Elena Petrova:

How To Find And Marry A Girl Like Me

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A Foreword From The Author

Congratulations on your purchase!

If you are even remotely interested in Russian women, you've made a wise decision.

Your life is about to change very soon!

If you read this book and implement its ideas, you will have more beautiful women that want to be with you than you can handle - sincere, honest and REAL ones!

Have fun!

Yours,
Elena Petrova
http://www.womenrussia.com

P.S. I want to know your opinion about my book. Please email me with comments at elena@womenrussia.com and write "COMMENT ABOUT E-BOOK" in the "Subject" line of your message. Thank you in advance!
Prologue: Mail Order Brides EXPLAINED

I feel we should start with the most basic points about men and women. I promised to explain to you what women want - all women, of all nations - and I am going to keep my word. These basic principles are the reasons behind the phenomena of Russian women seeking husbands abroad. These things have their roots inside the history of humanity - not in its national borders.

This is why you need to understand the truth about the controversial and misused term "mail order brides".

Most people feel uneasy about the phrase "mail order brides", including myself.

Yes! I am a Russian woman. I have been married to a western man for more than six years, and we have two wonderful children. I must say that I feel humiliated every time I hear the words "mail order brides". I think it is a disgrace to imply that a human being can be ordered as an item; that the sacred bond of marriage can be purchased like an electric toothbrush through a catalog.

It also confuses people about the true nature of the phenomena. Most people feel suspicious about "mail order brides" and "mail order bride services". The general opinion is that "mail order bride services" are some type of scam operation linked to: immigration fraud, the smuggling of people across borders, etc.

Moreover, the offensive epithet "mail order brides" is routinely used to label all women from third world countries and the former USSR, married to western men,
regardless of how they met - even if they met just like most people in the first decade of the new millennium: through their mutual friends, work, or leisure activities.

Nevertheless, this is an official name of the phenomena, so I will use this name throughout this article.

So what are mail order brides? Why do women choose to leave their homeland, family and friends and marry men from a foreign culture? Why do men choose to go thousands of miles and bring brides from non-western cultures home to become their wives?

There are commonly shared myths about mail order brides. I will comment on those myths one by one and explain the inside mechanics of the phenomena.

While my explanations will be mostly based on the history and facts of Russian mail order brides, according to my research, the trends are similar in regard to Filipino as well as other Asian mail order brides.

Amazingly, I also shared many misconceptions about the Asian brides. Even being a "mail order bride" myself, I thought that mail order brides from Asia were uneducated, low class girls who did not know better and only wanted to escape their economical misery. But when I was reading a mail order bride website for Asian brides, I realized the type of women seeking husbands abroad and the reasons why they chose to do so were identical to the situation of Russian brides - and my own.

Indeed, we all live in the world of myths and stereotypes!

Unless we have performed our own extensive research, we all tend to follow myths, which in this case originate from Hollywood movies and the Media.

So, let's discuss those myths in regard to mail order brides.

**Mail order brides' myth #1:**

*Women who chose to become mail order brides do it to escape economical misery.*

Most women who decide to look for husbands abroad do it NOT because they want an automatic washing machine and hamburgers. Those things are available to people in their societies also. Truly harsh conditions no longer exist in large cities where the majority of Internet mail order brides reside. Think about it, some people in your society also live in trailers! The myth about economical misery is as good as your knowledge of those societies.
Women who decide to look for husbands abroad do it NOT because they want an automatic washing machine and hamburgers

Over the last decade, the world has changed dramatically and life conditions have not only improved in your country. Since the invention of the World Wide Web, technology has rapidly expanded across the globe. It is only in smaller regional towns that you can find conditions that are typically shown in Hollywood movies about Russia and Asia. As you know, people residing in small towns in your country have a different standard of living than people in the big cities, although the gap in foreign countries may be larger.

Regarding Russians, in general, Russian people do not consider their life miserable. In fact, they are proud to be Russians!

Read what westerners that spent considerable time in Russia have to say about it:

Richard (USA):
"Don't think that just because you have a US passport, all the Russian women will be falling at your feet, just thru the virtue of your citizenship. In most cases your foreign citizenship is exactly what they do not want. A Russian woman WANTS to live in Russia, in most cases she will not want to leave. She will leave, but not because of your citizenship. She is Russian, she is proud of that fact! She is a citizen of the largest country in the world. She only knows as much about our world as her friends have written back and told her, or she has gotten through their grapevine. She will have absolutely no concept of our way of life, and what little she does know is probably tainted, but she will think she knows as much as you do about our lifestyle. Don't question this, just let it ride, otherwise you will be opening a can of worms. You see, she learned about our world from other Russians, and you are not a Russian. I never met any Russian who did not have a severe inferiority complex. In their mind anyone or anything that is not Russian is stupid, cheap, and of poor quality.”

***
James (USA):

"Never think [or say] that something else is better than their country can give. They think:

- their language is better
- their college is better
- their medical is better... (this one I really have to lie to myself about).
- their country is safer.... they think our movies are real life."

* * *

Autumn (USA):

"I'm a woman whose good (male) friend is considering marrying the girl of his dreams, who happens to be Russian. Everyone is telling him she's only interested in coming to the US! It's absurd. I have visited St. Petersburg a few times and lived there for a few months 2 times. (I studied Russia for my degree.) Not too many people were impressed with the US - no one wanted to move there, although no one would have minded a visit. (I don't know about men - I didn't get along with Russian men and all my friends were women.) My friend's fiancee will be giving up a lot to live here - family, a good job and familiarity.

* * *

So you see from those testimonials, Russian people do not consider their lives to be miserable. You might have had the impression, through brainwashing of western media that Russian women only want to escape poverty - this is a misconception. I included those testimonials to demonstrate that it is not only me who thinks so - many western people confirm it from their own experience of communicating with Russian people in Russia.

Even officials confirm that. This is the quote from Yezhenedelny Zhurnal that interviewed Alexander Golts, a top-ranked Russian military specialist (in connection with a failed launch of two intercontinental missiles): "All Russians, have a superiority complex, that we're still equal to the United States".

Russian people believe that they live in a great country, which might have some problems but overall, it is a great country. Just like you believe you live in a great country, too. Russians also have their pride in being citizens of the largest country in the world, stretching over 11 time zones and which is nearly twice as big as the second largest country in the world - Canada. (See more statistics about Russia here http://www.womenrussia.com/basics.htm) The majority of Russian people do not think living in the USA, or Canada, or Australia is a great privilege. People that grew up in Soviet Russia all sincerely believed that they were lucky to be born in the USSR and most of them still do. Families of Russian women married to western men rarely express a desire to immigrate to those countries. They don't want to leave Russia. They enjoy traveling internationally but they don't want to emigrate.

