

How Aliens Fall in Love

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A Practical Manual For The Serious Marriage-seeking Woman

VINCENT BOATENG

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To my wife, Mavis, the love of my life and the center of my universe, who, in spite of my imperfections, has loved me, sacrificed for me and inspired me in more ways than I can count. I love you.

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I - FINDING A PARTNER

CHAPTER 1



The Purpose-driven Partner Search

Myth: Every man is looking for a happy and lasting relationship that will lead into marriage.

Fact: Every man has a different goal or purpose when it comes to love and relationships.

I have spent so much time in discussions with men, young and old who are looking for love, and have discovered that many of them don't even know what kind of relationship they are looking for, let alone find out if their relationship goals are in sync with the relationship goals of a potential love interest. Yet, many women start on the wrong premise that every man out there in the dating pool is looking for marriage or even a long lasting, fulfilling relationship.

The fact is that men have all sorts of objectives and goals when it comes to dating or relationships. Some just want a partner for the moment. Others want a partner for life. Some want marriage and kids. Others just want to “rock-and-roll.” You need to know what yours wants so you can guard against disappointments and heartbreaks.

Given the family court policies and divorce trends of today, many men are afraid or unwilling to commit or settle down in marriage. In 2004, the Rutgers University Marriage Project researchers launched a full-scale national survey of single heterosexual men aged 25 to 34, which represented 10 million of America's most eligible bachelors, in which they discovered that among those men, 53% said they were not interested in getting married anytime soon, and 22% of the men said they had absolutely no interest in getting married. The report described the first group of guys as “marriage delayers” and the latter group of guys as “hardcore marriage avoiders.”

As much as this report may appall you, it should also alert you to the dangers of thinking that every man that approaches you is looking for marriage in the long run. Thus if marriage is your ultimate goal, then you have to be adept at deciphering and attracting a man who is ready and willing to get married. You also have to be dexterous at deflecting the advances of the “hardcore marriage avoiders.” You cannot logically convince a “hardcore marriage avoider” to want or desire commitment and marriage no matter how convincing you are or how attractive you are. He needs to make that determination or come to that decision himself. And until you meet a man who desires and feels ready for marriage, you may be wasting your time.

It is no secret that women have widespread desire to fall in love or enter into a relationship with the goal of marriage, and truthfully, there are many men out there who share that goal. Most of you desire to experience loving and lasting relationships, and you desire your partner to share your relationship goals. Indeed you expect your partner to happily embrace your desire for the advancement of your relationship.

While your expectations may be realistic, your partner may be sailing in an entirely different boat of thought. He

CHAPTER 3



How to Attract a Desirable Man for Courtship

Every Queen Deserves a King

A couple of years ago, I met Evelyn who had contacted me after reading an article online that I had written about how to recover from a bitter breakup and love wholly again. Evelyn was by all standards a beautiful woman. My interactions with her had convinced me she was intelligent too. But all her confidence was lost because her boyfriend had often abused her verbally, criticized her bitterly and eventually broken up with her. He had called her all kinds of derogatory names and shattered her dignity and self-confidence. But that was not the worst thing that had happened to Evelyn. The worst and most painful thing was that Evelyn had come to believe every negative attribute her now ex-boyfriend had ascribed to her. She felt ugly, stupid, unneeded and undeserving of being loved. It was difficult to convince her otherwise. She started blaming herself for everything that had gone wrong with her relationship. Maybe if she were smarter, skinnier, prettier and sexier – if her buttocks and breasts were a little bigger – she thought, this wouldn't have happened to her. Evelyn started to look down on herself as not possessing the qualities that would make her desirable to a man and worthy of a better relationship. She bought into the attitude of self-pity. She felt worthless. She felt she needed a complete physical makeover before she could be loved. Her feelings were valid because she was the victim of a verbally abusive relationship. But, to move on, she had to get over that victim mentality. In reality, all she needed was a mental and attitudinal makeover. My job then was to encourage and reassure her that she was an amazing and desirable woman, that if she would believe it and put her best self out there, the right man would notice her value and treat her like a queen. It was hard at first to convince Evelyn that there was any value in her; but eventually, she learned to pick herself up; she confidently presented herself to the world in a way that landed her a great husband and an adorable daughter. She is a happy woman now because she changed her attitude of self-pity and embraced her self-worth.

Whoever you are, whatever flaws you think you have, whatever criticism some mean-spirited individual has lashed out at you that is stuck in your head and making you feel inferior, I'm here to tell you that you are a queen and your king is dying to meet you and treat you as such. You need to accept yourself, love yourself and believe in yourself in order to meet him and be able to love him wholly and experience true joy.

The first significant step you can take to attract love from the king you deserve is to love yourself wholly and honestly embrace your unique qualities, both positive and negative. You need to exude an air of confidence about yourself and what you have to offer the man who'll be lucky enough to have you. Project the specific qualities you want this man to see in you. For example, if you want him to see you as friendly and approachable, loving and respectable, decent and good-natured, then you need to project those qualities. You also need to acknowledge and accept the fact that no one is perfect. Yes, you're a queen, but you're not perfect. Not every man you meet will think you're amazing. Some will love you, others will despise you. As human beings, we all have positive and negative qualities. Some people will choose to focus on the positive in us, others will focus on the negative. But it is the sum of these qualities that gives each of us our uniqueness and individuality. You need to accept and love yourself as you are because you're made in the image of God; there is so much goodness in you. All the great compliments you've received over the years are indications that people see many good qualities in you. So don't concentrate on the negative that you think people see in you or the negative that some mean-spirited person has pointed out in you. Don't focus on your imperfections. Rather, focus on the many wonderful qualities you possess. The man you'll eventually fall in love with is not perfect either. If you can accept imperfections in him, then you should be able to accept imperfections in yourself.

