

What Women Really Want

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I received this story in an Email recently (author unknown):

Young King Arthur was ambushed and imprisoned by the monarch of a neighboring kingdom. The monarch could have killed him, but was moved by Arthur's youth and ideals. So the monarch offered him freedom, as long as he could answer a very difficult question. Arthur would have a year to figure out the answer; if, after a year, he still had no answer, he would be put to death.

The question: What do women really want?

Such a question would perplex even the most knowledgeable man, and, to young Arthur, it seemed an impossible query. But, since it was better than death, he accepted the monarch's proposition to have an answer by year's end.

He returned to his kingdom and began to poll everybody: the princess, the prostitutes, the priests, the wise men, and the court jester. He spoke with everyone, but no one could give him a satisfactory answer.

Many people advised him to consult the old witch--only she would know the answer. The price would be high; the witch was famous throughout the kingdom for the exorbitant prices she charged.

The last day of the year arrived and Arthur had no alternative but to talk to the witch.

She agreed to answer his question, but he'd have to accept her price first: The old witch wanted to marry Gawain, the most noble of the Knights of the Round Table and Arthur's closest friend!

Young Arthur was horrified: She was hunchbacked and hideous, had only one tooth, smelled like sewage, made obscene noises ... etc. He had never encountered such a repugnant creature. He refused to force his friend to marry her and have to endure such a burden.

Gawain, upon learning of the proposal, spoke with Arthur. He told him that nothing was too big a sacrifice compared to Arthur's life and the preservation of the Round Table. Hence, their wedding was proclaimed, and the witch answered Arthur's question thus:

"What a woman really wants is to be in charge of her own life!"

Everyone instantly knew that the witch had uttered a great truth and that Arthur's life would be spared. And so it was. The neighboring monarch granted Arthur total freedom.

What a wedding Gawain and the witch had! Arthur was torn between relief and anguish. Gawain was proper as always, gentle and courteous. The old witch put her worst manners on display, and generally made everyone very uncomfortable.

The honeymoon hour approached. Gawain, steeling himself for a horrific experience, entered the bedroom. But what a sight awaited him!

The most beautiful woman he'd ever seen lay before him! The astounded Gawain asked what had happened. The beauty replied that since he had been so kind to her when she'd appeared as a witch, she would henceforth be her horrible, deformed self half the time, and the other half, she would be her beautiful maiden self. Which would he want her to be during the day, and which during the night?

What a cruel question! Gawain pondered his predicament. During the day, a beautiful woman to show off to his friends, but at night, in the privacy of his home, an old witch? Or would he prefer having by day a hideous witch, but by night a beautiful woman with whom to enjoy many intimate moments?

What would you do?

What Gawain chose revealed his true noble spirit. He replied that he would let her choose for herself. Upon hearing this, she announced that she would be beautiful all the time, because he had respected her enough to let her be in charge of her own life.

The moral: If a woman doesn't get her own way, things are going to get ugly!

This may sound like a silly story, but the message is worth hearing! In most cultures today, women are gaining in stature. But the truth is that even here in the United States, many men don't honor women as much as they could.

Funny thing, though. When women feel acknowledged, appreciated, and accepted, they are much more friendly, generous, and giving. So men, start paying attention to the women in your life. Let them be in charge of their life. Honor them, acknowledge them, appreciate them, and accept them. Try it! See for yourself what the results can be!

Here are some more hints about what women want. Remember, of course, that every woman is different. These are just some guidelines to get you started!

- They want to be listened to. They don't need you to FIX what is wrong, or even to UNDERSTAND what is wrong. They will find answers for themselves if you let them talk about it.
- They want to feel safe.
- They want partners they can trust. Partners who reveal their true selves. Partners who mean what they say and make good on their word. Always.
- They want their inner self to be seen and accepted.
- They want to be respected, treated as an equal, but cherished for their differences.
- They want to be acknowledged and appreciated for their contributions.
- They want to be alone sometimes.
- They want to be charmed. They want to feel that their partner is looking for ways big and small to please them and make their life more enjoyable.

- They are often more interested in aesthetics and feelings than in logic and efficiency. Beauty is very important to them.
- They want to be able to enjoy touch without the expectation of sex.
- They want to feel beautiful in the eyes of their partner (no matter how the rest of society views them). And they want to be told WHY they are found beautiful.

Get to know your partner better. Listen to her... Really listen. The more you listen, the more things you can add to the list above. Then practice giving her what she wants. You will be handsomely rewarded!