It is a myth that Russian women search for a foreign husband to escape economical misery. This is not applicable to the majority of Russian women whose
listings you see on the Internet and this was not my personal motivation either (you will read my own story in greater detail later).

Many Russian women seeking marriage abroad have advanced careers and live well even according to western standards. Some women even have paid housekeepers and nannies for their children. The conditions of life in a major Russian city such as Moscow or St. Petersburg are comparable to any European capital. The pace of life in Moscow is similar to the one of New York City.

Yes, there are some Russian women that use search for a foreign husband as the means to escape poverty, but they are a tiny minority. Some women in your society also use marriage as means of economical escape. Comparatively, the percentages are virtually the same.

The real reason why Russian women turn to seek husbands abroad is that they cannot find suitable marriage partners in Russia. Yes, it is that simple!

You might think that a beautiful, slender, physically fit, educated and intelligent woman cannot possibly have problems with male admirers and you would be right: attractive women in Russia do get many dating offers from Russian men. But those men are seeking only casual sex. They are either already married, unwilling to commit, or they are not worthy of marriage because they cannot provide for a family.

Since it is a part of Russian culture, all Russian women want children in their marriages (unless they are physically unable). So, Russian women seek men who will be able to support their family while they are unable to work during the child caring years. Most women in Russia will take full care of their children through age three. This tradition was inherited from the Soviet times when their work position was preserved for 3 years after childbirth, with fully paid maternity leave for 18 months and unpaid leave for an additional 18 months. Nowadays, maternity leave is not paid, but women believe it is proper to stay home with their baby while it is small, and seek men who are able to provide for their families.

Russian people marry early -- by the age of 22 more than 50% of people are already married. By the age of 25 about 80% of people are married. Since there are less men than women in Russia (10 million more women of marriageable ages than men, according to the latest census), and even less men who are worthy, the competition
for eligible men is extremely harsh. As a result, the men become spoiled and promiscuous.

As one Russian woman expressed it in an online forum:

"There are of course good Russian men that are able to provide for their families and do not sleep around, but they all are incurably married, once out of diapers".

It might be hard to believe but a normal man who has a stable job (being able to solely provide for his family), is career and health conscious, and willing to commit, seems like a fairy tale prince to a single Russian woman. Guys like this are scarce in Russia and not available for long.

In contrast, good-looking women are in abundance in Russia, since the tough competition drives women to perfect their looks.

Historically, during the 20th century, Russia has had many wars, with World War II alone taking 20 million lives, along with another 20 million people dying in Stalin’s concentration camps. Nearly 90% of those victims were men. After the war, simply having a man was a blessing. Then there was the 14-year Afghani conflict, in which hundreds of thousands of young Russian men died. Throughout the entire 20th century Russian women had to compete to ensure they had a husband.

Now they’ve got Chechnya - since 1993, just a few years after Russian troops left Afghanistan.

It is scientifically proven that where there are many more women in society than men, men tend to pursue short-term sexual strategies and are unwilling to commit. (See David M. Buss, "The Evolution Of Desire: Strategies Of Human Mating", where a research was run across 37 cultures.)

Along with other cultural moments, such as traditions of hard drinking and male chauvinism in Russia, it is no wonder that contemporary Russian women seize the opportunities offered by modern technologies and elect to broaden their horizons in their search for a suitable mate.

**Mail order brides' myth #2:**

**Mail order brides are submissive, serving and sacrificing.**

The educational level of the majority of Russian mail order brides (about 90%) is 4 or more years of college or they are current graduate students. Those women are well read, cultured, intelligent and smart. They are perfectly aware of the latest world events, fashion, music and movie hits. They are not going to become intimate submissives or maids. They seek partnership and a room for self-growth in a marriage.
It is a myth that mail order brides are submissive, serving and sacrificing

Even more, they are brave enough to expand their options and venture into the unknown - so much for the image of the subservient, submissive wife!

I have met many reporters and given many interviews during my years of work in the dating industry and most of the journalists seemed to be very surprised to find an intelligent, well educated, articulate and independent lady like me where they thought to meet a stereotypical "submissive" mail order bride.

Men who seek submissiveness in mail order brides often mistake the culture shock that a woman experiences when moving to an unknown country as passivity and obedience. Once a woman gets used to her new environment, the passivity and obedience disappear forever.

Women that have grown up in male-dominated societies are more feminine and gentle and generally prefer the man to be the leader in their family, due to the cultural paradigm they are accustomed to - but they are NOT submissive. Some cultural rituals that may be perceived as submissiveness by a westerner are natural for them. In their turn, some cultural rituals that are perceived as natural by westerners seem exaggerated to a Russian.

For example, the western custom to thank for any insignificant favor feels irritating to Russians, who do not consider passing a glass at the table or opening a door as a reason for expressing their gratitude. For them, growing up in the communal spirit (as opposite to western accent on individualism), helping others is natural and they do not expect appreciation, unless it is indeed a big favor. Thanking others for insignificant favors is therefore perceived by a Russian as flattery. Western politeness and avoidance of saying unpleasant words can also be interpreted as such by the more direct and straightforward Russian.

A Russian woman expects and insists to be treated as a lady, not as a man. This is not because of her submissiveness but because of her cultural traditions.
Mail order brides' myth #3:

Men that seek mail order brides are desperate losers and cannot find anybody in their own countries.

INS studies have shown that the educational level of men seeking foreign brides is higher than average in the USA, consequently, their level of financial security is higher, too.

I can confirm that there are many lawyers, medical doctors, university professors, stock and real estate investors, businessmen and managers among those seeking foreign wives. These professions are usually perceived as a "higher class".

Of course there are also some low class people who dream about a perfect "mail order bride" and with this goal in mind, opt for using the services of international matchmakers. They are an insignificant minority - but they do exist.

I have to disappoint the man who is seeking a Russian "mail order bride" - they do not exist. The Hollywood "mail order bride" only exists in movies and media articles. In reality, women are seeking partners for marriage, no more, no less.

Let me emphasize it once again; women that are perceived as mail order brides are not seeking: somebody who will take them out of their misery, to become some type of submissive, or someone's obedient wife. Those are misconceptions.

These women seek a worthy partner - not to become slaves or "sell themselves".

Most foreign men seeking brides outside their countries ARE worthy and this is why the foreign introductions industry has many successful marriages and is constantly growing, regardless of all the negative publicity and public dismissal.
Mail order brides' myth #4:

Mail order brides' services are linked to the trafficking in people and immigration scams.

In fact, modern mail order bride services, or international matchmaking organizations, work very much in the same way as any online personal. Women submit their data via Internet into an online database, the site administrator checks the questionnaire and photos, and then activates the profile. Long gone are the days when mail order brides' agencies were receiving all their applications by mail, printed photos in catalogs and mailed said catalogs on request. Thus the name "mail order brides" was derived from these brokers, catalogs and brides. It was forgotten for years but now has a (false) second life.

