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decides to
have a baby

and Jeremy's

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evolutionary

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Jeremy and
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Case Study 38

Evolutionary Psychology

Dylan is on his third marriage, and that now appears to be on the rocks. His wife, Cassandra, just found out that he was having an affair with another woman. She had suspected this for some time, but her suspicions were confirmed when she got home before Dylan and listened to the messages on the answer machine. One of the messages was from his girlfriend, confirming a date later that week. Usually Dylan was the first one home and listened to the messages; any messages meant for Cassandra were written down by Dylan and given to her. She thought he was just being considerate by taking down the information; instead, he was making sure she did not find out about the "other woman." Today had been atypical, however. After she had put in many long hours at her marketing job and finished a project, her boss gave her the afternoon off. This rarely happened, and she was looking forward to fixing a nice meal and having a romantic evening with Dylan. Instead, it turned into a terrible argument ending with Cassandra throwing Dylan out of the house.

This is not the first time a marriage ended for Dylan because he was having an affair. Both of his previous marriages ended for the same reason. During his first marriage, Dylan had had multiple affairs. His ex-wife, Whitney, knew about the affairs but accepted them because she thought that a man like Dylan needed more than one woman to satisfy him. He had always been sexually promiscuous, in high school and college, so she reasoned that as long as he loved her, it did not matter that there were other sexual partners. Dylan and Whitney had two children together, but then Dylan's time away from her became too extensive and obvious. After a while, she got tired of being the only one to care for the children, and she felt used, no longer loved. Rather, she felt that Dylan was no longer interested in her and just kept her around to care for the house and the children. So she filed for divorce.

Dylan married again and had another child with his second wife, Nicole. Nicole had no idea of Dylan's sexual past. He had explained his first divorce

was due to irreconcilable differences, but then a friend told Nicole about Dylan having an affair, and she filed for divorce.

Besides this recurrent pattern of affairs and marriages, Dylan has another noticeably repetitive pattern of behavior in that all his wives share an uncanny resemblance to each other: they are all very attractive; of medium height, with a slender, athletic build; shiny, long, blond hair; and complexions that are just slightly tanned.

Dylan is attractive also, with an athletic build. Most likely, some of these similarities stem from the fact that Dylan usually meets his prospective wives at the fitness club he belongs to. A typical first date usually involves a tennis match and dinner afterward. Other dates often include going out dancing at a club. Dylan is an avid dancer and does not lack female attention. He is attractive, and it is well known among the members of the fitness club that he is quite wealthy, with a steady job as a vice president of a software manufacturing company.

Interestingly, although Dylan is quite sexually promiscuous, he rarely uses contraception. Even when his dates ask him to use condoms, he refuses because of the decreased sensation. He never asks his dates whether they are on any type of birth control, either. He believes that if his dates, or his wives, are concerned about not getting pregnant or not contracting a sexually transmitted disease, the responsibility for prevention is theirs. Even though Dylan has had three children with his previous wives and is unconcerned about birth control, he is an uninvolved father who rarely spends time with his children.