

Not my type

Discussion

1. How important is it for you to have a partner who is physically attractive?
2. Could you fall in love with someone who was physically unattractive?
3. Have you ever been out with someone who had a disgusting / embarrassing habit?

Reading

Here are two letters to the 'problem page' of a magazine. As you read them, think about this question

Have you ever met anyone with the same or similar 'problems'?

Dear Betty,

I've met this wonderful woman. She's tall, beautiful, intelligent, charming – nearly everything a man could ever want. There's only one problem. Every time she tries to kiss me I feel like being sick!

At first I thought it was a passing thing – that maybe she just needed to brush her teeth more. Now I realise that this must be some kind of permanent condition. What do I do now? I can't go on holding my breath (as I'm doing now) every time she leans over to kiss me. It's getting to the point where I don't even look in her direction when she talks to me! This is not your average morning-breath kind of smell – this is more like something has died inside her!

What should I do?

Thomas

Dear Betty,

I have one of the most thoughtful, kind, considerate men on the planet but he has this really disgusting habit that I can't stand and I can't decide how to tell him.

Basically, the problem is he picks his nose. I don't mind so much when we're at home, alone, but when we're in public, in a nice restaurant, or worse, at my parents' house when we're having dinner, I just want to disappear. He starts digging in and pulling things out and throwing them on the floor, or even worse, putting them in his pocket! And then afterwards when he wants to hold my hand or touch my face I avoid his advances – and of course he gets upset.

I want to tell him about it because I don't think he realises that he does it, but I'm afraid I'll embarrass him and I don't want to lose him. I mean, I don't want to sound like I'm his mother.

Please help.

Emily

Discussion

Discuss the following with a partner:

1. Find words and expressions that tell you how bad Thomas's girlfriend's breath is.
2. Did anything in the two letters make you laugh?
3. Which problem above did you think was worse?
4. What would you do in Thomas's or Emily's situation?