Today's mail order brides use email, ICQ, online messengers, chat, SMS's and what not - much in the same fashion as people that use general dating sites. The women are subscribing to marriage agencies out of their own free will and are not pressurized to use these introduction services under false pretences. The only difference between mail order bride services and general dating sites is that mail order bride services do not charge women, since many of the women cannot afford to pay for their services. This does not imply that women are treated as some type of "product" and men as "purchasers". Most internet dating sites allow you to place your profile for free. No one would suggest that those sites consider you as their "product".

It is a dangerous misconception to think that mail order bride services "sell" women. Mail order bride services sell ACCESS to the contact information of women and this is, you will agree, a completely different thing. Modern mail order bride services promote direct contacts between men and women and do not act as facilitators. Men and women, themselves, decide who they want to correspond with, how long they need to communicate before a personal meeting and what they need to know about their prospective partners. After corresponding for a while, they decide on a personal meeting.

Here is an important piece. Women from third world countries and the former USSR can never hope to receive a tourist or student visa to the USA, Canada or Australia, unless they can prove a very good financial standing and solid employment history. It means, for the purpose of a personal meeting, it is the man who needs to travel - NOT the woman!
So any man who thinks he can just "send her a ticket" is wrong: if she can get a visa, she can also afford the price of a ticket and if she cannot afford to buy her own ticket, she will not get the visa.

If anyone tells you otherwise according to some "woman" he met online, he was dealing with some type of Internet scammer, who mercilessly exploiting the humiliating concept of mail order brides and all the myths we have been discussing. Such scammers use fake photos and prewritten letters to contact unsuspecting men via large personals sites. Then they instantly "fall in love", and ask money for visas, tickets and the like. There have been a couple of cases where such scammers were arrested in Russia: one group consisted of male criminals, formerly charged with computer crimes and another scammer was a Cameroonian male student, studying in St. Petersburg.

*I will not discuss scams and scammers here; this is the subject of my other book: "The Complete, No-Nonsense Anti-Scam Guide For Men Seeking A Russian Wife" (http://www.womenrussia.com/antiscam.htm)*

Let me make it crystal clear: there is NO WAY to purchase an American, Canadian, Australian or other country's tourist visa. Only Consulates, without mediators and go-betweens, issue visas and no agency or "friend" can guarantee a visa will be granted. For Russians, 95% of all tourist visa applications to the American Embassy are routinely rejected. The Embassy makes sure that only financially secure people receive visitor's visas; people, who won't become illegal immigrants or start illegally working while in the USA.

**Visas For Sale**

*There is NO WAY to purchase a USA (Canadian, Australian etc) tourist visa*

Then how can one bring his foreign girlfriend into the USA, Australia, Canada etc?

Of course there is a way: the fiancée visa (or prospective marriage visa). This visa requires a personal meeting prior to the application, so again, simply sending a ticket will not work. Usually, men visit their virtual girlfriend in her homeland. Sometimes a couple may opt for a meeting in a place where visas to Russian citizens are issued without problems or are not needed at all. Such places include the Caribbean, Jamaica, Turkey and Cyprus.
By arriving on a fiancee visa a woman is secured against trafficking or slavery. The fiancee visa requires lots of paper work and is thus a poor means for human trafficking, even if somebody were crazy enough to try using the visa this way. All mail order bride services point out to men that the only legal way to bring their foreign brides into their countries is the fiancee visa.

Linking mail order bride services to trafficking in people is absurd. It would be a criminal pretending to be an international matchmaker that would be involved in human trafficking. Those people would not offer any correspondence or direct contacts with a prospective partner but would simply promise a woman to take her to a rich husband. It is only an uneducated, desperate woman that can believe such promises - this does not happen often. So human traffickers usually use false job offers when recruiting their victims - au pair, dancers, etc. The international matchmaking industry has nothing to do with that.

In regard to immigration scams, much was said on this matter, but again, this comes down to your belief that life in the home countries of the brides is miserable that they have nothing to lose when they leave. You would need to believe that even spending a few years with a man she does not like is a small price to pay for her to gain the greatest privilege of having the Green Card or permanent residence. Have you also shared those ideas? Then you, my friend, are in for a wake up call.

Just ask yourself this, would you marry somebody you don’t remotely like, just to live in a place that may be better than where you currently find yourself? Would you spend 1-2 years in both correspondence and waiting for your visa, and then another 2 years to be eligible for permanent residence? Would you continue living with this same person, day in and day out, under the same roof?

Can you possibly dream about such a place that would motivate you to go through all those lengths? Not? How about marrying somebody, and living with them for a few years, just to secure your ticket to Heaven after you die? Would you, personally, do it?

If these questions made you think, try to go one step further and realize that natural human aspirations are the same in all cultures: we all want to be happy and do not want to suffer. Some people would do anything in the name of money, in fact, some people do exactly that, which is why all countries have prisons. But these types of people are a minority.

Immigration scams where foreign women were marrying American (Canadian, Australian etc) citizens, with the sole aim to divorce their husbands after gaining permanent residence are rare. It is that handful of cases that make the front pages of newspapers. Most cases that are announced by the Media as immigration scams are not immigration scams at all! They are usually the result of hasty decisions where people did not know each other well enough, and some incurable incompatibilities were discovered after the marriage. Since a woman seems to gain something that she had not had before, as the result of the marriage, namely the permanent residence, nearsighted men often decide they were victims of an immigration scam, while in reality it was a relationship of tragedy for both parties.

It seems strange to me how fast we are able to jump to conclusions about someone else’s deceptive intentions all the while proclaiming cultural diversity and dismissing
national discrimination. The popular belief that people of another nation will go any lengths just to escape their harsh conditions is nothing but national discrimination. **If you would not marry somebody you didn't like in order to gain residence in Heaven, please do not think other people in this world would do it to gain residence in your country.** It is pretty egocentric to think in this manner.

Criminals are exceptions and can be found in every society. There are many problems that arise in domestic marriages, too, including financial rip-offs. So attributing marital issues exclusively to mail order brides is as inappropriate as attributing rip-offs to all marriages in your country.

**Mail order brides' myth #5:**
**Mail order bride marriages are prone to abuse and domestic violence.**

This myth is closely connected to the myth about submissive and subservient wives. Since one party is thought to be submissive, the other party is perceived as seeking dominance and control.

In fact, there are no figures that prove any increased level of violence in a mail order bride marriage, as compared to a domestic one. Since people that seek partners abroad are more educated, and since more highly educated people tend to opt for less primitive actions than violence to resolve conflict, it would be reasonable to suggest that the level of violence and abuse in mail order bride marriages should be lower on average than that of domestics.

But then there are women's shelter activists that say they have increased numbers of foreign women seeking refuge. Is it an indication of a trend?