Even though none of us is perfect, we can all strive towards perfection, and by so doing, become better versions of ourselves. You can become your best self starting from today. Look for opportunities to enhance your admirable traits. That is what we go to school, seminars, and workshops, and read self-help books for. And that is what I hope this chapter will help you to accomplish. I'm not asking you to change who you are to become somebody else. I'm just asking you to become the best version of your own unique self. That will make you happier, more attractive, more confident and more desirable to your love interest.

So think about all the negative characteristics you see in yourself that make it more difficult for others to see your value and be attracted to you. If there's anything you don't like about yourself, such as your weight, work on improving it. But if you're not willing to work on it, then learn to accept yourself as you are. Begin to erase all negative thoughts about yourself from your mind

and replace them with positive thoughts. Come to think more of your positive traits. Accept yourself and love yourself as best as only you can. When you love yourself, you will always put your best self forward. And your best self already has the desirable traits men want. You need to learn to project these traits. That is one sure way to attract your king.

President Bill Clinton has said of his wife Hillary that he was attracted to her because "She conveyed a sense of strength and self-possession I had rarely seen in anyone, man or woman."

All men are attracted to women who put their best selves forward. My wife, Mavis, caught my eye and captured my heart not only because she was beautiful and elegant, but because she also knew her self-worth and projected a sense of self-confidence and personal authority. She knew why any man should be lucky to have her. And I felt it when I met her, so I wanted to be that lucky guy.

Learn to Project the Desirable Traits Men Want

The woman who can project the desirable traits men want shouldn't have a problem attracting men, because men just can't resist her. You probably already know the traits I'm talking about because they are the same traits women look for in men.

Women and men want similar traits in each other. A man will always look for a woman who is attractive, smart, confident, challenging, fun and humorous, sexy and classy; a woman who commands respect, who is authentic, well-mannered and decent in her appearance; a woman who knows what she wants from a relationship and knows how to show interest in a man without making herself look desperate and "easy" or "cheap." (Aren't these the same traits you're looking for in your man?)

In short, every man wants a woman who has the attributes of Confidence, Dynamism and good sense of humor, the ability to arouse his sense of wonder (Mystery and Challenge), Authenticity, and Decency.

1. Confidence

You don't have to be a perfect woman to be a confident woman, needless to say, because none of us is perfect. There'll always be an aspect of your being that you're not too happy about. This could be a physical trait such as the size or shape of your nose, buttocks or breasts; something about your teeth, your height or body-size; blemishes on your face or skin; your hair or lack thereof. It could also be a personality trait such as nervousness or shyness; or even a health trait such as anorexia, or food allergies that make it hard for you to dine out. These traits can create insecurities and keep you worrying about your self-image.

Your insecurities could even stem from your police record or criminal background, credit history, or relationship and sexual history. We all have things about our being – our present or our past – that we worry about or even hate. But we don't have to let those things define us and overshadow our positive traits. Men have insecurities too and I'll bet that the one you'll eventually marry will have his own. So don't worry too much about yours.

Now take a critical look at yourself. What do you think are your insecurities? What do you think keeps men from approaching you or initiating conversations with you? Do you cringe at the sight of an attractive man? Or do you confidently make yourself open and approachable? Do you ascribe more value to an attractive man than you ascribe to yourself in a way that makes you obviously nervous and unapproachable? Do you condemn yourself to mediocrity when you meet a man you're attracted to? Do you say, for instance, "I don't think this tall, handsome gentleman will be attracted to a short woman like me?" If you have been doing this to yourself, you need to stop and replace this negative voice in your head with a more positive voice that would rather ask questions like, "This man is tall, handsome and all, but is he deserving of me?" "Is he deserving of me with all my beauty, intelligence, sense of humor, decency, respectfulness, warmth, graciousness and other virtues?" "Let me engage him in a brief conversation to assess if he's worthy of my time and attention." This is a more confident and winning voice that can better help you land your Prince Charming. You must have standards and requirements that a man has to live up to in order to merit your interest and time. Being physically attractive should be the bare minimum of your standards and requirements. A confident woman doesn't get nervous just because a guy possesses her bare minimum qualification of being physically attractive, because she knows the man still has a lot to live up to in order to get her interested in anything beyond a casual familiarization. This makes confident women challenging and attractive to men, just as women are attracted to confident men.

If you are a woman who constantly exudes a sense of confidence, you probably already know how irresistible you are to men. A confident woman knows how to make a man feel comfortable in her presence while retaining a sense of command. She doesn't accept just any

man but screens them against her standards and expectations. She makes her own decisions and takes responsibility for the outcomes. Men want to do what she wants them to do because of her strong personal authority. Her presence is felt when she walks into a room. People feel good to be around her. Everyone craves her attention and seeks her approval. She makes people laugh and have fun in her presence.

