

ISSUES

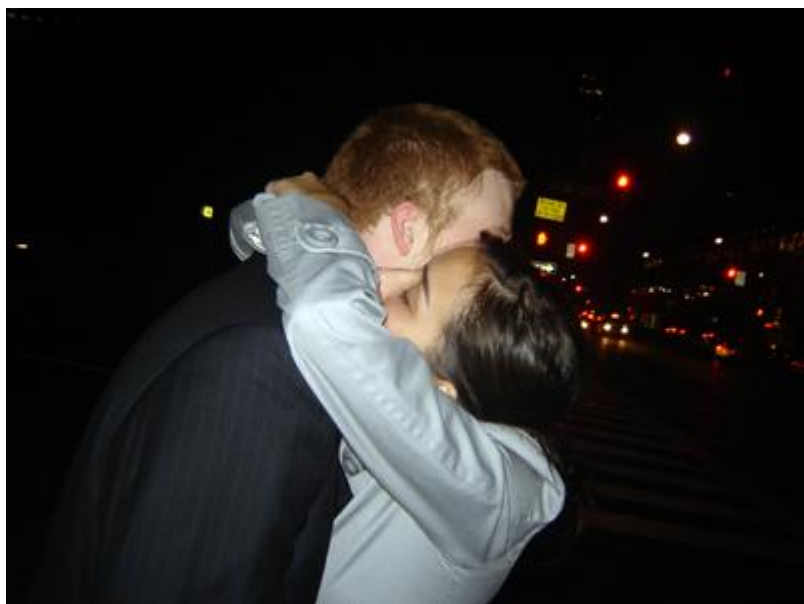


PHOTO BY JOANA DUQUE

Maggie Rodrigues seen here on one of her dates with of her boyfriend of 2 years.

What women want but may never find

By Joana Duque

It's a fact of life for both men and women to want something better for themselves. But when it comes to matters of the heart, it's safe to say that women want something more than what they usually don't get. Although women are more likely to know what they want, they could have difficulties finding it in a man.

[Marilyn Barnicke Belleghem](#), a relationship expert and consultant, argues that just because a woman has a difficult time finding a man to meet her expectations doesn't mean she is wrong or should stop looking. She believes that all women should have criteria for what they're looking for when it comes to a man. I couldn't agree more. However, in doing so, it does not necessarily mean that a woman will

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"Dating is nothing but a game. So the advice you get in some magazines, 'Never play games, tell him how you feel, be vulnerable and show your heart'—it's so bogus!"
 - KIMORA LEE SIMMONS

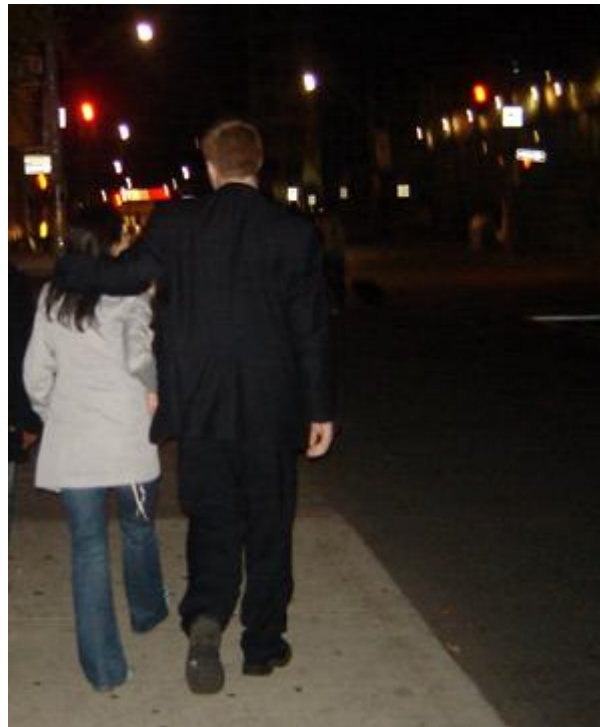
find a man who will meet it.

“Too many women wait to get chosen by a man or don't have criteria for what they're looking for because they don't understand that they're the ones that can choose,” said Belleghem. “When women worry too much about hurting someone else's feelings, they often end up in relationships that are not their first choice. As we grow and mature, the criteria of what we're looking for can change.”

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In choosing a man, Belleghem believes that the qualities that people most look for in a date are as individual as those people; the outward appearance of someone rather than their character and values can sway many people. As a result, women's expectations are never met. But is having expectations in a man a good thing or a bad thing?

Why women's expectations are not too high



“When you really don't like a guy, they're all over you, and as soon as you act like you like them, they're no longer interested.”

- BEYONCE KNOWLES

“Being famous doesn't get in the way of dating...it makes it alarmingly easy...in a way it's boring. I quite like the chase.”

- HUGH GRANT

“Men say they like being pursued, they claim they are eager to respond to women who are assertive and call them. Forget it, my complete experience has been, if you call them it's as good as over. They think your hungry, they don't treat you well, and they become too cavalier and take your presence for granted, even if you are beautiful and talented! The guy's gotta find you, come on to you, it's the only way.”

- MARILYN MICHAELS

“I want my audience to know me for my work, not because of who I'm dating or what drugs I'm on or what club I went to.”

- SHIA LABEOUF

SEARCH

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Toronto resident Margarida Rodrigues, 20, says she has had moderate dating experience and believes that if you feel like you deserve better, you're not going to settle for something that isn't.

PHOTO BY JOANA DUQUE

"I don't think it's a bad thing that women are so selective or picky. Because if you're a person who has great expectations of yourself, why shouldn't you have those same great [expectations](#) for the person you're going to be with?"

Samantha, 26, agrees. "We constantly have it drummed into our heads that we deserve certain things and for the lucky women we are, we're constantly reminded of our worth. We are selective because we want for our significant others to also recognize our worth and appreciate it."

Samantha, a Toronto resident, has had her ups and downs in the dating department, and points out, "While it is not at all wrong for a woman to be selective about a guy she'd date, it is wrong if she makes a superficial assessment on that individual."

As a result of these superficial assessments, most of us end up missing out on getting to know some really great people.

"We're so focused on what we think we want, we close our minds off to other options."

"It is most definitely possible that what we think we want is not a necessity. It's kind of like shopping. We go into a store with a particular vision of what we want and ignore other things on the rack, meanwhile some of the things that we're going past are better looking and will look better on us, but because we're so focused on what we think we want, we close our minds off to other options," said Samantha.

Rodrigues agrees. She believes that people sometimes fall for what a person could be rather than who they are.

"Nowadays, it seems that more people when it comes to the whole dating scene are judged on the way they look rather than their personality. So I think that a lot of women, and even men, would base their choices on the way people look," said Rodrigues. "We, ourselves are [not] perfect, you just have to see the imperfections in yourself to accept the imperfections in other people or else you're going to think that you're so perfect that you're not going to be very lenient when it

comes to somebody else's imperfections and I guess that's how you become really picky."

So what happens when a woman's expectations are not met? In the end, it all comes down to what you can live with as opposed to what you can't live without.

Belleghem, who has over 30 years of experience in relationship consulting, strongly believes that when we fall in love with someone, we fall in love with ourselves.

"What I mean by that is that we fall in love with the way we feel when we're with that person. And some people call it chemistry and in some relationships there's chemistry there, sometimes that's lust," said Belleghem. "We can lust for someone and have that chemical reaction...[but] we need to be aware of how we feel when we're with this person. And if we don't like the way we feel with them then we shouldn't be with that person. We can't love the way we are when we're with that person."