There may be a few explanations. First, it may be that after the proliferation of the Web the absolute number of marriages with foreign nationals is growing. This may be why the absolute number of foreign women seeking refuge is also growing. Second, the number of foreign women seeking refuge can seem greater than the number of local women, because local women have family and friends where they can find temporary accommodation, therefore they do not need a shelter. Surely both of those reasons are valid.
Until it is proven statistically that mail order brides' marriages result in an increased level of violence and abuse as compared to local marriages, we conclude that both the level and the alleged recent growth of abuse in such marriages is grossly exaggerated. Personally, I know many Russian women married to foreign men. None of them were abused in any of their marriages, though as in any society not all marriages are trouble-free. Which of course does not deny that there is some abuse in mail order bride marriages; surely there is; as is in local marriages.

Since general opinion is that only losers seek out mail order brides, and that mail order brides are low class women that don't know any better, the myth of a high level of domestic violence against the ladies seems to make sense. But once you know this is not the case, then the foundation for such assumptions are shattered.

Well, now that we discussed the common myths about mail order brides, let's get to the point: Why do people still choose "mail order bride" marriages? With all the stigmas attached, the public dismissal, not to mention the nasty taste this phrase leaves in your mouth, WHY would any one in their sound mind be willing to submit himself to such a thing?

First of all, let us clear the air about the women, they do not consider themselves "mail order brides". They don't even know such a term exists! In their countries, applying to a marriage agency is nothing out of ordinary and it does not imply she will succeed. It is the same type of thing people do when placing a personal ad in a newspaper or online, they do it just because they are lonely!

Only 3-5% of women applying to marriage agencies find husbands through them. When a woman lists her data with a marriage agency it does not mean she dismisses all other opportunities that come her way. Not at all! We often receive requests from women to remove their data because they married somebody locally.

**What all those women seek is a marriage to a worthy man - this is the goal.** Women who list their data with marriage agencies do it because it broadens their horizons and increases the odds of finding such a man.
Another issue is commitment, which is difficult to detect when dating somebody locally. When a woman uses a marriage agency, she knows men that contact her seek marriage also.

Those are the two main reasons behind success of mail order brides' services among women.

It should be noted that women do not discriminate between mail order brides' services and other venues, such as general dating sites, ICQ, chat rooms, etc. In fact, Russian women say "agency" if it is a mail order brides' service or a multimillion-user dating site. For them, it does not matter where she meets a guy, through ICQ or a marriage agency.

At the same time, if she met her husband through ICQ, technically she is not a mail order bride, since the U.S. Immigration Service categorizes "mail order brides" as only the women who met their partners through a marriage broker (a service that brings together people seeking marriage and charges only the men).

For example, technically I am not a "mail order bride" because I met my husband through a newspaper ad and not through a marriage agency - even though I was a member of a few marriage agencies. Quite frankly, there was no principal difference between the men I met through newspaper ads and those I met through the marriage agencies. All those classifications are superficial.

So, to answer the question, "Why do women choose to become mail order brides?" is simply that they don't! They just do not choose to become mail order brides. They are merely looking for good husbands, and are willing to use all opportunities that are available. The fact that they are considered to be "mail order brides" in their new countries comes as a complete surprise to them.

Now, what about the men?
Surely they know how this type of marriages is regarded.

Certainly, they do. They know about the public dismissal, but the benefits offered by a mail order bride marriage, well outweigh any and all problems.

What is the biggest benefit of mail order brides, for men? The largest age group of men seeking a mail order bride are in his forties and most want to start a family. It is this desire that is driving men to foreign brides, since it is not easy for many of these men to meet women 10 to 20 years younger from their homeland, plus be willing and able to give them children. In mail order bride marriages age difference is typically greater than in local marriages, both in the country of the man and the woman.
OK, men seek younger brides because they want children; but why do women concur?

For the women, a broader age difference is compensated by increased financial security and the assurance of commitment (an older husband is less likely to leave his wife for another woman). It is this assurance that is especially important in the countries with a high level of male promiscuity, like Russia. Generally, most women prefer their husbands to be 5 to 10 years older than themselves, but the younger the woman is, the less of an issue a wider age difference will matter to her.

Marriages with a large age difference are not atypical in real life; in Hollywood such marriages are more often the norm than the exception. Foreign men are exotic for Russian women who grew up behind the "iron curtain". In Asian cultures too, white men stir curiosity. This adds to the desirability of foreign men, along with the Hollywood images that are presumed by foreigners to be true reflections of American life - much in the same way as western people judge Russian realities by movies and Media publications. When visiting Russia or the USA, foreigners are usually surprised to find out that those images differ from the reality.

**Men chose to become "mail order grooms" because in foreign countries they can meet women of higher quality that is unavailable to them in their homeland** - which is exactly the same reason for the women seeking foreign men.

**Both parties can meet better quality partners than those available for them at home.** The difference is what men and women consider "better quality".

For a man, the most important qualities in a mate are beauty and youth (or youthfulness). Yes, personality counts, too, but show me a man who will have a relationship with a woman he is not physically attracted to. For a man, it is difficult to comprehend how women are sometimes willing to overlook physical features in favor of financial security.
For a man the most important qualities in a mate are beauty and youth.

For a woman the most important qualities in a mate are his ability to provide for her family and commitment to her and her children. A woman is more likely than a man to allow man to love her, rather than being in love herself. She does not mind "being kissed", as long as she is happy with the kisser.

Those are the qualities that men and women perceive as indispensable when selecting a lifetime partner. This fact is true in regard to all cultures, from primitive to the most advanced.*

For a woman the most important quality in a mate is his ability to provide for her family.

In mail order brides' marriages, men can find women who are younger and more beautiful, and women can find men who are better providers for their families and more committed. Both parties benefit, so both parties are happy. It's a "Win-Win" situation.

At the same time, mail order brides' marriages are NOT monetary arrangements.

You would be greatly mistaken if you assumed they were. Most of those marriages are based on genuine love. Even in the marriages that dissolved, partners admit they were in love when they entered the marriage.
If you try to tell women that they seek financial security by marrying a foreigner they will feel insulted. They just seek the man they will fall in love with! The fact that to fall in love she needs to consider the man "worthy" of her love does not occur to her. One can find proof in recent scientific studies that have shown that love develops on a subconscious level. A woman cannot even recognize the physiological processes behind "falling in love".

You might say that I have just proven that mail order brides seek security when marrying foreign men, and you would be right. So then they really do seek to escape economical misery as is perceived? Why the apparent contradiction? So what is the difference in perception of mail order brides and what is really happening? I am glad you asked. :-)

The difference in perception and the real situation is that women are believed to seek THE COUNTRY, disregarding the quality of the man they will marry, while the truth is they seek A MAN, who is worthy of their affection. They are not seeking a better quality country; they seek a better quality partner.