Once you start seeing yourself as beautiful, attractive, articulate, funny, warm and gracious, you will get comfortable around men; and the more comfortable and confident you are, the more attractive you will come across to men. The key to having and exhibiting confidence is to believe in your self-worth. Always think of all the great reasons why any man should be lucky to have you. Believe in yourself as beautiful, virtuous, intelligent, sexy, classy, articulate, fun, loving and caring. The more you believe that you possess these attributes, the more you will live these attributes, and the more likely men will notice these attributes in you and see you as the amazing, confident, enchanting woman you know you are.

A confident woman doesn't look for approval from others regarding her worth or desirability. She believes in her self-worth and is secure in herself and what she has to offer any man who would be lucky enough to have her. She doesn't seek validation from others. She knows what she's looking for in a man and doesn't settle for anything less.

So develop a lifestyle that puts you out there in the social scene with great men who are dying to connect with an enchanting lady like you; make yourself noticeable and approachable wherever you go by learning to initiate conversations with desirable men; and soon you'll be overwhelmed by the number of great, decent men clamoring for your attention and love.

2. Dynamism and Good Sense of Humor

Men can't resist a funny, playful and dynamic woman who captivates the crowd in a social setting. After all, don't we all like to be around people whom we think we'll never get bored with? When a woman can playfully stimulate and challenge a man emotionally and intellectually, she can make him do anything.

One way of acquiring or projecting this quality is to develop a "naughty" or "silly" side to your personality. "Naughty" or "Silly" behavior turns men on. Many of us are silly and naughty when we're with our friends, but we fail to show that side of our personality when we're in the company of potential love interests. You need to learn how to tell hilarious stories and jokes and make unpredictable and funny comments and faces when you're in the company of desirable men. Don't be afraid to laugh at yourself either. However, you should

know that having a “naughty” or “silly” side to your personality is not the same as being just plain naughty or silly. Men like women of substance, so don’t turn yourself into a clown. This means that you should learn to alternate between “silly” behavior and serious behavior. It is appealing when a woman can switch between seriousness and playfulness with relative ease. This, added to her personal charm and intellectual prowess, can make her irresistible to men.

If you can make a man laugh and feel at ease in your presence while remaining firmly in control of yourself, you’ll look attractive to him.

Men are also fascinated and intrigued when they can discover different aspects of your personality at different times, because they begin to see you as dynamic. We all possess a unique combination of traits that makes us who we are. It is not possible for anyone to get to see these traits all at once. So when a guy begins to see a different one of your desirable traits every time he comes around you, he begins to feel that if he hangs around long enough, there would be a lot more exciting things to learn about you. Thus you become challenging and special in his eyes, and perhaps in his heart too, because he starts to connect being with you with emotional satisfaction.

Dynamism also means exhibiting the ability to respond appropriately and positively to different situations and circumstances. This creates mystery, which is another important attribute men want.

3. Mystery and Challenge

Dan Brown’s novel, “The Da Vinci Code,” was such a big success because it had the all-important quality of mystery, which is attractive to many. We are all attracted to mystery because it arouses our sense of wonder.

Mystery is not only attractive in movies and novels. It is an important quality for attracting men. A woman of mystery has different sides to her personality, and every man likes the excitement of learning about her and discovering new and unexpected things. She is sexy and fun but also nerdy and geeky when she needs to be; playful and flirty but also serious and discerning when necessary; warm and charming but also cold and nonchalant when necessary; independent and strong but also dependent and vulnerable when necessary. She is unpredictable in a good way. She exudes an air that makes men wonder what she’s up to or what she’s going to do next.

A woman of mystery uses vague language and actions in communicating her interest to men in a way that makes men think and feel that they have done something to earn her attraction. She comes across as cool and challenging to men; and men love challenges.

If you want to exhibit this attribute, you need to develop a “leave it or take it” attitude that communicates to men that you don’t need to attract them. This means acting in a sexy and cool way without a deliberate attempt to attract men. Don’t present the image of a desperate “man hunter” because that will get you nowhere. Men can sense when a woman is desperate or trying too hard to impress them (which is often an attraction killer), and they will just take advantage of you (without giving you the relationship and marriage you desire). Being nonchalant and sometimes ignoring really hot men even when every woman is giving him all their attention, is often what will get you noticed as different and challenging; and as I noted earlier, men love challenges and will be attracted to you just when you show them that you don’t care much about attracting them. Of course, this doesn’t mean you should ignore hot guys or be mean to them. Far from that. You should make eye contact, smile and flirt, but just don’t join the bevy of women who swarm around him in desperation for his attention. Overtly “chasing” after a guy who hasn’t done anything to earn your attention can kill his interest faster than anything else.

Being a challenging woman means a guy has to put in a little more work to keep you interested. He has to behave well and meet your standards. It also means you’re not going to give him excessive attention and exhibit a desperate need to be with him regardless of how he behaves or treats you. He has to earn your attention and love.

A woman of mystery knows this, and she communicates her standards playfully and with integrity.

4. Authenticity

Another important trait of a desirable woman is authenticity. Men find authentic women very attractive mostly because they meet so many women every day who are the direct opposite of that. It is easier to describe an authentic woman by what she doesn’t do rather than what she does. An authentic woman doesn’t try to dig too much into how much a man is worth (financially) or how much material wealth he possesses or can provide for her. She doesn’t brag about how rich her exes were, how much they spent on her, etc. She doesn’t try to attract a man based on his wealth or social status.

