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"Where have all the good guys gone!?"

Listening to the lament of many a successful, single woman, one would think that the eligible male of the species has become extinct or gone to ground. Yet after talking over the years with many of the thousands of men who have come to Yvonne Allen and Associates, I know that not only do available good guys exist – but they too can find it hard to find a partner. Often potentially compatible guys and gals miss out on a relationship because of out-dated expectations they have about the desired mate.

We all know that over the past few decades there have been major changes in what we can expect of life and relationships. Yet the carry-over of expectations more appropriate to the past can now pose formidable challenges when it comes to dating and mating. For the single of today who wants to find 'that special someone' it is important to consider what we really need in a partner as opposed to what we think is socially desirable... what really matters most on our wish list.

Once upon a time when the roles of male and female were more clearly defined, it was not so hard to know what we needed and wanted from each other. When a man's eligibility was assayed in large part by such things as his ability to earn and to provide for his family - and a woman's by her femininity, domestic skills and desire to bear children, things were much clearer.

Nowadays it is common for women to have successful careers in what was once the domain of the male. Many do not actually need a partner to financially support them. Often their work demands that they commit long hours and a great deal of energy as was once the lot of the man...it can be difficult to make much time available to focus on a relationship and domesticity.

Yet when it comes to partner seeking, such women will often say that they seek a mate who is at least their peer. Many would like to find a man who is more successful, who earns more and who has an even more demanding career. This is no doubt in part a hang over from times past, based on an era when a woman relied on her partner for her material wellbeing. I suggest this wish list is worth questioning by those who really want fulfilment in a relationship. Who really needs a relationship where both are so busy that it requires juggling diaries to find time to spend with each other?

Women are not totally to blame for good men seeming to be in short supply. Unfortunately, though the ability of women to achieve is no longer questioned, men are also often limited by expectations not relevant to today. Why is it that so many great guys appear intimidated and 'disappear', when they learn that a woman has higher status work role or earns more than they do? Why does it matter?

Recently I attended a meeting of some high achieving business/professional women. It was refreshing and confirming to learn that each of those who were in a committed relationship had a partner who was not 'the main breadwinner'. These women were able to combine the demands of their career with those of being a mate and mother because their partners were comfortable supporting them in other ways. Surely, regardless of our gender, such mutual support is what a relationship is all about!