

ask the manalysts



FINALLY – THE BIZARRE BEHAVIOUR OF MEN DECODED! OUR WORLDLY-WISE PANEL OF THREE GIVE THEIR OWN UNIQUE TAKE.

Q: There's this guy I like and I've been wanting to ask him out but I'm not sure how he'll react. Do men really like it when women make the first move?



THE MAN ABOUT TOWN

JEF LIM, 34

Occupation: Vice-president/ executive producer, Mark Burnett Productions Asia.
Experience: Has dated and been dumped by a number of beautiful women, most of whom still talk to him.

→ In general, I believe us guys are hardwired into a certain way of viewing the world – we make the move, she decides whether that move is welcome or not.

So when the roles are reversed, it can catch us off guard. This leads to a quick self-examination as to whether we actually justify that move and the (often wrong) suspicion that there might be something unnatural about this woman. Alternately, some guys are egotistical enough to believe that this happens all the time. Whatever the case, it takes a lot for anyone to make the first move, and I think especially so for a woman.

Don't get me wrong, there is nothing sexier than a woman making an advance, especially if it's done with a lot of charm, a dash of humour and a bit of teasing. So I say, it's the new age, bring it on, we'll do our best to be as gracious about it as you are.



THE GUY NEXT DOOR

CHAN TAU CHOU, 34

Occupation: TV producer-reporter.
Experience: Has met a few girls' mums, and is still trying to figure out why mothers always seem more impressed with him than their daughters are.

→ I would say "yes". It's easier for everyone when mind games are out of the way and the cards are on the table. With that premise, I think whoever is interested should just make the first move if there appears to be a degree of receptiveness from the other party.

Just begin by asking him out or calling him on the phone. It doesn't have to start with a single date; mix with his friends if he invites you for social occasions, and get him to hang out with your friends. But try not to crawl all over him the first chance you get. That would send out the wrong signals about what you're looking for.

Life is too short to be mucking around with second guesses, so drop the ego. It's easier said than done but you don't know until you give it a go, and neither will he.



THE LOVE GURU

NORMAN LI, 42

Occupation: Singapore Management University lecturer and a "mating research specialist".
Experience: His research has found that attractive women are more likely to cheat, but he married one anyway.

→ Heck yes! Nowadays, more relationships start because the woman took action.

However, remember: making the first move does not guarantee success. Men, just like women, greatly welcome someone asking them out – as long as they consider that someone to be desirable.

If you can accept the potential for rejection, then yes, go for it. If not, maybe you shouldn't; however, you don't have to sit and wait. Instead, drop some big hints ("I've really been wanting to see that new action movie but I don't know anyone who wants to go") or ask a guy to do something that's low-key, such as having coffee or helping you pick out a new camera. If he doesn't take the bait, no harm done.

Need help finding out what's going on with your guy? E-mail our Manalysts at magherworld@sph.com.sg.