A woman who is authentic does not try to make herself appear challenging to an interested man by pretending to be busy and unavailable all the time. She knows what she wants and takes a chance at it without compromising her standards. Because she knows her standards are high, she doesn’t have to fake anything to make herself look challenging to a man. She just lives her life fully with or without a man. Men know they have to pass an initial

screening before they can even get to hang out with her. They have to put up their best behavior in order to get her attention. They have to show respect if they want to talk to her. An authentic woman qualifies her men and chooses the man she desires. She doesn't seek to be chosen; she seeks to choose her man. She makes a man feel lucky to have her because she is a woman of integrity and value.

Be authentic by interacting with a man on a personal level like his friends do, by teasing, sharing jokes, and being playful and natural. That will set you apart from all other women, and it will pay off big time. Besides, you can only attract an authentic man by being your authentic self. Being your authentic self will help you to find a man who values you as you are and not as he would like you to be.

Being authentic also means being comfortable with your femininity. Men love women because of their femininity. It is a natural mode of attraction. Men are naturally designed to be attracted to women. So you need to be comfortable with your feminine traits and subtly show off your sexuality if you desire to attract men. Real men are attracted to real women. The way you dress, walk, communicate, and behave tell a man something about whether you're real or not, and the more feminine you are, the more attractive you'll come across to men.

5. Decency

Yet another quality men look for in a woman is how much of a "lady" she is, which has everything to do with how she conducts herself. Men – really good men who are looking for a woman to marry – are not attracted to women who dress up like prostitutes, are rude or try to offend them with their words or actions. Neither are they attracted to women who dress up like nuns, are too nice or give themselves to just any man. They are attracted to women who are classy and sexy, independent, respectful and respectable and don't compromise their standards.

What this means is that you shouldn't be rude or mean if you want to attract a man. You need to be nice, smile, and avoid mean comments, but you don't have to make yourself look overly nice or desperate. You don't have to throw yourself at men or "beg" a man to be with you. You have to be playful and unafraid to initiate or engage a man in a conversation and make him laugh, or ignore him when necessary. You have to radiate the demeanor of a lady who knows how to treat a man but wouldn't give up her standards for any man. That is attractive; that makes you a lady, and men will love you for that.

If you cultivate and project a combination of these five traits, you will certainly attract hot, intelligent and real men who know how to make a woman happy; and you will be on your way to finding love that leads to marriage.

To Find a Desirable Man Within Your Own Timeline, You Need to Move Beyond Your Traditional Roles

Traditionally and historically in many societies, including Western societies, men have almost monopolized and seem to enjoy the business of initiating courtship and marital relationships. This is probably due to millions of years of human history when men were hunters and women were gatherers. Women have thus traditionally been “the pursued” rather than “the pursuers” when looking for love. You have only been responsible for exercising your natural rights of saying, “Yes” or “No” to the advances made by your male counterparts. But shouldn’t women be more proactive in your search for Mr. Right? You absolutely should. You should have a greater role to play in initiating love relationships. Women need to boldly take up the initiative to create attraction and initiate love relationships instead of just sitting around and waiting for chance, fate or destiny to bring Mr. Right along. You need to recognize that the traditional approach lacks urgency. It puts women at a disadvantage.

Impressively, many women in Western cultures especially, have recognized this disadvantage and are now more active in initiating relationships with men, especially online (thanks to the anonymity of the internet!). According to a study published in the Wired Magazine, “Women pay to contact men as often as the reverse.” This development should be encouraged when it comes to initiating physical interactions as well. Both men and women should have an active role to play in initiating love relationships that would lead to this all-important union called marriage.

Women Need to be Proactive in Finding Love without Appearing Desperate

So many beautiful women I talk to try to convince me that they never meet any man they like, and the once they like don't like them back; that all the good men are taken. They claim they are out there all the time, they know lots of men but still can't find one they like or one that likes them; but when you probe a little further, a certain pattern becomes apparent in their social life. It is always the same for these ladies. They consistently hang out in venues where there're no eligible bachelors while keeping themselves busy with all the appurtenances of modern

technology. They wake up in the morning and go to the Yoga class (where there are no men), then run to Starbucks while talking on their cell phone (which signals to men that they are busy), then off to work where they are always seen on their lunch break with their closest male friend who is either married or gay (signaling to other eligible male coworkers and other men that they are dating). Next, they go to the grocery store, market or train station while listening to their iPod or still on the phone (i.e. not paying attention to any man around), then off to the nail salon (again – No men); then to a dinner party with all their married friends (where there are no single men).

Indeed they've been out there constantly, but do you see a problem here? If you go out all the time with your girlfriends to places where there are no eligible men, while all the time keeping yourself busy with your cell phone or iPad, then very soon you'll feel like there are no men left in the world; and when you begin to feel like your biological clock is ticking and time is running out, then when any man approaches you who is not so eligible, you can't say no. You've become so desperate for male attention that when a man approaches you who is not so great or attractive to you, you throw caution to the wind. You cling to him before you've even had time to determine if he is worthy of your affection or time.

The truth is that there is a whole battalion of good men out there just dying to connect with you. A whole "gazillion" of men are out there looking for a signal from you that it's OK to approach you. In other words, they just need a little help from you; you need to work in tandem with them.