Russian women often marry men from countries that are not everybody’s dream. Look at me; I married a guy from South Africa - a country that has lots of problems of its own. I did this not because I always dreamt of living in South Africa but because I was convinced he was the right man for me. I had marriage proposals from men living in Western Europe and the USA - but I have chosen a man that I loved, NOT the country. And there are thousands women that do the same when looking for husbands abroad - I had quite a lot of Russian-women friends in South Africa, who were married to local men. Now my family and I moved to Australia - but this decision we made together, after our children were born. I did not know we would move to Australia when I married my husband. I married HIM, not his country.

More examples: my friend’s sister and one of my classmates married men from Bulgaria - which is at the same economical situation as Russia. Both are very happy.
So it is not only financial security that women are looking for. It is also the compassion, respect, faithfulness and commitment of western men that make them so attractive to Russian women. Men who write to Russian women with arrogant attitudes derived from mail order brides' myths are instantly rejected by intelligent, educated women. If a woman feels a man tries to "buy her" by showing off his wealth, instead of trying to win her heart, she feels humiliated and will refuse him. Yes, the woman should consider a man worthy to fall in love with him, but kindness, intelligence, and compassion are all integral parts of this "worthiness". No woman will consider an arrogant, abusive man as having any worth.

**The need for a woman to consider a man "worthy", as well as the need for a man to consider a woman "beautiful", in order to fall in love, is universal.**

Mail order bride marriages are not exceptions to this rule, or a rule on its own, they are affected by the same mechanics as marriages in general. The absence of mind games, which is typical to local dating, but unfeasible for the long distance relationship is what highly remarkable. People tend to be more open in their desires and aspirations when dating somebody from the other end of the world than when they date a girl/guy next door. There are also very strong emotions in those relationships, because both parties feel they found somebody really special and different from their local options. The strength of emotions in such relationships is truly amazing.

Will the phenomena of mail order brides still exist in 10 or 20 years? I believe it will but hopefully they will stop using this silly name well before that time. There always will be romantic idealizations of "greener pastures". Women will always look for men who can offer them more security and men will always seek younger partners.

Just remember that **women and men the world over seek the same things in life, love and marriage** and that natural human aspirations are invariable.

We all want to be happy and don't want to suffer!

*See David M. Buss, "The Evolution Of Desire: Strategies Of Human Mating", where a research was run across 37 cultures.*
Introduction: My Own Story - What Real Women Experience When Seek A Husband Abroad

Before we start with advice on how to find your dream woman, let me tell you my own story. This should give you some perspective on the actual process from the woman's point of view.

I have never told my own story in such a great detail before. I hope you have downloaded my husband's story (his account of our relationship), for you it was included with this book as a free bonus - read it, you will learn a lot!

Compare the two stories and you will see the difference between men's and women's ideas about finding a partner abroad. I believe our chronicles are quite typical for Russian-Western relationships.

I will also give you my comments on the most important moments that you should take note of. We will discuss them in the following chapters, but here they come up naturally, so you will see how they affected my decisions and choices. This way, you start from real life and later move to the theory.

So here is my story.

I was born in 1967 in Ekaterinburg, Russia, in the family of engineers. My mother and father were working for the same large factory when they met each other. My father was the chief mechanic engineer of the factory, when my mother just graduated from the university, moved from her native city Ivanovo to Ekaterinburg, and started to work as a chemical engineer at the factory. My father was the most eligible bachelor at the factory - and my mother managed to bring him down the aisle! They got married in less than a year after they met, and soon I was born. My brother was born 2.5 years after me.

Later my mother reached position of the manager of the central laboratory of the factory, and my father was working as a top manager of large factories for all his life. But our life was very modest. None of my parents ever had a car. 4 of us lived in
a small 2-room apartment in a 5-storey block of 128 apartments. During Soviet times the majority of Russian people lived, and most still live, in small apartments in large blocks. This was the only type of accommodation that was available those days for anyone. All people were supposed to be equal and have the same life style; were you a cleaner or a company director, they could live at the same block. Only top government officials lived differently, having apartments in privileged blocks in the center of the city, countryside houses and government cars with a chauffer.

After the high school I went to University where for 4 years I studied philosophy, psychology, English and the history of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Perestroika started when I was in my third year, and by the end of the forth year it was clear the philosophy we studied was no longer valid: we were supposed to be Marxist philosophers, the official and the only philosophy of Communist Party - and Perestroika announced this philosophy bankrupt.

The devastation of the ideological grounds, which no one sincerely believed in, was still a huge shock for the whole Soviet generation, and this was one of the reasons why I left the University before my final fifth year.

The other reason was my success in the field of commerce that provided me with a part-time income 2-3 times more than the combined income of my parents. The economics was shuttering, and it was possible to buy goods in Ekaterinburg and sell them in Odessa wholesale with 100% profit, and on the way back buy goods in Odessa that would be sold with the same profit in Ekaterinburg, quadrupling your money. All it would take was a weekend trip to Odessa for the cost of a return air ticket. Sometimes I would stay in a hotel overnight, sometimes fly back the same day.

So I decided I did not need the University diploma to be successful in life, and moved to commerce full time.

For a few years I worked in commerce, first within the former Soviet Union, then internationally, being self-employed. My income during those years could be considered in the top 10% of the population. Even though I have extensively traveled internationally, I never considered emigration. Traveling to those countries,
yes; emigrating permanently from Russia - no, I did not have any desire or need to do it. I simply never thought about it.

I was dating a lot, and had a few long-term relationships, which did not lead to marriage though. I was engaged once when I was 18 to a 25-year-old guy who studied at the University at the same faculty as me. I actually did not feel like getting married but many of my friends were already married by the time, and I did not want to be left behind. Luckily my fiancé had to go away during the summer break and I realized I did not actually love him and broke the engagement. He was very upset but married somebody else within 1 year. I guess, he was also feeling it was time to get married - and successfully fulfilled his aspirations.

In retrospective, there were a few reasons why I nearly married a man I did not love. First, it was peer pressure. As I said, many of my friends were already married. Getting married in Russia for a woman is a status thing; if you marry early, it means you are very popular; so many Russian women marry in their teens. Second, it was cool to be involved with such a mature guy. I was the envy of my friends because of that, and I was feeling very proud when we were together. Third, he was very insistent and when I said that I would prefer to wait until I am somewhat older, like 22 years or so, he said: "I would not marry any woman of 22 years". (What he meant by that, women of 22 years are already not a good marriage material - this is the view of many Russian men.)

I was young, confused, and this was the reason I said, "Yes", when he proposed marriage. My parents were shocked when I said I am getting married but I was always very independent, so they did not have any other option as to accept it. It was a great relief for them when I said I broke the engagement.

