

Attraction: Considering Chemistry, Meaning, and Power

E-Portfolio: Attraction: Considering Chemistry, Meaning, and Power

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I will breakdown the categories into a bullet list with elaborations underneath each main category:

- Beauty
  - I want to be able to look at my partner and think, "Wow, he's so handsome. I'm so lucky" every time I see them. Even if it's at the crack of dawn and our hair is a wreck and clothes are on sideways, I still find myself in awe thinking, "ermagherd he's so cute. Breath stinks, but he's still cute."
  - Beauty is also associated with physical health. If someone is beautiful to me, it usually means they are in shape and take care of their body.
  - Beauty to me is more than skin deep. Attractive and beautiful are two different entities in my mind--someone who is a real 'tool' can be attractive, but I don't find them beautiful. I think, "Wow! Such a pretty face and nice body. Too bad the personality doesn't match."
- Age
  - I generally am not romantically attracted to those more than 7-8 years older than me. I've dated older people in the past, hoping that they would be a bit more 'on my level' as far as maintaining and upholding adult responsibilities go. I quickly learned that hot messes come in all ages, shapes, and sizes.
- Gender

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- I am primarily attracted to men, but I mean that in the sexual sense. I don't have anything against transgender individuals (in fact, my best friend is on the trans spectrum), but for my romantic interests I am attracted to those whose gender identity matches their sex.
- My friend Jen, who was Ted in high school, is someone I'd like to bring up. I had the biggest crush on Ted in high school. Jen is a beautiful lady, and her makeup is always spot on (Jeffree Starr would be jealous). Now that she is several years into hormones, the sexual attraction has left. I still admire her beauty, but I am not sexually attracted. This is also in part because I'm gay. I can appreciate the beauty of another person without being sexually attracted to them.
- Sexual Orientation
  - This one is tricky. I used to say that I didn't care if someone is gay or bi, but now I realize that feeling has changed. I will be honest--I feel threatened by a bisexual partner. Perhaps much of this comes from being cheated on again and again by men because I couldn't fulfill their, um, desire for penetration (as a rape survivor it is very difficult both physically and emotionally for me to play the role of 'catcher' in the bedroom). Sure, they could have gone and slept with another man, but I have personally never seen that happen in my relationships. For some reason, all of my bisexual partners fulfilled this need with a woman. That is incredibly hurtful, because I still continue to struggle with my identity. I question myself every day about, "Is this wrong? This isn't normal."
  - I absolutely find some straight men attractive. I'm not romantically attracted to them, but I can still go "ooh and ah" when a handsome individual walks past. I

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mean baseball is my favorite sport for a reason, and it's not just because of how the game works.

- Race
  - I am sexually attracted to white men only. I do find some black men and Asian men attractive, but not in a sexual sense. It's troubling that if I share this information with people I'm often flagged as a racist, but I cannot help who I am/not attracted to.
- Ethnicity
  - Honestly, I don't take ethnicity into consideration whatsoever. If I think you're cute, I think you're cute. End of story. I'd love to explore an individual's ethnicity with them, but it is not a determining factor.
- Religion
  - Religion is important to me. I would like to be with someone who shares my religious beliefs, or with someone who does not conform to a religion. I dated a Mormon girl for a while, and there were so many issues caused by the differences in the way we viewed situations that it just didn't work out. Plus, you know, I'm gay, so that might have been a factor as well.
- Kinship Relationship
  - I appreciate when a partner has a good relationship with their family, but this isn't a factor in my selection of a romantic partner. Currently, my boyfriend has a pretty bad relationship with his mother (but I also share the same sentiments as him), and it doesn't really affect our relationship. I don't have a good relationship with my parents, but it doesn't affect my partner.

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- I do worry come our wedding day how we will navigate the difficult situation of who to invite and who to not invite. His parents will definitely not be there, his mother will start an issue (like she does at every single family gathering). I'd like to have my parents there, but I know they condemn our relationship and talk about this condemnation with many other people from the church. I did a family photoshoot for one of these friends (friend of my parents) and she accidentally locked her keys in her car. I waited with her in my truck until roadside assistance came, and we got to talking. She dumped on my all the same statements that my parents do, and reinforced them with her opinions rather than fact. I know that my parents are going about sharing my personal information with others, and that does not sit well with me.
- Class
  - I really could care less about class. A good person is a good person, regardless of background or socioeconomic status.
- Wealth
  - I would like my partner to be financially stable and responsible. This doesn't mean they have to drive a Mercedes or live in a fancy house/apartment. I want them to be financially stable as this is a major source of tension in relationships.
- Education
  - I appreciate those who are educated and have a desire to learn. My current partner struggles with school immensely, we are polar opposites in that regard. It does not change if he is a good or kind person.
- Legal Status

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- This question can be interpreted several different ways. I'll approach it from a crime perspective.
- I cannot be comfortable in a relationship with someone who willingly breaks the law. This is against my moral code, and we would not be compatible. I agree that some laws aren't fair, but they are laws and it is our civic duty to either uphold them or change them, not break them.
- Health
  - This is important to me. If someone has a pre-existing condition, there's not much that can be done. As long as the individual chooses to live a healthy lifestyle and actively works to maintain their body, I'm in.
- Hygiene
  - This is a make-or-break condition for me. It factors into the topic above. If someone does not maintain their body, I don't want to be with them.
- Ability or Disability
  - I have never been in a relationship with someone who had a physical disability, so I can't really speak for this.
  - Mental disabilities: I believe that many of these issues can be navigated by working together as a team. As long as both parties are open, transparent, and willing to work together to navigate the situation, I feel that it could work.
- Other characteristics:
  - Respect

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- I NEED my partner to be respectful of my time and desires. We will not agree on everything, but there is almost always a way to meet in the middle.
- If there is a breach of respect within the relationship, it needs to be addressed immediately.
- Height
  - I'm 6'3". This sound's silly, but I am not romantically attracted to those who are less than 5'5". My biggest reason: I suffer from chronic back pain. Embracing and kissing are very difficult when you have to bend down to reach the other person.
- Appreciation for nature's beauty
  - I'm a very outdoorsy person, and I can't be with someone who can't find beauty in nature. I would be outside 24/7 if I had the ability to do so safely and comfortably.
- Shared interests
  - It is important to me that we have shared interests. I've dated people before where our only common interest was food, and it never worked out.