Put Yourself Out There and Make Yourself Approachable

The man of your dreams is out there somewhere in the world also working equally hard to find you, or perhaps he's just sitting and hoping that chance and fate will conspire to bring you to him. You need to put yourself out there and do a little more work in order to find him. Don't panic just because you're the only one among your friends who's still single. Being single is not a disease. It is an opportunity to meet an amazing someone. Sitting in your couch in loneliness is not the way to take advantage of this opportunity. You need to put yourself out there in the social scene, interact with as many men as you can meet and have fun with choosing the one you are attracted to, the one you click with, the one who makes your heart melt. Develop a social life that puts you out there with the type of men you desire to marry. Go where they hang out. Enroll in the activities they do if you like those activities. This may be a fitness club, a country club, a dance class, a bowling club, the fan club of a local team, or anything you enjoy. Live your life to

the fullest doing the things you love. Make your life worth being a part of for any man who would be lucky enough to have you.

By now you have probably discovered for yourself that you can't leave your chances of meeting Mr. Right to luck or even to the control of others. You need to be in charge of your own relationship destiny. You have to be passionate and enthusiastic about your life while leaving some room for romance. Don't fill your life with so many activities such that you need a month's notice to be able to make room for a first date. Not many men will have the patience to wait for you to make time for a date. They might even interpret your lack of urgency as a show of disinterest.

I remember back when I was still searching for love, I met a woman online whom I started talking to over the phone. We both seemed interested in meeting in person, so we scheduled a meet-up at a lounge. But every time we scheduled something, she would cancel in the last minute, explaining that something had come up. After the third cancelation, I concluded she wasn't serious or interested. If she didn't see meeting up with me as a priority, I wasn't going to wait around for her to squeeze me into her busy schedule. So I wrote her off and started seeing a different woman. But apparently she was still interested, because after I had written her off and moved on, she was still texting and leaving me voicemails about meeting up.

This should tell you that men have options just as women do, and are always exploring those options. So if you want to find love, make time for socialization.

Make Time For Socialization

If you're the type that is unavailable every time you're invited to a date or a social event, you need to start making yourself available. Start accepting invitations to social gatherings or events where there're opportunities to meet new people. Accept invitations to parties, barbecues, picnics, festivals, concerts, church, weddings, political rallies, marathon events, charitable walks or donation drives, excursions, cruises, sporting events, and yes, even happy hour after work with friends and colleagues.

Also, make it an obligation or a ritual to actively interact with and get to meet and know new people when you attend these events. Open up to strangers and charm them with your friendliness and confidence. Don't just talk to your friends at social events, learn to talk to new

people and expand your social network. Human beings are sociable by nature. We are all social animals. Being sociable then is a natural ability waiting to be developed in all of us. Just like anything we go to school to learn, being sociable can be learned, and there's no better way to learn it than to practice it.

You don't have to change who you are to be able to talk to people. It has nothing to do with your personality or temperament. It's a skill anybody can learn just as anybody can learn to become a scientist or a counselor.

Even when you meet a guy who's not your type, instead of giving him the cold shoulder, consider the possibility that he may have friends or acquaintances who may be your type. Befriending him is what can lead you to these other amazing guys. Always look beyond the present moment and capitalize on the opportunities you have to expand your social network.

If you master the skill of starting conversations and connecting with all manner of people, it becomes natural for you to initiate a conversation with and charm a man you're attracted to when you finally meet him. You'll be more confident and know exactly what to say to get his attention when you meet him. You're not likely to be nervous or tongue-tied in a way that makes you avoid even making eye contact with him, because you have developed the needed skill for the occasion.

Oftentimes, waiting for a man you like to initiate conversation with you can lead to a disappointment. You need to take charge of the outcome of any opportunity to interact or connect with a man you're attracted to. Don't put the onus on him to initiate the contact, because believe it or not, he may be just as nervous as you or perhaps even more nervous and scared of rejection. That of course does not mean he's not attracted to you. He may be crazy about you, but he may not approach you for three main reasons:

1. Lack of confidence
2. Fear of rejection and humiliation
3. Not knowing what to say to break the ice

How much easier it would be for him if you could help him overcome any of these weaknesses even by sending him subtle signals that it's OK for him to approach you! How much easier it would be for him if you could meet him halfway!

If you're not sending them any signals that you're interested and available, most men may never feel comfortable approaching you, because they don't want to risk rejection and humiliation. Talk about the fragile male ego! Men like to be confident that a goal is achievable before they embark upon it. You can subtly give him that confidence when it comes to his goal of wooing you. Even the simple act of maintaining eye contact with him for just five seconds every now and then and then smiling at him will communicate your interest, create attraction and give him confidence to approach you.

I know this may distress the traditionalists a bit, but if you see a man you like and he's not coming to you after you've sent him subtle signals to make yourself approachable, go to him and initiate a conversation. Your intention is not to get him to fall for you, but rather to make yourself sociable and to satisfy your curiosity about who he is beyond the looks. You never know where that might lead. If you doubt the power of making the first move, ask Hillary Rodham Clinton and she will tell you that it was her confident ability to approach Bill Clinton that got him talking to her and eventually falling in love and marrying her. And she didn't have to conjure any mystical line to start the conversation. When she caught Bill staring at her again and again, she was self-assured enough to get up from her chair and walk right over to him and say cheekily, "If you're going to keep looking at me and I'm going to keep looking at you, we ought to at least know each other. I'm Hillary Rodham." Bill Clinton, stunned by her boldness, later recalled in an interview, "I couldn't remember my name." Well, who would? Now, how powerful was that?

