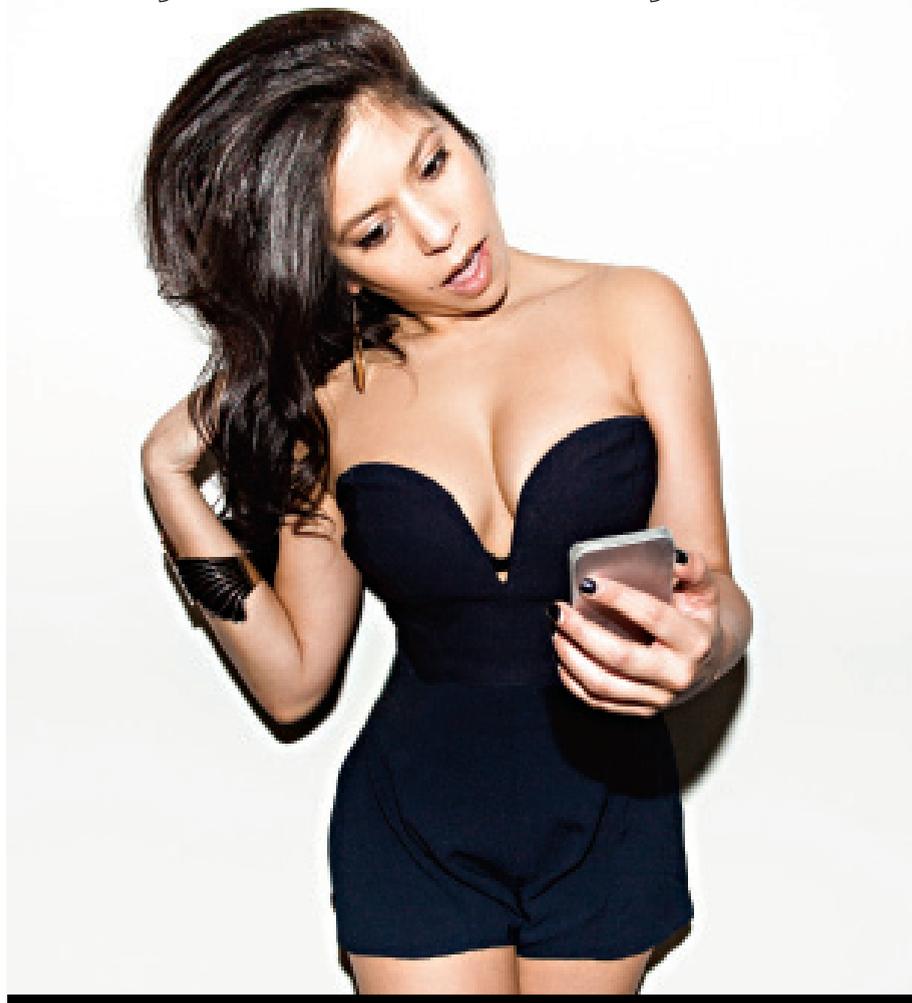


PRIVATE DICKS

Are you sure you're ready to hit SEND? One woman's thoughts on why you may not want to text that dick shot.

By Rachel Khona

WHY, HELLO THERE, PENIS!



WOMEN DO NOT LIKE TO RECEIVE PHOTOS OF PENISES THEY NEVER REQUESTED. IT'S LIKE VIRTUAL FLASHING; THE UNSOLICITED PHOTO OFFERS ROOM FOR LAUGHTER.

That was my first reaction to the penis on my phone. My boyfriend at the time—we'll call him Ryan—had texted me a picture of his rather large member. We were dating long-distance, and he had somehow gotten the idea that sending a picture of his giganto schlong would keep things hot while we were miles apart. In the absence of his physical presence, he surmised, I would find pleasure in a picture of his dick. I did not.

On my phone, in the cold, sober light of day, it looked kind of purplish and weird, like some sort of demented, amputated arm. Don't get me wrong—I loved his penis. It hit the spot every time, and more often than not, it was a source of great delight. But I didn't want a picture of it on my phone. It didn't turn me on, and I certainly didn't ask for it. No, instead, it just popped up while I was sitting at my desk in the office, in plain view of anyone who might pass by.

The photo itself was badly lit, and it looked like something I might have seen in my college human-sexuality class. I wondered if Terry Richardson had shot said appendage, would it have been more alluring? Sexier? If I were to send a pic of my boobs to someone, I imagine I would at least have the decency to set the scene.

