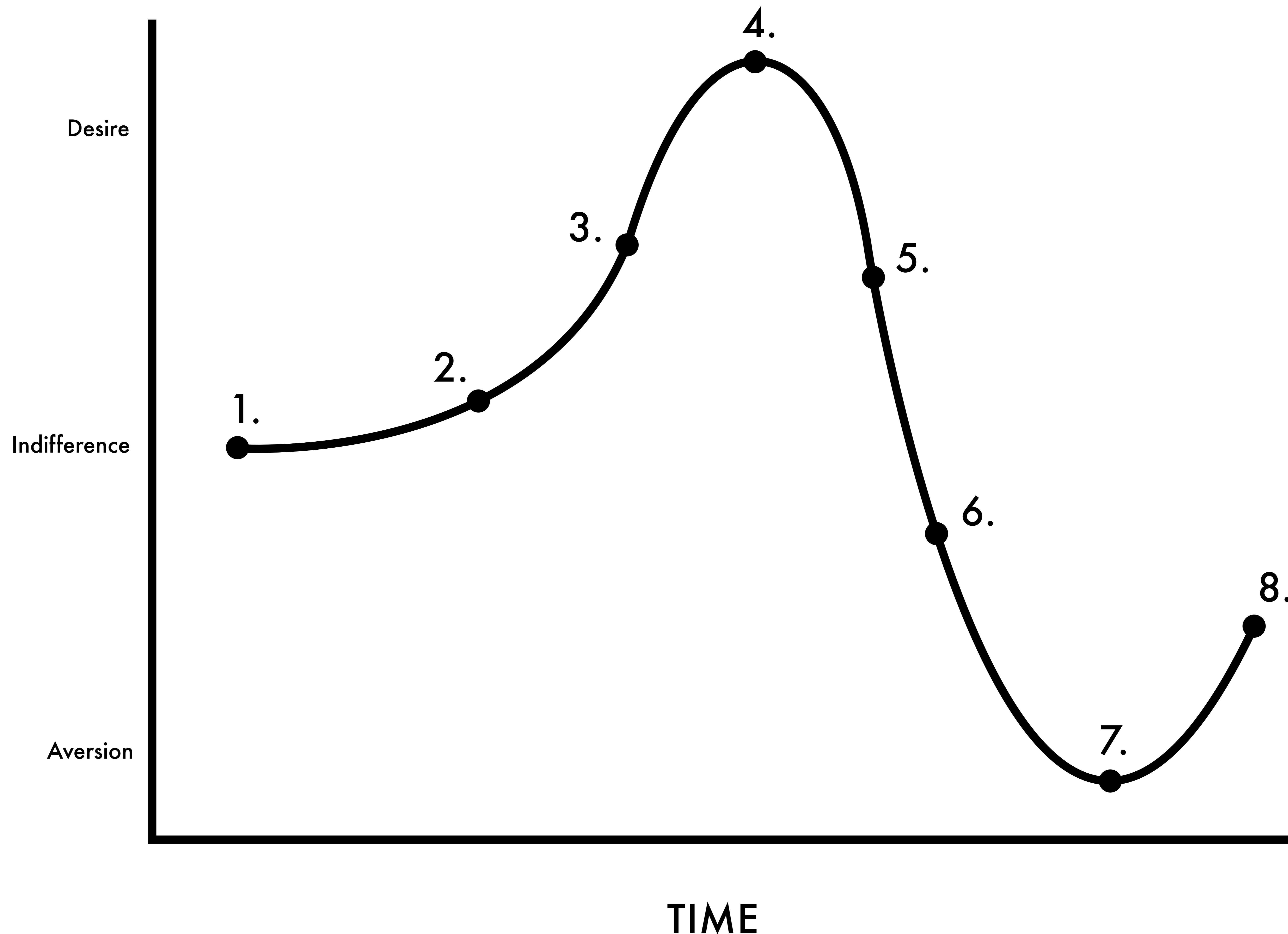
## 3. FORMAL INTERACTION

An invitation is offered by the Subject or by the Other to meet in a more intimate and quiet setting. The invitation is readily accepted. They are going on a date. The consciousness of the Subject is obsessed with the Other, with visions of both aggressive sexual congress and soothing parental embraces, as well as more complex scenarios of long-term courtship, marriage, domesticity, and child-rearing. The Subject is in a euphoric state, despite memories of past erotic experiences that began similarly but then terminated acrimoniously. The Subject knows that such dissolution could occur again, but does not care. In preparing for the date with the Other, the Subject thoroughly bathes, applies perfumes, and grooms the pubic regions with particular care.

## 4. EROTIC INTERACTION

Formal Interaction transitions into sexualized bodily contact. The Subject is granted access to the private chamber of the Other or vice versa. The Subject and the Other bare their garments. They penetrate one another and enjoy the sacred sensations that are stimulated by such penetrations. The Subject and the Other rest alongside one another, their limbs coiled together. They inquire into each other's more private proclivities and desires, as well as the potential for future Interactions. The Subject may feel both the satisfaction and the depression from having accomplished a difficult goal, from having seized an elusive object. Promises are made.

EMOTIONAL ATTRACTION



## 5. REPETITION

The Subject and the Other continue to have Casual, Formal, and Erotic Interactions. They are becoming a couple. Patterns emerge as to their conversations, bodily gestures, and erotic preferences. These behavior patterns are reiterated on explicit and implicit schedules. They communicate when not together with technologies that may be current and/or charmingly antiquated. They may externalize their bond via gifts or via possessing one another's personal effects. The Subject, however, is becoming disenchanted and is no longer obsessed with the Other. The Erotic Interaction loses its intensity and immediacy for the Subject.

## 6. CONFLICT

The Other complains that the Subject is less than fully present, about which the Subject equivocates. The Subject is now feeling suffocated by and uncomfortable in the presence of the Other. The consciousness of the Subject is occupied by unflattering thoughts about the Other. The Subject fixates on annoying personality traits and physical features of the Other that the Subject was once content to ignore or to elaborately rationalize as being of value. The Subject finds the Other to be deeply flawed and unworthy of attention. The Subject may make derisive comments. During Erotic Interactions, the Subject envisions previous Others or fantastic Others.

## 7. AVOIDANCE

The Subject tells obvious lies to the Other in order to avoid Casual, Formal, and Erotic Interactions. The Subject's attempts to physically avoid the Other may become humorously absurd. If the Subject and the Other happen to be near one another, the Subject avoids the Other's gaze and refuses to acknowledge previous Interactions. The Other is hurt and disappointed but still strongly desires the Subject, and the Subject knows it. The Other's desire is now as if a very foul odor for the Subject. The possessions each received from the other may be returned or destroyed. Promises are broken.

## 8. RECONCILIATION

The Subject successfully avoids the Other for an extended period of time. It is all over. The Subject feels liberated, invigorated, buoyant. The Subject's hostility towards the Other dissipates. However, the Subject may soon feel guilty, confused, and lonely. There is nostalgia for the Interactions that were good. If the Subject and the Other happen to have an Encounter or Interaction, the Subject becomes intrigued and aroused, but also weary.

### NOTES

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# T I M P E T E R S

They ended with  
so much doubt,  
so much  
disappointment.