Once you make being sociable or friendly your main intent for approaching and starting conversations with men, you will eliminate the fear of rejection that often brings about the feeling of nervousness and anxiety.

Even when your ultimate goal is to get him interested in you, you should still consider your initial interaction with him as an opportunity you're giving him to prove himself worthy of your time. So once you break the ice by initiating a conversation, you can leave him to steer the conversation and do the rest of the work if he's interested in you beyond the casual familiarization. This will also make him appreciate the challenge and the good feeling of earning your attraction.

I say this also because I reckon that not every woman can or would want to pursue a man as aggressively as a man would pursue a woman. That is obviously a natural limitation of women (sorry to say), which I believe is also the fault of the men who perceive a woman as "easy" when she appears to be actively wooing a man. In fact, most of the women I interviewed before writing this chapter confessed that they are actually enjoying their current "royal role" of only waiting

for the man to make the initial move and persistently compliment and pamper them in a bid to win their love and affection; but they also agreed that expanding their roles and being a little more proactive would be in their own interest.

The next time you see a man you like, if the subtle signals don't bring him over to you, don't sit and hope that he eventually comes to you. Get up and go meet him. Smile and say hi to him. Initiate a conversation about anything. Do not fear being misunderstood or misjudged. Just focus on whatever it is you want to accomplish. If nothing at all comes out of it, friendship might develop, and you might have fun along the way.

For this to become easy for you, you need to practice talking to strangers. There are so many opportunities to meet and talk to strangers during the course of your day. Whether you're taking public transportation, driving yourself through the highway traffic, shopping at a grocery or department store, or checking into a hotel, there are always opportunities to meet and talk to strangers.

Practice Talking to Strangers

If you find it difficult to initiate conversation with strangers, you're in the same boat with many men. You probably know a few great guys who are not at ease with talking to women they don't know. You may even have a friend or a brother like that, so you know this: a man could have a crush on you right at this moment standing next to you in a Starbucks coffee shop and not say a word to you. Why? Because it's just as difficult for him to make that first move. Sometimes we all struggle to find the right words for the occasion when we have to initiate conversation with a stranger, especially a stranger we secretly desire to date. And I reckon it is more difficult to form the habit of talking to strangers, especially if you are characteristically shy. But being difficult is not the same as being impossible. You can still learn to interact with strangers just as you learned to interact with your classmates, teachers, coworkers and supervisors on your first few days in school or on the job while you were still complete strangers to each other. You probably ended up making a few friends or even boyfriends. That should tell you that you've already acquired the skill for interacting with strangers; you've done it before. You are experienced at this. You know how to interact with strangers. You just have to develop that skill further and utilize it in your quest to find Mr. Right.

To eliminate any fear in initiating conversations with men you don't know, don't focus on trying to get them to like you or fall for you. Instead, just focus on being friendly and sociable. You might even leave an impression as a great conversationalist if you show a genuine interest in him and encourage him to talk about himself.

Learn to be curious about people – who they are, what they do, where they're from, what makes them tick, etc. In every conversation, try to find out more about the other person instead of making the conversation about you. Let your focus be on getting to know more about him, and by so doing, creating a connection. People love to talk about themselves and would readily jump at the opportunity to do so.

Conversation Starters

There are so many ways to initiate conversations with strangers.

Compliments and Questions

You can break the ice with a stranger by passing a genuine compliment about his clothing, cologne, watch, shoes, eyeglasses or his smile, hair, beard, etc. or by simply asking a question about the time, the weather, directions, his opinion, an advice, and so forth. People feel good about themselves when others show interest in them even if by just offering a compliment or asking a question or asking for a favor. And we all tend to open up to people who show a genuine interest in us. Put a smile on someone's face by passing a compliment, and I promise you'll have fun doing it. Ask them for a favor and they'll be happy for the opportunity to help an amazing woman like you. Ask about the location of the nearest gas station, train station or bus stop. Ask if there's any good bookstore or library around here. Ask if there's a good place around here for brunch or dinner. Many people like the good feeling that comes with being able to help another person, and will readily open up to you when you ask for a favor.

It often works better when you make eye contact while asking for a favor, asking a question or passing a genuine compliment. Eye contact conveys a genuine need to know (with regards to the question); it also conveys honesty and confidence and thus helps to create attraction.

The next time you see a guy you like, ask yourself this question: "What favor can I ask of this guy?" or "What can I honestly admire about this guy?"

Start throwing genuine compliments at people. "That is a nice pair of eyeglasses!" "Those are beautiful shoes! What brand is that?" "That shirt looks perfect on you!" "You have great taste in clothing!" "That is a beautiful belt!" "You have the brightest smile!" "I couldn't help asking what kind of cologne you have on; it's heavenly!" "That's a beautiful watch!" All these compliments are capable of generating further conversation that could create initial chemistry and attraction.

Also know that a genuine compliment is different from flattery. A genuine compliment stems from the heart and is offered sincerely. Flattery, on the other hand, is false or insincere praise. Nobody likes to be flattered because it doesn't bring the same good feeling that a genuine praise or compliment brings. We all resent flattery because it makes us feel as though there's

nothing genuinely praise-worthy about us. It's better to say nothing at all if all you have to offer is flattery.

