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LIFE

# The TED Talk I Plan to Give to the Women Who've Ghosted Me



By Bobby Oerzen – October 2, 2025 🗨️ No Comments 🕒 5 Mins Read



Thank you all for being here tonight. I have to say, this is a really spirited crowd! *(Pause for laughter.)* Get it? Spirited? Because... well, you'll understand in a moment.

## Opening slide: "Gone Without a Text: A Post-Mortem Analysis of Modern Romance"

I want to start by saying I'm not bitter. I'm thriving, actually. I've channeled my thwarted energy into productive pursuits like creating this presentation, building a color-coded

spreadsheet of our text conversations, and checking to make sure you all got home safe. Every night. For months.

The goal of this talk isn't to name names — so I won't say which woman said she's "not looking to date anyone right now," but then, not two days later, posted a story on Instagram of her and some guy doing a couples cooking class, accompanied by the caption, "When you know, you know." (*Glare at @LisaForReal157 before clicking slide.*)

### **Slide 2: "Meat-Cute: A Completely Understandable Misunderstanding"**

Let's begin with what I call "The Steakhouse Slipup." The woman in question — let's call her "Sarah" because that's her legal name — mentioned she "loves trying new restaurants." So naturally, I booked Morton's.

How was I supposed to know "plant-based lifestyle enthusiast" meant vegan? When she ordered the side salad — no dressing, no cheese, no croutons — I made what I thought was a charming quip: "What are you, a rabbit?" (*Pause for laughter before clicking next slide.*)

### **Slide 3: "Lettuce Never Speak of This Again"**

After dinner, I followed standard protocol, texting her: "Hope you got home safe!" No response.

At 12:23 a.m., I sent a follow-up: "Everything okay?" Still nothing.

By 2:17 a.m., I sent a brief (eighteen-text) apology about the rabbit comment, clarifying that I respect all dietary choices and actually had a vegetarian phase in college (two days, but still).

I knew her phone was working because a casual audit of her Venmo transactions showed a flurry of financial activity. "Oat latte." "Meditation workshop." "Emergency brunch." "Bail money (jk!!)." Here she was, having the time of her life while I sat at home wondering if she'd survived the Uber ride.

### **Slide 4: "Apparently Size DOES Matter"**

Now, let's address my "aspirational height," which, as many of you know, is listed as 5'11" on my Tinder profile. Yes, I am *technically* 5'8", but that's barefoot on cold tile. With shoes and good

posture, we're talking 5'9.5". So, let's round up.

This shouldn't matter, but apparently it did to Cassandra-with-a-K, as I discovered after mentioning I attended a Landmark seminar and she said, "I love that you're still focused on growth!"

Later, when I replayed our conversation in my head (as any healthy adult would), I planned to call Cassandra out for "height shaming" me. Sadly, I never got the chance to *actually* do it, because Cassandra disappeared in the Textmuda Triangle, never to be heard from again.

### **Slide 5: "I'll Be Back (But She Wasn't)"**

This brings me to Aishwarya and our three weeks of whirlwind texting. She used crying-laughing emojis — not just regular smileys. She deployed the flame emoji when I mentioned finishing thirteenth in my age group at the Tucson Half-Marathon. And her exclamation point usage was robust: averaging 2.3 per message.

Then came *The Terminator* Incident.

She mentioned loving romantic comedies. So, I shared my all-time fav, which, as many of you know, is *The Terminator*. She seemed confused, so I elaborated: "It's about a man who travels through time to protect the woman he loves, even though he's never met her. If that's not romance, what is?"

After that conversation, her response time increased from an average of twelve minutes to what can only be described as "indefinite" — despite the series of thoughtful follow-ups I sent, which included:

- Plus, Sarah Connor is a strong female protagonist who doesn't need saving, which I know matters to you because you shared that article about the pay gap.
- Everything okay?
- Just text me back so I know you're okay. Okay?

When she finally responded — forty-seven hours later — she said, "Sorry, things are really crazy at work right now. I'll have to let you know about this weekend." It's been four months,

and she still hasn't let me know.

