

# This is what is in my Heart, what is in yours?

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- *From:* [ebacherdom@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:ebacherdom@xxxxxxxxxx)
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What am I looking for in a mate?

Well, that question has evolved as I have, growing more complex and complete as the years fly by. Knowing thus, that the answer will certainly change as more experience clears my judgment on the matter, I accept that I can only give you an incomplete picture of who I am looking for right now, and even that is a moving target. I also accept that everything I will say here will only be an incomplete set of guidelines – and certainly neither exhaustive nor set in stone.

Those qualities that I are more requirement will be noted as such, but otherwise I'd like to believe that I take the whole person into account and so this little description should not be construed as a checklist of any sort – finding a mate is a much more holistic process, and there is no exception for mutual experience and that magical "spark" that passes between two lovers early in the throws of infatuation. But, these are my biases and they color my outlook and major deviations from these biases would require the efforts of a very special woman.

.... But I don't expect my future partner would be anything but very special indeed.

So, what am I looking for? I'm looking for a woman who takes my breath away, and makes me lose my train of thought when I consider her for even a moment. She'll have a beautiful, if cunning smile and a wonderful laugh. We'll enjoy drinking glasses of wine together as we discuss political dilemmas of our modern times, and eating sumptuous healthy food that we prepared together as the sun sets on the horizon. We'll never run out of things to talk about – because we've had years and years apart and so our life together will be continually working to catch one another up on our past experiences, wisdoms even as we pursue our passions together in the here and now.

I'm looking for someone who will be my equal. This is asking for a lot, because I am very strong-willed and so I require by necessity someone equally as stoic and cunning as I am. As far as relationships go, I think that I am a very simple person: but I recognize that nothing about relationships is ever truly simple, and every complication compounds the mystery that is love between two individuals

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(both with their own internal complications). I need someone who can deal with her world, and help work with me to solve the problems that life presents us as a couple and hopefully as a family one day if we are so blessed. I want someone who can assess situations calmly, and provide reliable leadership (as can I) when things are difficult and in spite of the pressures of everyday life or emergency (this means no panicking or freaking out every time a new wrinkle develops).

Emotionally, I would like someone who is on solid ground. Nobody is perfect, and certainly I have much growth yet to pursue – but at least you should know what you'd still like to change and be taking positive steps to make it happen. I believe that there is no way for one person to "fix" another, and so being emotionally independently stable and secure is absolutely essential for two people before they might even consider engaging in a shared emotional union. You can't build a solid home without a solid foundation, after all.

You'll be worldly and well-versed. You'll have read books and comprehended them – maybe you don't quote them all the time, but it will be clear to others that you have thought about and taken in a lot of the ideas that pass through your life by way of your local library. There are many people I know who are more well-versed than I who never went to school – and many doctorates as well who couldn't quote a classic piece of literature to save their souls: So this isn't about education, but about having a well-read mind and being able to recall that information to provide valuable insight when approaching new problems or situations.

You'll be passionate. I don't know about what you'll be passionate – but the urge, the desire to be great and pursue something with all your heart will not be a foreign concept to you (and one that I share). There is a particular quality in people who have given their all to something, pursued it with an open heart and succeeded and this is something that I would hope my future mate would understand, because it is something about myself that I hold dear and I would hope that one day we could share at least one experience, one passion, between us – building a home, raising our children and many other goals. These are paths that I will pursue with reckless abandon, to be the best father I can be: and I need someone who would be committed to this goal wholly and entirely with me (not instead of me, as many modern fathers I observe every day). Maybe you'll have played the violin for 18 years, or have written a novel not yet published. Maybe you'll have a love for animals that you've pursued to become a vet, or another professional career – but whatever your passion is I want to know that you've pushed yourself to obtain it, and that you know what you're undertaking when you accept the challenge of becoming a wife and mother. Because there will be challenges, but knowing that the challenges are all part of seeing the passion come to life is a wisdom I cannot provide, this understanding must be germane to you even before we ever meet.

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You'll be close to your family. Strong family ties are important to me – because I know full well that when two people come together it is not only their joining but the joining of their families and friends; as if two galaxies combine and become more for it. I would hope your parents were still married, for your sake, but I am very lucky that mine still are, and I know that things happen in life that are unavoidable and would not presume to judge the choices of others before I had ever met them. Your family would probably be religious too – Catholic or a mainstream Protestant denomination but probably not baptist, fundamentalist Christian (read literal interpretation of neither the bible nor speaking in tongues), or anything other religion with too great an emphasis on evangelism. You yourself were probably religious when younger, but made a choice (as I did) somewhere along the way that there were too many oysters and not enough pearls in organized religion, and it is not the primary, or even secondary focus of your life and you don't foresee or expect it being so in the future either.