Also, always try to get the name of the person you're talking to. Say something like, "By the way, my name is Laura; what's yours?" "I didn't get your name." "What was your name again?" etc. If you want his phone number, you can simply say something like, "You seem cool. Do you mind if I add you to my social network? Let me take your number."

Make Eye Contact, Smile and Say Hello!

A smile is a great icebreaker in any social situation. A sincere smile given with eye contact is infectious and often reciprocated. Whenever you make eye contact and smile at a stranger, he is more likely to smile back. You can then say hello, ask how he's doing or how his day is going, and continue with a casual introduction that could lead to further conversation.

For example, when you see a man you like at the coffee shop, you can make eye contact, smile, walk up to him and say something like:

"Hello! I'm Jane. What's your name?"

He would likely respond, because you've shown a genuine interest in him, which is something a few people do for strangers these days. You can then continue casually and in a playful and friendly tone: "I haven't seen you here before and I come here quite often; is there another good place to get coffee that I don't know about?" Or "I want to try something bold and manly today; what are you getting?" Or you can simply ask, "How's your day going?" Or "Do you live or work around here?" After his response, you can ask, "What do you love about the other coffee place?" or "What do you love about this coffee shop?" or "What do you love about your job?" or if he lives in the area, "What do you love about this area?"

You can steer the conversation towards the exchange of phone numbers or perhaps the fixing of a coffee date or something if you sense the two of you have chemistry. Say, "You seem exciting. We should have coffee together sometime." and add playfully in a mock tone, "You can have my number if you promise not to call me too often." (Stick your tongue out teasingly or something). "Here," (hand him your cellphone), "Put yours on here and let me flash you a call so you can have mine."

Try to strike up a conversation with strangers whenever you see an opportunity. Again, your intent is just to be friendly and sociable. But allow yourself to be spontaneous. You never know where that might lead. After all, relationships are born out of conversations.

Starting from today, make it a habit to smile at strangers, walk up to them, say hello and ask:

"How're you today?"

"How's your day going?"

“What’s your name?”

“Where are you from?” Etc.

Learn to be habitually friendly and sociable. When you're on the bus or train, don't hesitate to talk to the guy sitting next to you. If it's early in the morning, you can say something like: "I guess I'm not the only one up early; you seem so awake; are you a morning person?" Keep the conversation going based on his response. Or if he's reading a book or Kindle, you could playfully say, "You must hate me for interrupting your reading; what are you reading (or what's your name)?" Or "You seem so into your reading; would you like to share the interesting story?" Continue based on his response by asking other questions such as:

"What do you like about taking the train?"

“Where do you work?”

“What do you love about your job?”

If he has an accent, "I love your accent; where are you originally from?" or "I'm trying to make out that accent; help me out."

At the bar, you can initiate a conversation with a stranger by asking if it's OK to sit next to him and joking that you don't want his girlfriend to get jealous or think he's cheating. If he's interested, he might even tell you he has no girlfriend and engage you in further conversation. You can also ask, "What cocktail would you recommend for a lady who's trying to relax?" Try to engage people based on their initial responses. If they don't seem interested, don't push too hard. He's not the only man around. At least you tried.

At a party, you can initiate conversation with a stranger by asking if he's having a good time, asking how everything is going, commenting to him in an interrogative manner about the beautiful setting or decorations at the venue or the music, complimenting his dance moves, asking how he knows the host, etc.

More importantly, don't be afraid to ask for a man's phone number if you've been chatting with him for a while and you feel a connection. You can say something like:

"Too bad I have to run; we should catch up on our conversation some other time." At this point, he should be able to ask you for your number. But if he doesn't, you can give him your phone and say, "Kindly put your number here and let me flash you mine so we can connect some other time."

Wherever you go, make it your goal to start smiling, making eye contact and saying hello when you meet an eligible man; and make it your goal to also get his phone number before the end of your interaction. "Would you mind if I put you in my contact list?" is another great way to ask for his phone number.

Don't Become Your Own Worst Enemy

Unfortunately, for many women, it is when they see the man they would most like to meet that they put up their meanest attitude, freeze up or get very timid and uncomfortable, making them look away or sit as far away from the man as possible or even avoid making eye contact with him. Then, they go home and whine and weep and wonder why no man seems to want them. What you need to do is open up to men and stop avoiding them, or you'll end up thinking there aren't any men out there.

When the Man You want to Court Happens to be a Friend or an Acquaintance

In situations where the man you want to court happens to be an acquaintance – church member, school mate or work colleague, etc., you can send him signals in the form of a surprise gift on a calendar occasion, dinner invitation, and/or the initiation of casual conversations about dating and relationships to test his interest or availability.

Don't assume that you're in a relationship with a "friend" when he hasn't made his intentions clear to you. Spending lots of time with you, sharing jokes with you and making you his confidant does not necessarily mean he's romantically interested in you. If he doesn't seem sexually interested in you, doesn't flirt with you, doesn't seem to have any sexual thoughts about you, and even discusses with you his sexual escapades with other women, then he may only see you as a friend, and not a potential love interest. He may only see you as good company. You will know this from his behavior and conversation. Don't get trapped with him in a way that stops you from looking for dating opportunities elsewhere. Don't give him the benefits of a boyfriend by lavishing him with attention and making yourself too available to him. He has to earn those benefits. Don't sit around and hope that one day he'll realize you're the right woman for him and come begging for your love. Leave that for the movies. If a man sees you as anything beyond a mere friend, trust me, he will work towards making his intentions known to you, even if in a subtle manner. He will do the work required to make you interested in a romantic relationship.