### Slide 6: "Data Doesn't Lie (Or Leave You on Read)"

I've run regression analyses on all twenty-three ghosting incidents. Key findings:

- 73% occurred after I asked "Did you get home safe?" more than twice
- 81% correlation between ghosting and my unprompted movie recommendations
- 100% of women named Sarah disappeared after steakhouse-related incidents

### Slide 7: "Questions? Comments? Second Chances?"

In closing, ghosting deprives people of closure. But maybe the real closure is admitting I don't want closure — I want another shot. That's why I've created individual Google Calendar invites for follow-up coffee meetings. Don't worry about the "recurring weekly" setting — that's just a default I couldn't figure out how to change.

*Before I go, you'll see my Venmo QR code on the final slide because while you all may have ghosted me romantically, I know at least three of you still owe me for drinks and/or food items. (Pause to glare at Laura.) To everyone else, thank you for coming!*

*And, yes, I will text to make sure you all got home safe.*

### Final slide: "Please Don't Block Me on LinkedIn Too"

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#### Bobby Oerzen

Bobby Oerzen is a writer (primarily) and entrepreneur (accidentally), having founded New Digit.al, an electronic media venture that helps writers, artists, and brands craft compelling print and digital content. Bobby's work spans fiction, creative nonfiction, and journalism. His

fiction has been published in Word Riot and Thieves' Jargon. His journalism credits include features for Current Science. He also wrote opinion pieces for The Chicago Tribune as well as The Tucson Daily Star. A graduate of CUNY Queens College (M.F.A. in English/Creative Writing), Bobby began his career editing science publications like Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News, where he refined complex ideas into clear, engaging stories. He went on to found NewDigit.al, which guides clients through the evolving media landscape. Bobby is a New York native who currently resides in Scottsdale, Arizona with his wife, daughter, and twelve very noisy birds.

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# The Hottest Back-to-School Fashions for 2015



By The Robot Butt Staff — August 25, 2015 — Updated: March 13, 2019 — No Comments — 3 Mins Read

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The only thing more exciting than the start of a new school year is the prospect of outfitting yourself with a brand-new set of clothes. Nothing says you're ready to shred your studies better than a fresh look – and best of all, you might just catch the eye of that special someone in the process.

Sounds pretty sweet, right? Luckily, we've got you covered with our complete guide to all of the hottest back-to-school fashions for 2015. Check it out below and dress yourself for guaranteed success!



Brian's light, breathable Robot Butt T-shirt helps him to be on the go so he can live his life, his way. Cut from the finest polyester/cotton blends and lettered with state-of-the-art printing, the Robot Butt T-shirt proves style and comfort are not mutually exclusive. Order today!



Show that you play by your own rules with a backwards baseball cap and a sharp shirt that tells people, “I love Robot Butt and I don’t care who knows it.” A knowing wink and a warm smile is all you need to complete this eye-catching ensemble.

Prove that you don’t give a damn what anyone thinks by getting your very own Robot Butt T-shirt here!



Nostalgia is in, so hearken back to the glory days of the early '90s and the Age of Flannel. And since Robot Butt also enjoys the '90s, why not cap that outfit off with an official Robot Butt T-shirt? Make sure you tie the flannel around your waist to maximize the number of eyeballs your shirt will draw.



Are you the “bad boy” of your school? Are you in a band that’s going to hit it big? Gain mad respect from your peers and strike fear into the hearts of teachers and parents all over town when you roll up in the official Robot Butt T-shirt (which you can buy right here). No one would ever dream of messing with you when you’ve got this shirt on. And if they do, you’ll be able to make them rue the day they ever tried.



When you're wearing a boss-ass T-shirt, accessories are a must. Some will add a chain necklace and others might mix it up with a hat. Be the hippest kid at school by literally wearing the skin of an endangered species draped across your shoulders. You're not trying too hard; the thing wears itself.

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### The Robot Butt Staff

We're the Robot Butt staff, hired right after the experiment of typewriting monkeys went horribly wrong.

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