

***Supplemental material for:***

Lippman, J. R. (2015). I did it because I never stopped loving you: The effects of media portrayals of persistent pursuit on beliefs about stalking. *Communication Research*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/0093650215570653

## Descriptions of Experimental Stimuli

### Scary stalking condition

**Enough:** The clip starts by depicting a seemingly happy married couple (Mitch and Slim). However, Mitch's controlling nature soon becomes apparent. To escape him, Slim slips out of the house middle of the night, bringing her young daughter, Gracie, with her. Slim spends the duration of the clip desperately trying to escape Mitch. Slim goes so far as to change her name and appearance, but Mitch always seems to find her. In the final scene, Slim is shown in what seems to be a peaceful home. Suddenly, Mitch appears, saying, "I want you back." Slim gasps, and the final frame shows her horrified face.

**Sleeping with the Enemy:** Laura is under the control of an abusive husband (Martin). She is so desperate to escape him that she fakes her own death. She attempts to start a new life for herself, but Martin learns that she is alive. Laura becomes aware that Martin knows she is alive, and she goes to great lengths to try to avoid him. In the final scene, Laura sees signs that Martin has been in her house. She panics and tries to run, but it is too late. The final shot shows Laura's tear-stained terrified face and Martin approaching from behind. Martin greets Laura in a sinister voice: "hello, princess."

### Romantic stalking condition

**There's Something About Mary:** Ted goes on a prom date with Mary. Thirteen years later, Ted is lying on his therapist's couch, fondly recalling a woman he has not seen in over a decade. He hires a private investigator to locate Mary and heads to Florida from Rhode Island for the sole purpose of finding her. Ted and Mary start dating. Their relationship hits a temporary snag when Mary discovers their "chance" meeting in Florida was actually carefully orchestrated, and she tells Ted she never wants to see him again. Mary quickly forgives Ted after he tells her, "I did it because I never stopped thinking about you. And if I didn't find you, I knew that my life would never ever be good again." The end of the clip shows Ted and Mary kissing.

**Management:** Mike meets Sue when she checks into the motel in Phoenix where he is employed. He is immediately infatuated with her, but she does not return his affections. Mike follows Sue around the country in the hopes of winning her affection—first to Maryland; then to Washington State, where she is engaged to a man whose baby she is carrying; then back to Maryland when he learns that Sue's relationship with the other man has ended. At this point, Sue realizes that she is meant to be with Mike, and the clip ends with them in each others' arms.

### Control condition

**March of the Penguins:** This documentary chronicles the complicated process penguins go through to ensure that an egg successfully hatches.

**Winged Migration:** This documentary shows the migration patterns of different species of birds.

*Experiences with Unwanted Pursuit Among College Women*

<i>For each question, please answer "yes" if you have experienced this type of pursuit and "no" if you have not. Has anyone ever undesirably and obsessively pursued you by...</i>	Number of responses		
	Yes	No	Percent yes
Leaving unwanted messages (e.g., hang-up calls, notes, cards, letters, voice-mail, e-mail, messages with friends, etc.)?	146	280	34.3
Monitoring you and/or your behavior (e.g., following you; frequently communicating with you to establish your whereabouts; contacting friends, family, or other personal contacts in an effort to learn more about where you are or what you are doing, etc.)? <sup>a</sup>	72	353	16.9
Engaging in regulatory harassment (e.g., filing official complaints, obtaining a restraining order on you, etc.)?	3	423	0.7
Communicating with you in an excessively needy or demanding way (e.g., pressuring you to see him/her, arguing with you to give him/her "another chance", etc.)? <sup>a</sup>	151	274	35.5
Issuing concrete or implied threats (e.g., stating or implying that something bad will happen to you, threatening to personally hurt you or him/herself, etc.)? <sup>a</sup>	33	392	7.8
Exposing accurate but private and embarrassing information about you to others?	56	370	13.1
"Sabotaging" or attempting to sabotage your reputation with untrue or distorted information about you (e.g., spreading rumors about you, your relationships, or activities)?	50	376	11.7
Taking over your electronic identity or persona (e.g., representing him or herself to others as you in chat rooms, bulletin boards, pornography or singles sites, etc.)?	52	374	12.2

<sup>a</sup>Total *N* for these items = 425. *N* for all other items = 426.

*Characteristics of Experiences with Unwanted Pursuit Among College Women*

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	<i>N</i>
Sex of pursuer	
Male	226
Female	14
Considers unwanted pursuit stalking	
Yes	48
No	193
Relationship with pursuer prior to pursuit	
Serious dating relationship	66
Casual dating relationship (hook-up, friend with benefits, short-term relationship)	<sup>a</sup> 54
Friend	49
Acquaintance	47
Stranger	7
Family member or relative	4
Other (please specify) <sup>b</sup>	3
Spouse or ex-spouse	2
(no response)	2
Feelings elicited by pursuit (free responses) <sup>c</sup>	
Annoyed/annoying	68
Uncomfortable	34
Scared/scary	17
Angry	12
Guilty	8
Frustrated	7
Bad, Embarrassed, Irritated, Upset, Worried	4
Awkward, Confused, Flattered, Mad, Terrified	3
Betrayed, Creeped out, Gross, Helpless, Nervous, Sad, Stressed, Uneasy, Unhappy, Unsafe, Weird	2
Afraid, Aggravated, Alone, Anxious, Ashamed, Awful, Concerned, Controlled, Depressed, Disappointed, Disgusted, Enraged, Exasperated, Exhausted, Exposed, Frightened, Happy, Hurt, Loved, Normal, Overtrying, Paranoid, Pissed off, Spotlighted, Threatened, Trapped, Untrusted, Violated, Vulnerable, Weak	1

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*Note.* These questions were only asked of participants who answered “yes” to at least one of the items presented in the previous table. The prompt read as follows: “In response to the following questions, please keep in mind your experience with your unwanted pursuer. If you have experienced unwanted pursuit from more than one person, please think about the pursuer who seems the most significant to you.”

<sup>a</sup>This total includes the addition of two participants who selected “other.” These participants identified their pursuers as “hook up once” and “a guy I met at a party and made out with for 10 min.” <sup>b</sup>Responses were “tour guide for a week on vacation,” “coworker,” and “friend online.”

<sup>c</sup>Participants were prompted to “please pick three words that best characterize how this pursuit made you feel.”