If you suspect that a friend you're interested in may also be interested in you, however, you can utilize what I call 'the clincher.' This is just a question that is posed to find out what he thinks or feels about you – whether he's into you and wants a romantic relationship with you or just wants to keep you in the "friend zone." The "clincher" helps you to confirm or prove your suspicion so you can move on or look elsewhere if you need to. Examples are, "How do you feel about people suspecting that I'm your girlfriend?" "What do you think about me?" "How do you feel about me?" Answers to such questions will help you to know your status with your "friend" so you can move on if you need to.

This is especially helpful because most women don't feel comfortable making the first "I love you" statement in their relationships. They rather prefer to wait until such a statement is made by the man so they can respond with an easy, "Me too" or "I love you too."

You've Got the Power!

You need to recognize that you're the most powerful force in all your interactions with men. You can do two things with this power: turn men away, or charm them.

Majority of relationships are started by the woman making it clear to the man that she is interested, and as we noted earlier, this is usually done by sending signals to the man that it is OK for him to approach you or talk to you.

The Power of Reciprocity

I think it is fair to also mention that quite a number of women have advanced beyond these subtle signals and are even more creative in communicating their interest to the man they want. I would like to particularly cite how a coworker who was interested in me communicated her interest back during my single days. I was working one day when she walked straight up to me, said hi with a smile and handed me a folded piece of paper. She immediately walked away after handing me the paper. I only smiled and received the paper, oblivious of its content. I unfolded it, and guess what it contained? Her name and telephone number. I was pleasantly surprised, but I knew what she meant. In fact, before this incident, despite the fact that we had been stealing glances at each other, we barely talked to each other though we worked in the same environment and for the same company. I thought to myself, “This is the bravest girl I’ve ever met in the world of dating.” This lady utilized the power of reciprocity. When you give your name and number to someone, they feel compelled to give you theirs in return or call you (if only to satisfy their curiosity). I actually did give her a call, and the rest, they say, is history.

Yet another effective way to find a courtship partner is through Networking.

Networking

Networking is the process of developing personal and professional contacts who can help you with information to identify eligible courtship mates whom you have not yet spotted. It is also a way of accessing advice and information.

Whenever I mention “networking,” some women start thinking of rich folks fixing wives and husbands for one another’s children at the ballroom; calling church elders and family friends to ask for a husband; being offered a husband by an acquaintance over a drink, and all sorts of funny examples. Yet, most eligible bachelors are in the shadow. They are not advertised in the paper or on the Internet. You can’t go to them through dating agencies or even necessarily by a

direct approach. In fact, a majority of such ‘hotties’ will go to the woman who has contacted him through the recommendation of someone whom he already knows and trusts. Many famous couples in history met through this approach. According to several sources, President John F. Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline met through the introduction of a mutual friend, Charles Bartlett, at a small dinner party held at Bartlett’s home in Georgetown. President Gerald Ford and his wife Betty Ford (who were married for 58 years) also met through the introduction of their friends at a cocktail party.

This goes to tell you that networking can lead you to Mr. Right. The more men you meet through networking, the more likely you are to find the one that is uniquely yours.

The first thing you need to do when using the networking approach is to develop a list of everyone you can think of who might be able to help you with the search for Mr. Right. This includes your parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, coworkers, church members, and professional matchmakers.

When approaching professional matchmakers, it is important to give as much relevant information as possible about yourself to enable them help you better. Be specific about the type of personality you want, his career (or economic) background, your location preferences, and relationship expectations.

The Internet is also a very important resource for networking. Today, about 20% of all singles are believed to look for love on the Web. Visit dating websites and other social websites. Utilize every chance to broaden your networking opportunities. Attend social gatherings – parties, church, exhibitions and conferences, sporting games and music festivals. These will all help expose you to more courtship opportunities.

I don't know what objections you have against networking. Maybe you are afraid you will not know the right people to help you land the man of your dreams. You think networking is the privilege of cowardly and diffident women who can't find a man on their own. Or maybe you hate making phone calls to people about your personal business.

The first thing you need to know is that networking is not about ringing people up to ask for a husband. After all who wants to do that? No! It is about asking your trusted contacts to introduce you to single men they think you might like. Networking is a sound, efficient way of researching the world of eligible singles. The object of networking is to get from where you are now (a woman with no husband or fiancé) to where you want to be (a woman who has found the right

husband and all the rewards it brings). It is a fast way of matching you with a man out there who is nursing a headache because he needs to find a woman like you for a courtship but doesn't know where to start.

Through networking, you can track down Mr. Right. Like an intelligent secret agent, you are going to get to know who he is, what he needs and where he is. By the time you find the man who holds the key to your heart, you will be better placed to be his ideal wife.

CHAPTER 4



Creating a Memorable First Date

Your Date Already Finds You Attractive

Unless it's a blind date, you are not likely to go on a date with a guy who is not your type; are you? Most guys who are looking for a meaningful relationship operate on the same principle.