

What Women Need to Know About MEN



NADIA KABIR BARB

"Men always want to be a woman's first love; women have a more subtle instinct: what they like is to be a man's last romance." Oscar Wilde

A while ago I wrote an article about "What women want (and don't want) in a man". This prompted many of my male relatives and friends rounding on me and asking me why I did not write one about what men want (and don't want) in a woman. Having toyed with the idea for a while, I was prompted into action by an email attachment sent to me by a friend. It was about rules made for women by men. Not only was the attachment amusing, it actually hit the nail on the head about some perceptions men have about women. This seemed to be a sign for me to take that step and finally write this article! However, I hasten to add that most of the following is based on personal observation, speculation and harassment of people I know to get their perspective.

I think it is probably wise to steer clear of the 'tall or short', 'slim or curvaceous' argument and therefore I am not going to get into the physical attributes that a man wants in a woman. However, it is probably best to get the less delicate topics out of the way. In the same way that women like men to maintain a certain standard of personal hygiene, so too do men. Once again body odour and bad breath is an absolute "no no". There really is nothing more off putting than someone who has bad personal hygiene. I am glad to see that at least on this point both genders are in full agreement.

What men want in a woman is someone who will stand by them through thick and thin, someone they can trust and is faithful. They want someone who is aware of their shortcomings and faults but will be

ready to accept them with these flaws nevertheless. We women like to talk about everything and analyse and dissect conversations, events and situations but men do not have a burning desire to carry out a post mortem on everything. Therefore they want a woman who is understanding and patient and will wait until they are ready to express their thoughts or emotions without feeling pressurised or nagged. Another characteristic that most men

(like women) would like in the opposite sex, is a sense of humour (i.e. will laugh at their jokes regardless of how inane they may be). They want a woman to be able to look after herself but also someone who would not be opposed to being looked after. In the matter of love and relationships men tend to be less expressive than the fairer sex and feel that once they have told you how they feel about you there is no need to articulate their affection at every instance. This is not because all men are insensitive or emotionally challenged, but simply that they don't feel the need for re-affirmation of feelings as often as women do.

So far, ladies, we seem to be more or less on the same wavelength as a vast majority of the male population. But sadly this is where we start to diverge in our points of view. Let us take for example, the question of make up and clothes. We (women) feel that men actually notice when we have make-up on and are aware that we spend a needless amount of time choosing what to wear. That is one of the many misconceptions we live with -- they really don't have a clue. Unless you are wearing make up so garish in its application that it shocks

We women like to talk about everything and analyse and dissect conversations, events and situations but men do not have a burning desire to carry out a post mortem on everything.