

Building your Franken-boyfriend

I've fantasized about putting together my perfect man — my Franken-boyfriend. After dating a lot of men, I've grown very fond of different parts of many. I'd like to build my perfect man with the beautiful green eyes of one, the height of another, one's sense of humor, another's

deep, resonant voice, the kindness and sensitivity of one, the dancing skills of another, one's superior intelligence, the kisses of another, the attentiveness of one, the adventurousness of another, one's business acumen, the caresses of another, one's playfulness, another's sense of style.



If you were to put together your Franken-boyfriend, what characteristics would you pull from your male pals or fantasy dates?

It's important to identify what's important to you, but to realize that outside the movies, one man who contains all those attributes probably doesn't exist. So be clear on what is most important to you.

One way to become clear is to notice what you like and don't like about your dates. Keep a list of each. You'll discover that something you thought you wanted gets on your nerves if overdone. I like whomever I'm dating to call and touch base each day. However, I realized there was a limit to this when one boyfriend called 5-6 times a day to tell me what he was doing. I like affection, but one guy's kissing me every 10 minutes was too much.

So notice what you want in your Franken-boyfriend and be prepared that you may fall for someone who doesn't have some characteristics you thought were very important!

*What's your "perfect
boyfriend's" job
description?*

It has been said that first dates are like job interviews, with both sides interviewing for the other's position of "sweetheart/lover/mate."

While most daters have made an effort to list characteristics of their perfect mate (the candidate's qualifications), they don't usually list their own expectations (the actual job description).

I dated a guy who interviews and hires people for a living, I decided to put our relationship in his language — a job description. When I told him I wanted to play a game with him, he said fine. I said, "Mr. X, I understand there is an opening for Mr. X's girlfriend. What are the candidate's requirements and the job description?"

He laughed. *"Well, she needs to be smart, beautiful on the inside, and fun."*



“Hmm. What about beautiful on the outside? You have to be attracted to her, right?”

“Yes. But if she’s beautiful on the inside, that will come through.”

“No requirements for body shape or height? Most men have some preferences here.”

“I’m a leg man. I like good legs.”

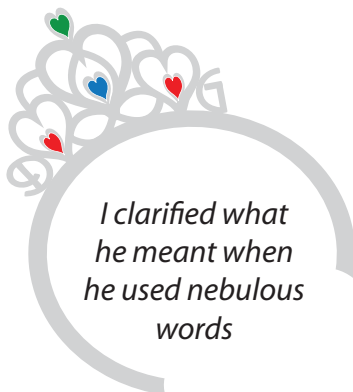
“Good legs’ has different definitions for different people. Are you thinking the legs of Cameron Diaz, Beyonce, or Queen Latifah?”

“Beyonce,” he said firmly. “Cameron Diaz’ legs are too skinny.”

“What about touch? Do you like touch?”

“There’s touch and then there’s Touch. The latter needs to be behind closed doors.”

And on we went. I found it helpful to clarify what he meant when he used nebulous words. Then I shared what I was looking for in my guy’s job description. But I realized that I, like most people, had clearly written the candidate’s characteristics (tall, smart, funny, nice







looking, active, chivalrous, accomplished), but I had overlooked the true job description. I have flushed out what I've begun to notice that I like and want. Here it is.

Job description of the Goddess's perfect boyfriend

Seeking self-starting, action-oriented, smart, fun, playful, tall (6'0"+), physically active man, age 48-62, wanted for long-term relationship with tall, affectionate, fun, smart, playful, accomplished, thoughtful, feisty, positive Goddess. The top candidate will receive benefits far beyond what most others offer and these will be fully disclosed to the top qualified candidates. They include lots of kissing, caressing, cuddling and more, passion, understanding, respect, kindness, fun activities, home-cooked meals, laughter, support of your endeavors, positive attitude and feedback.

The job entails:

-  Treating the Goddess like someone loved and cherished. This includes, but is not limited to, talking every day, being chivalrous (opening doors, etc.), romance (sweet talk, compliments, planning outings, flowers, surprises).
-  Working out any disagreements, rather than clamming up or disappearing.
-  Being loyal and not seeking other women.
-  Being a passionate and giving lover who also openly receives. Great kissing required.

- ♥ Giving grace if the Goddess does something he initially interprets as negative.
- ♥ Sharing feelings about life and our relationship on a regular basis.
- ♥ Working to continually improve himself and his environment.
- ♥ Being financially mature and responsible.
- ♥ Living his life with personal integrity, including but not limited to, doing what he says he will, calling when he promises, doing what's right, not necessarily what's easy.
- ♥ Having the courage to bring up difficult topics, and engaging maturely when the Goddess does the same.
- ♥ Consciously taking care of his body so he is healthy and active.
- ♥ Laughing at the Goddess's attempts to be funny.
- ♥ Socializing willingly and pleasantly in groups or with friends, both his and hers.
- ♥ Planning outings like dancing, foreign films, dinners out, theater, parties, concerts, and other activities both enjoy. Initiating plans for events he thinks the Goddess would like, proposing them, and then arranging for the tickets, etc.
- ♥ Participating in physical activities together (biking, hiking, walking, dancing) or alone (working

out, running, golf, other sports). Regular physical activity a must.

At their request, I've gone over these requirements with a few prospective suitors before we meet and discussed each one to see which ones they were with and which ones needed negotiation.

Start writing your boyfriend's job description now.

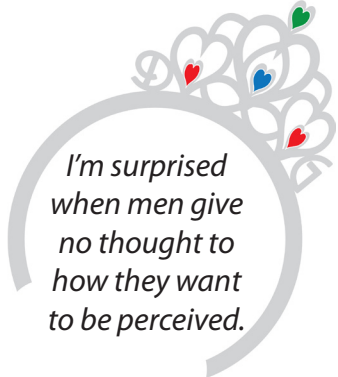




A man to go with your wardrobe

Our lifestyle is often reflected by the clothing we're most comfortable wearing, which often represents the activities we enjoy. Most of us have a range of clothing from sweats to business attire to formal apparel.

We know how important first impressions are. While successful people would never show up for a job interview inappropriately dressed, I've been surprised how many men show up for a first date giving apparently no thought to how they want to be perceived.



*I'm surprised
when men give
no thought to
how they want
to be perceived.*

When I first started dating, I realized I didn't have dateware — casual clothing in which I felt attractive and current. I had abundant business clothes, very casual duds and some formal attire. Shopping for dateware

helped me reinvent how I wanted to represent myself on dates.

Most of my dates wear basic collared shirts and Dockers or jeans to coffee or a casual dinner. Occasionally a guy will wear a sports jacket. But rarely do they wear clothes that stand out as classy.

So imagine my delight when I started dating a man who prides himself on dressing nicely. I called him my “GQ” guy — he was not pretentious, but wore ironed silk shirts with gabardine slacks to the movies and dinner. Even with jeans, he wore a crisp golf shirt. I enjoyed going out with him for many reasons, one of which is that I could wear my nicer garb and not feel overdressed.

I think dressing nicely not only shows respect for yourself, but for the other person. Just as most of us wouldn't go to church in shorts and a t-shirt out of respect. Not that a guy needs to wear silk shirts for a day at the beach or a hike, but I appreciate it when my date goes to some effort when going out. While a guy's dress isn't a deal breaker for me, when he dresses well, it's icing on the cake.

How do you feel about how your date dresses?