I was living with my parents up to the age of 21 when I dropped out from the University. Normally in Russia unmarried children, especially females, stay with their parents until their marriage - or sometimes forever, if they cannot find a husband. (Married children also often stay with his or her parents for the first few years of their married life - a reason for the high divorce rate among newlywed couples in Russia.) So the fact that I moved from my parents at the age of 21 was somewhat shocking for our family. It is not normal in Russia. But I wanted freedom, and I had enough money to support myself, so I decided to rent an apartment on my own.
But still, my parents would not let me go if I had said to them that I just wanted to move out. In Russia children are their parent's responsibility until their marriage, and if I moved out without their permission, they could consider me an outcast. I was generally a "good girl" type, sometimes naughty but still good, and I would not want my family to write me off their lives.

I had a stable boyfriend at the time, so I said to my parents we were just moving together, and they gave their approval. This is not usual for Russian women to move with their partners before the marriage though living with a boyfriend in parents' apartment is nothing special.

When I was 22, my aunt died, and my parents moved together with my grandmother, who previously lived with my aunt. My grandmother was old and the family was worried something could happen to her if she lived on her own. It is not common in Russia for old people to live in retirement houses; they usually stay with their children who take care of them. As my parents' apartment would be empty, I was asked to move back to my parents place to look after it.

My relationship with my boyfriend was growing sour, and he did not want to move with me to my parents' apartment, and stayed in the apartment we used to rent together. The problem in our relationship was that I wanted for us to get married and he did not. We were in love, and he was happy to live together but did not want to commit. This is the common problem with Russian men; they may say they love you and want to be in relationship with you but they don't want to get married. 22 years is quite an age for a Russian woman; if a woman is not married by this age people start calling her "old virgin" or "blue stockings". A woman, if there is nothing wrong with her, should be married by this age. If she is not married, there must be something wrong, and it raises suspicions. This was what my former fiancé meant when he said he would not marry any woman of 22 years.

You can see now that Russian women are trapped in this cultural paradigm: they must get married as soon as they reach full legal age, which is 18 years. They have just a few years to find a husband, after which they are considered to be "old virgins". This is probably the reason why there are so many divorced women looking for a partner abroad. Marrying in their teens, people often grow at a different pace and direction, and in a few years find themselves living with a complete stranger. Add to this male's chauvinism and infidelity in Russia, and divorce is just around the corner. Most my friends that married early divorced before they reached the age of 30, some after only 2-3 years together. When a woman is divorced, she struggles to find a new partner, especially if she has kids, as most quality men are already married - and they don't divorce. So a woman has to get married and then she can only hope her sweetheart will develop into a good husband. That's the situation with marriages there.
In regard to my boyfriend, I believed 2 years of relationship should be enough to make up one's mind. I did not want to wait until he was ready for marriage, if ever. I decided to move on - and moved out.

For a few years I lived alone. It was a very exciting time as I was making, according to Russian standards, lots of money (thousands dollars a month), owned a car and lived apartment on my own, and had a string of admirers. Parties, seaside vacations 4 times a year, overseas holidays and adventures were as normal as sunrise.

Then, again, I fell in love.

He was a year younger than me, and we used to study at the same school. He was a professional air pilot but decided to give up flying for commerce. As I mentioned, at that time commerce could make you rich literally overnight; it was the time of privatization and most people who grew up on Soviet values had no idea about the science of making money. There was very little competition for the ones who were not afraid to take the risk. In a few months he moved with me.

We lived together for 1.5 years, our relationship was absolutely fabulous, and I hoped one day he would pop up the question.

Well, he did pop up one but not exactly the question I hoped for!

He asked me: "You are 26 already, and still hanging around - are you going to get
married one day and have kids?"

I could not believe my ears: What???

Apparently, he was not even thinking about the possibility of marrying me!

What a fool I was.

Our relationship ended up in a total disaster, which - as it usually happens, misfortunes never come singly - coincided with the crash of my business. I was usually borrowing additional money for my commercial endeavors, so I could make more profit, and one day I made a wrong choice and the goods would not sell. I brought a bulk of leather jackets, which usually would sell as hot pies in April-May but that year summer started in the beginning of April. I do not remember another year that it was so hot at this time of the year; the normal temperature for this time of the year would be just above freezing point; that year it was a proper summer weather. People were interested in swimming suits but not leather jackets. The interest level for private loans at that time was 30% A MONTH (yes, there is no mistype: 30% a month, not a year!) so in a few months I had to sell all my belongings to pay the debt, and lost all the money I had.

Suddenly even buying milk and bread became a problem.

At that time I was on the borderline of suicide, but now I sincerely believe that was the best thing that could happen to me.

I cut off all my high-profile friends (I was too ashamed that I no longer had money and could not afford going out with them), found myself a job at a state enterprise and went back to University to complete my studies.

The old friends were phoning for a while, leaving messages on the answering machine, but I would not return their calls, and they gradually disappeared from my life. There were no parties anymore, no money, only hard work and studying after
the work.

It was real tough. After one was earning thousands dollars a month working 2-3 hours a day, slaving from 8 to 5 and getting mere $50 a month could be considered a joke. I was working in the advertising bureau of the marketing department on a large industrial plant, and the main goal why I worked there was to gain experience. After the bankruptcy of my business I realized the money you had could be "gone in sixty seconds" (at least, in Russia). I needed something that would stay with me forever. This, as I figured out, could be a good profession and experience. Russian economy was taking off, and qualified professionals were in high demand.

I had read several great books on marketing, and decided I wanted to work in marketing or advertising. No serious company would employ a person without experience. I needed to get some. The position on the state enterprise was not highly paid but I decided I could survive on the salary they offered. I had the knowledge from the books. All I needed was experience.

In addition to the University where I was studying part-time, I also went to English courses. I wanted to improve my school-level English for a long time but could not get to it with my jet-set life style. Good knowledge of English was very much needed in my previous work in international commerce but I as I said I could not get to it. Now, it was no longer something "desirable" - it became a necessity. Well-paid jobs at that time were only in foreign companies. Only foreign companies offered their employees decent salaries and many additional benefits such as a company car (after owning a car for many years using public transport was a nightmare for me - try to go around without a car for 1-2 months, and you will understand how I was feeling!). I made it my goal to find a job in a foreign company. But for that, I needed to become fluent in English.

Full-time job, plus lots of studies ensured I was very busy and did not have time to pity myself. I was working harder than ever before in my life. And I was doing good progress. My professional life was slowly, VERY slowly, getting on the right track.

But my personal life was still a mess. The break-up of my relationship with my last boyfriend was so painful for me that for some time I could not even think about a new relationship. But time cures, I made new friends at work and at the University, and again started to think about having a family on my own.