You have an analytical mind. You're able to solve problems and provide novel input based upon your experiences. You may not have all the answers – but you'd know where to go to get them if you needed to (be it the internet, your personal contacts or phoning a friend). You'd be confident about things that you knew, and your knowledge would be reliable (if you said something was one way, it would be consistently shown that you were right).

You have a liberal slant on social issues, and you have arguments that you believe in and have argued with others. You're comfortable debating people with different viewpoints from yourself without becoming defensive or even raising your voice – more satisfied with winning them over to your point rationally, or showing them at least that their position is untenable given the facts at hand. But, if someone provides you with a new idea or new point that you hadn't considered before you aren't hesitant in changing your views either. Your policies and beliefs aren't set in stone, and you've changed your mind before on major issues because you received new input – that being said, you find that what you do believe, political or otherwise, is well backed-up with long consideration on your part and it isn't often that someone raises an argument that you haven't before considered (and probably refuted, at least for yourself) before.

You can dress up when the occasion calls for. You have nice dresses that you enjoy wearing because of how you feel they help highlight your sexy inner beauty. You regularly wear makeup that enhances both how others perceive you and therefore gives you the best first impressions you can make. You like pampering yourself on special occasions. I'd hope you like wearing skirts – I think they're sexy as hell. I also like long hair – to a point. You've probably been tanning before too (I have!) and exercising regularly (be it the gym, running, or whatever) is something you take part in (and hopefully enjoy). You try to make your food as healthy as possible – you'd rather cook a

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good meal yourself than eat something prepared. You're comfortable going out – but probably don't eat that much fast food when you do. You're comfortable in formal situations and can hold your own – but nobody wears tuxedos all the time, and if it were up to you you'd probably be wearing a hoodie or tank-top and some shorts if you were around home.

You like to laugh – and you have a great, if somewhat sophisticated sense of humor. People are comfortable around you because you engage them, and make them feel welcomed and humored. You probably don't engage in conversations that make others feel uneasy or inappropriate: But you know full well that one man's trash talk is another's entertainment so you are able to gauge well how your guests are feeling since everyone's outlook is different. You probably are able to read people very well, and often steer conversations based on what you perceive about your listener in addition to what they are actually telling you. You spend a lot of time listening, and your comments are provocative, influential, and well-received because of it.

You're thoughtful, probably mostly on-time, remember birthdays and anniversaries because you like to show others how well you appreciate what they mean to you. You aren't hesitant in sharing your feelings with others either, be it telling them that you feel warm when their around or that they are hurting you with what they are saying at the time. You can address a problem with someone, resolve it, and then move on without dwelling on it after. You can be upset, and accept comfort from a partner rather than isolating yourself and you probably don't give up if something is wrong but will keep discussing it until you come to a resolution (because its never good going to bed angry, or worse: apathetic).

I hope you're well versed sexually – with an appetite for romance and physical pleasure. You came to this through several loving relationships I hope, rather than other means – and you know the joys inherent in being intimate with someone that you care deeply for and see yourself sharing a future with. You've explored and understand the pleasures of your own body, and can pleasure yourself as well as are pleased by your partner. You understand that communication in sex is essential, and you're quite able to share with your partner what they need to do to better please you – because you know what's missing (and you know when it isn't missing, and aren't afraid to express that too, though not too loudly all the time you animal!). Sexy concepts don't make you uncomfortable when they are appropriate and timely – you probably would enjoy making love 3–4 times a week if not more and hope your relationship would be healthy enough to permit for this.

You like it when things are clean and tidy – and if something gets messy for a day you're okay with it, knowing that you can catch up on the weekend or when you have a free evening. You like having your home presentable for unexpected visitors – and you'd probably have a

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guest room ready to receive guests, should they join you. This says something about your ability and commitment to keep an organized household along with your partner, because it's something you appreciate and find valuable. You also like having a nice home and quality belongings that are functional and beautiful – though not ostentatious or snooty I hope.

You want to have children, a family and a home, though not necessarily right away or in that order. You're excited about including someone in your life for the long term, and you feel that you're ready to take that step now, if you found the right person you could share yourself with. I hope you like dogs, because I really want to have one and I would really like it if he/she was a being we could share together.

.... huh, it seems I've put a little more thought into this than I had supposed. And I don't think this is even half of what I've considered. Looking at myself, and what I have to offer – it seems I'm asking for a lot in return. But there are a lot of people in the world, and we can't be perfect for all of them – but if two like-minded people can find one another, what a real blessing that could be for them and for the world too.

Be well, and may peace and love find each and every one of you.

Dominic  
ebacherdom.blogspot.com  
060913.0315