

The Three O'clock Taboo

Have you noticed that three o'clock in the morning seems to be the most taboo time on earth? Other than Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's commercial about the red phone ringing at 3 a.m. during her presidential campaign in 2008 (which was clearly designed to indicate her 24/7 availability), anything that happens remotely close to three o'clock in the morning is a definite no-no! And, anything that happens after midnight automatically translates to the abominable three o'clock taboo.

Here are a few examples of the three o'clock taboo:

- According to most women, a cheating husband [no matter the hour] "brought his ass home at three o'clock in the morning!"
- A ringing telephone is the most annoying at three o'clock in the morning.
- An infant's playful nocturnal coo translates to an adult's weary night, and subsequently the three o'clock taboo. "He won't sleep. He plays until three o'clock in the morning."
- A high school senior's breach of midnight curfew always results in parents' hysteria and inaccurate count of time. "Is he crazy? He came home at three o'clock this morning!"
- Insomnia means, being up until three o'clock in the morning or waking up at three o'clock in the morning and staying awake until 6 a.m.
- A crime is seemingly the most difficult to grasp when it happens at, "three o'clock in the morning, they robbed that poor little old lady?!"
- Folks seem to break-up at three o'clock in the morning, and then, they call you, crying.

I don't know about you, but most nights, I get to bed at three o'clock in the morning, and on Friday nights I dread my sleep interruption, due to my neighbor's loud obsession with Betty Wright's *Clean-Up Woman* at three o'clock in the morning. What's your three o'clock taboo? Does it beat mine?

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