This time I decided I really needed to get married. Does not matter who he will be or
will I love him or not; I just wanted to get married and get rid of the label "never married" that made me outcast in the eyes of others. All married and even divorced women, as well as all men, were looking at me upside down because I was single. Does not matter if you have money and great career; being single for a woman in Russia is a shame. It means you are defective - no one wanted to marry you. Believe me, in Russia every single woman over 25 feels very similar to what I was feeling.

I tried local personals. There are lots of personal ads, from men and women, in local newspapers. Answering ads required visiting the office of the newspaper to pay a fee, so this was out of question for me - I could barely bear the shame of buying the singles newspaper in a kiosk. I was feeling like the whole world was laughing at me for being single. I would buy a bunch of newspapers, only to add the singles newspaper to the list, so it would not sound too bizarre. The similar feeling one would have buying condoms in a pharmacy over the counter. I wanted to answer ads, but going to the office of the newspaper and standing there under the sights of dozens eyes - I would simply die of shame.

I placed my own ad, or more correctly, ads, as I placed a few until I started to receive responses. There were about 30 responses to my ads, from which I picked up 6 or 7 that looked decent. I have sent responses giving my phone number and asking men to phone me. All of them phoned, and we set up dates.

I could describe you in details those dates but I will save your time. It is enough to say that all guys who came to the dates were weird, or complete idiots, or tried to get me into bed on the first date. Half of them happened to be married!

Only one guy who came to the date was really nice, intelligent, well mannered and - single! At the end of the date he said I was a wonderful woman and it was exactly what he was looking for. His friend was in love with a married woman who was cheating on him, and just using him for his money. They, his friends, were worried about him, and wanted some nice lady to get him out of his dreadful romance. He asked me if I would be willing to do that, they couldn't stand seeing their friend so badly hurt.

Well, this was the last grit. I decided I have had enough of the local personals. In fact, I decided I have had enough of Russian men in general. It was obvious that all
good men were already taken, and the ones that were not married, simply were not worth the time spent or not willing to commit. In Russia, if a man wants to be married, he is married sooner than he can say 1-2-3.

I decided that probably God had different plans for me and I was not made for marriage. I made peace with the fact that I was single, and probably would stay single for the rest of my life, and left my desperate attempts to find a husband.

My family was telling me that I should have a baby on my own so I would not stay alone for life, and soon it would be too late to conceive, and I had to do it as soon as possible. I did not want to bring a new child in this world knowing he would not have a father and complete family, as I believed a child needs two parents. Instead, I decided that if by the age of 33 I am still not married, I will adopt a child from orphanage and he will be my family and I will be his. My friend's mother was working in adoption so it would not be a problem (in Russia you need to know people in the system to make things work).

I have heard about international marriage agencies but I did not believe in them. I was thinking: "Why foreign men would want to find wives in Russia, it is so easy for a man to get married; why would anyone go through the trouble of seeking somebody abroad?" The general public's idea about international marriage agencies was that they would take your money and that would be it. There had been so many financial enterprises in Russia that worked in this scheme at the time, people were fed up of big promises and no longer believed in them. The idea of marrying a foreigner felt to me as real as marrying Santa Claus.

I was laughing at the girls who applied to marriage agencies and was sure it was just another scam. But then there were a few interviews with marriage agencies' owners on the local TV where they told about their successes and showed photos of happy couples, which made me thinking. Not that I believed I could find a husband abroad but it did not look any more crazy than looking for him through the local personals; so I decided, why not?

I knew one of my friends was trying to find a husband abroad and she was receiving letters and photos from foreign men. No one visited her so far but at least the letters with foreign stamps on them proved this was not a complete fraud.

So one of my girlfriends and me took a camera, put on some make up and went to
the local lake to take photos. She was the one who gave me the idea of finding a husband abroad some years ago, when I was only 26. At that time I considered it to be absolutely unrealistic, so I did not even try. My friend kept telling me we should make good photos and try to find husbands abroad (she was also single and 2 years older than me), so eventually she got me there; we bought a film and went shooting.

Surprisingly, there were many photos of decent quality for both of us. The problem was which ones to choose for the agencies. I asked my male acquaintances, mostly husbands of my friends and my male colleagues, to select the best photo for me. "Tell me which girl you would marry", I asked, and they would laugh: "All of them!" - "But this one would be the first choice". They all pointed out to the same photo, which, in fact, was not my favorite; I would select another one. But I decided to listen to men, as it were men that I was going to impress.

"Tell me which girl you would marry", I asked, and they would laugh: "All of them!"

By that time my life situation improved dramatically. I was anything but miserable.

I graduated from the University with distinction, received "a red diploma" - diploma of excellence - which is granted to the students who have more than 75% "A" marks and the rest should be not less than "B" marks. The regular diploma has a blue cover, and the diploma of excellence has a red cover, this is where the name comes from. Russian student joke says: "It is better to have a red face and blue diploma, than a red diploma and blue face." I got the red diploma; and yes, probably my face was a bit of bluish color from all those hours I had spent in libraries! :-)

As a result of my 1.5-year studies on language courses, I could also speak good English (the foreign companies on job interviews marked my knowledge as "A" level).

I have found a new great job as a regional manager of a foreign marketing agency that had among its clients such companies as Procter & Gamble, Nestle and Unilever. My good command of English and my red diploma were the reasons I could land such a great job having such little experience.

Soon after I have found the new job, I bought a car, again. This was a great relief and would save me at least 2 hours a day that I would otherwise spend in public transport traveling to my work and back.

I even started seeing my old high profile friends again, but discovered that I was no longer interested in them - all they were thinking about were parties and money. By
that time commerce was not bringing the profits it used to bring; naturally, money was high on their list of priorities as many struggled to maintain the level of life they were accustomed to.

I was actually in better of: more and more foreign companies were opening filials at my city, and young professionals with experience in marketing and sales, and good knowledge of English were in high demand. Salary of $700 a month, or even $1000 a month was not out of my reach (with the average monthly salary of $60 at the time).

So economical reasons had nothing to do with my decision to look for a husband abroad. I did not try to escape poverty. In Russia for $500 a month one could live like a king!

My ONLY reason of looking for a partner abroad was the fact that I could not find him in my homeland.

If I could find him in Russia, I would not be searching for him abroad.

For Russia, my requirements to a prospective partner were probably unrealistic. I wanted to meet a man who was ambitious, intelligent, educated, decent and honest, who would be attractive for me and who would be interested in starting a family soon. Actually, I was looking for a guy like me. Since I was earning good money for all my life, and even after losing everything, I managed in only 2.5 years to build a wonderful career and get to the top again; naturally, I would not be interested in somebody who had no goals in life or was too lazy to achieve them. I would not be able to stay with a man like this; I do not think we would have enough things in common to build true companionship. For me it was important that my man had a career and aspirations, and was trying to become a better person and achieve his goals.

