

# LAST CHANCE FOR GAS

## IS HE CHEATING ON YOU... **with His Bike?**

ELIZABETH SKLAROFF

I think it was Alfred Lord Tennyson, or maybe Whitesnake, who penned the famous quote, “In the spring a young man’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.”

While that sticky-sweet sentiment might have been true in the 1880s or even the 1980s, in my circle, a young man’s fancy certainly

does turn to thoughts of love in the springtime—love with his mountain bike, that is.

As someone who has battled this very serious problem called S.O.B.I. (Significant Other Bike Infidelity) for over four years, I wanted to share the seven critical warning signs.

**Irritable** While you might be trying to plan a vacation or a grocery shopping list, he’s moody, even distant. It seems like he’s not really paying attention to you, the current conversation or non-riding friends. A typical example might be, in response to the question, “What would you like for dinner?” he answers, “Maxxis.”

**Excessive bike gazing** Driving in the car, walking down the street, sitting at a restaurant—your fellow doesn’t really pay any attention to you, but instead stares longingly at the anodized green Intense, remarking, “She’s really, really good-looking.” Another warning sign is asking for a table with a view...of the bike racks.

**Extreme tardiness** Sure, he says he’ll be home at 6 p.m., but it seems as though he’s always, and I mean always, arriving late. Other damning signs include profuse sweating, excessive apologies, slight drunkenness and ravenous hunger.

**Working late** You have a special date planned, but when he calls to say he’s working late on a project, you’re sure you can hear the faint hum of the chairlift turning in the background as he and his buddies “shred some gnar” at the local resort.

**Secret spending/shopping** Dragging him into stores used to equal sulking for days, but suddenly, he’s developed an interest in shopping. Maybe it’s the way his ears prick up at the sound of the UPS truck or the cashless wallet full of receipts, but you know he’s been buying gifts for someone, and it’s not you. If confronted, listen for incriminating phrases like, “small upgrade,” “practically free” and “I really needed it.”

**Changes in appearance** You come home one day to find the garage is now decorated with bike posters, an area rug, and even a small couch and a mini-fridge. Shocked, when you inquire about his new interest in home décor, he replies, “I wanted to brighten up the place a bit and make it feel more homey.”

**Defensive** He comes home at a reasonable hour, but you feel suspicious and ask, “Have you been out riding today?” He immediately bursts into a strong defense, yet as you give him a hug, you can smell Tri-Flow...and IPA.

*If you’ve answered yes to any of these signs, chances are your honey-bunny is stepping out on you with his two-wheeled hottie. Don’t expect his wandering ways to change and don’t despair. Instead, combat his case of S.O.B.I. by getting an even hotter bike for yourself.*

PHOTOS: JUSTIN STEINER