Did he think I was going to suddenly be quivering with excitement, ready to run to the nearest bathroom to rub one out? I was befuddled. But then again, I've also had men offer to:

- Take me to Whole Foods (yes, the grocery store) on a first date.
- Tell me I wasn't funny or smiley enough (I beg to differ), but that I should go out with them again.
- Bring their friends on a date.

In other words, men aren't always the slickest when it comes to picking up or impressing the ladies. In fact, when I first met Ryan, he embarrassed himself by trying to wow me with his knowledge of Mexican culture. The problem is, I'm Indian. Sweet of him to want to impress me? Yes. Wholly stupid for assuming I'm a totally different race? Also yes.

The problem is, by and large, penises by themselves are not attractive to most women. They are purely functional, designed to get the deed done. They are not meant to be admired and adored like breasts are. Everyone likes to look at boobs.

Boobs are cute and fun, like pillows. Penises, however, are inherently sort of funny-looking. Just imagine what Mardi Gras would be like if people went around flashing penises instead of tits. The very same act of flashing would take on an air of indecency.

But some men surmise that just because they like a little visual stimulation, the object of their affection probably would, too. This type of thinking works great with gay couples—I've never met a gay man who didn't like a good penis pic—but for women, not so much. If Ryan really wanted to turn me on, he would have told me what he was going to do to me when we saw each other next. A penis is only really truly exciting in the heat of the moment. The *idea* of Ryan was sexy because of how much chemistry we had in bed, his razor-sharp intelligence, and the way he made me laugh. Since women are sexually stimulated by the whole man (the abs, the arms, intelligence, humor, the things you do for her, etc.), one part by itself isn't necessarily going to get her going. For women, that's like sending a photo of raw beef and expecting her to be salivating for a steak dinner. Perhaps this is why there are very few magazines for straight women dedicated to naked men, yet a plethora of men's mags feature naked women. Women, in general, do not get turned-on in the same ways that men do.

But at least Ryan and I were dating. Some guys tend to think it's okay to just randomly send penis pictures to any woman they're trying to pick up. But as Brett Favre and the appropriately named Congressman Weiner so eloquently showed us, that's not the case. Women do not like to receive photos of penises they never requested. It's like virtual flashing, except, instead of instilling the viewer with a sense of awe, the unsolicited photo offers room for laughter.

When my friend received a surprise dick pic from a guy she was dating (but hadn't slept with yet), the first thing she did was recoil in horror. Not because it was a penis, but because it was skinny and small. It looked, in her words, "like a miniature-golf pencil." Unsure why he would boast about such an unimpressive member, she forwarded the offending image to all her friends. Boys, if you insist on sending women penis pics, make sure your junk is up to snuff and that

The author re-creates her reaction to an unsolicited dick pic.



she wants to see it.

To be fair, there are some women who do like to receive a nice dick pic, but not necessarily because they find it a turn-on. My slightly insane friend Selena, for example, loves to receive penis pics, but only after she asks for them. However, it's not because she goes home and masturbates to them, or even that they turn her on. She simply wants to know what she's working with before she gets down and dirty. Not only size-wise (she's a size queen), but aesthetically speaking. She likes to make sure the penis is even-colored and a nice medium shade—too dark or too light and she's done. Very practical, but not so sexy.

Modern technology has opened up the ways in which we flirt, but it's a double-edged sword. Should you choose to use it carelessly, like Favre or Weiner, you may find yourself the subject of mockery and ridicule. Use it wisely and she may be all yours.

The moral of the story? When in doubt, keep it in your pants. 

A SECOND OPINION

Not surprisingly, we were able to find a fan of dick pics right here at *Penthouse*.

By Martha Duke

I heart dick pics, but there are a few general rules men should follow:

1. Have something else in the picture for scale, i.e., a remote (if you're lucky) or your hand.
2. Make sure the background is not the same color as your dick.
3. Get yourself fully erect, please. Girls don't want to see a softy.
4. Be sure your cat or dog hasn't wandered into the picture.
5. Realize the photo will be shared with at least two of her girlfriends (in my case, six).
6. If you get a request for a photo, she's probably out with her friends. Women are not above having a contest to see who can be the first one to get a dick pic.
7. Most important, if you've never had a date or had sex with her, assume she could do without a photo.

By the way, I have examples of these faux pas saved on my phone. Yes, I am that girl.