At the same time I was not looking for a rich guy either. I respected myself enough to don't want to be completely dependent on a man for financial support. I have
heard about [Russian] women who managed to make [Russian] guys paying their expenses, buying them cars and buying businesses for them - but personally, I knew I would not be able to do it. I've never been able to ask the guys I was dating for money though some of them were quite rich. I have no idea how some women are doing that: there must be some technique, which I am not aware of!

I just wanted a guy who was on the same wavelength as me, so we would be compatible. Not poor, neither rich - just normal. But such guys in Russia are rare. And, as said one of the girls in Russian women forum, they are all "incurably married once out of nappies". Sad but true.

So here I was, with the "best" photo in my hands, thinking about how do I start searching for a husband abroad. It was July 1997.

First thing that I did was buying a newspaper that was publishing foreign ads through their FAPIA affiliation. It was the same singles newspaper with Russian personals that I mentioned before; there was an "International" section inside. There were personal ads as well as ads of foreign dating agencies. I selected 7 men's ads to respond, and also sent letters with photos and short bio to 10 agencies. At that time there were about 50 men's ads and 20 agencies' ads in each issue. (Today it is about 200-300 men's ads and 50-100 agencies' ads in each issue.)

Selecting an agency, I was looking in which country it was located, and if the agency would say they assist in finding a marriage partner. I did not send my data to the agencies that were situated in non-English speaking countries and to the agencies that offered friendship and pen pals.

When deciding which men's ads to answer, I was looking at man's height and age, and also what kind of woman he was looking for. I selected men who were taller than 175 cm (5'9"), 30-45 years of age (I was 29 at the time) and whose requirements I seemed to meet. If there were no requirements to a partner or he did not say anything about his intentions (for example, "for serious relationship" etc), I would not write to him. One of the guys that I wrote was from South Africa; I think he attracted my attention mostly because he was very tall - 194 cm (6'4"), and he also said he was a manager. I was also a manager so he seemed to be the type of
person I was looking for. There was actually nothing special about his ad - he just said about his age, height, and weight, his occupation, and that he was looking for a woman for serious relationship 29-35 years old. He was 43. I think if he was shorter and did not specify his occupation, I would skip his ad, as South Africa was not my dream country. I was more interested in United States but there were very few ads from USA men and most of them did not seem to be the right guys.

I have to say that even though I was answering ads of men from 30 years old, I was more interested in men that were 10-15 years older than me. The reason for that was that I have found myself connecting better with older men than to the men of my age. Guys of my age seemed to me immature and childish, and I was tired of being told all the time: "You are too clever." At least, men 10 years older never said that to me. Also, I believed they would be more serious about starting a family soon. I did not think that they would be in better of financially; this was not my priority.

I have found myself connecting better with older men than to the men of my age

Actually, I was acting more basing on my intuition than on rational criteria. I did not sit down and think properly what kind of man I was looking for or what he should do for a living. Answering ads, I was selecting the ones that appealed to me, the ones that felt "right".

For example, I would not answer a very romantic ad such as "I am longing for kisses and hugs of the most special woman in the world who I yet was lucky enough to meet" or to the ads that stated their authors were looking for a "beautiful" woman. As the majority of Russian women, I did not consider myself "beautiful" - moreover, I was certainly sure I was not! I was not even considering myself "pretty". "Attractive" would be the word I was feeling comfortable with, and I did not answer any ad that was asking for more than [I thought] I could offer.

I wrote letters by hand, both to agencies and men, and included photos. I did not have enough copies of my best photo (which I only sent to agencies) so I sent to men different photos from the same film, even though I did not like some of the photos that much. The reason for that was simply being practical: if I already had photos, why should I print too many? It cost money. It did not appear to me that sending bad photos would do me no service: I would not get answers. In retrospective, this was pretty stupid, but I did not think so at the time. I just did not think about it at all! If I gave it a thought, I would not be doing that.

This is actually very descriptive of how Russian women (as well as foreign men) are handling the process. Everything seems so simple; there is nothing to think about; so people are just doing things - and not always doing the right things.
Luckily for me, my future husband received a nice picture - the one that was my favorite (as you remember, men selected another one). When I was sending data to agencies, I would include only one photo (the men's favorite), if the agency said "Send a photo" and 2 photos (the men's favorite and my favorite) if the agency said "Send photos" or "send 2 photos". Sometimes the agency would say "Send 3 photos", and then I would send 3 photos. I did not question why some agencies ask only for 1 photo and another agency would ask for 3-5 photos. I was just following the instructions given in the ad.

Next week I bought the newspaper again, and wrote a few more letters. I was sending the letters via regular mail, as at that time - 1997 - Internet was fairly unknown in Russia. I knew that such thing existed but did not try it myself, and did not have a desire to try. It was not something that was of interest for the people I knew either. I remember a newspaper article about the first Internet café opening in Ekaterinburg, and my thoughts about it: "Do they do Internet when they drink and eat, or what?" I was not ignorant or outdated - in fact, I was very modern and fashion conscious type of person - but Internet appeared to me as useful as microscope. It might be useful for some categories of people but not for me.

I also signed up with the biggest and the oldest marriage agency in the city - the same agency that was featured in the TV interviews. Their fee was about $70 (I must say it was quite a lot of money according to Russian standards), and for this fee they would take from me 5 copies of my best photo, a questionnaire, and they would send those data to their foreign partners. The agency said the letters would arrive directly to my home address. I could also select some men from their printed catalogs and write to them directly, the agency would supply me with their postal addresses. I selected 2 men from their catalogs, and sent letters with photos, but none of the men ever responded. I think the data in the agency's catalogs were outdated, and most men were no longer available or no longer interested. At that time the agency did not offer handling email correspondence.

2-3 weeks after I received the first responses to my letters from the guys with newspaper ads, all from European men (letters to and from Europe take faster than to other continents). Some of them did not impress me, mostly because the guys did not look interesting on photos. I remember a letter from 1 guy that did attract my attention though. He was 44, from Cyprus, and he sent a picture of himself at the pool at his backyard. Though he looked older than his age, probably because of his
mustache and beard, I liked his photo and letter. He did not look like he was bragging by showing off his pool; he just said this was the photo that he liked the most. He was wearing a long sleeve shirt and trousers in the photo, and looked very decent. The picture allowed you to capture a glimpse of a pool and a beautiful garden on the background.

I must tell you that having your own pool is kind of a magical thing for Russian women. In Russia people do not have pools at home; in fact, they don’t even have their own houses and live in small apartments in large blocks. A pool symbolizes not only wealth but also the warmness of the climate and everything that you would associate with the words "tropical paradise". I also liked the fact that he did not mention his finances in his letter and did not specially made a point out of that. I did not like the men who bragged about being "rich"; this would put me off in an instant.

The letter from the South African guy arrived in about 6 weeks time. It was a nice, long letter, he told a lot about himself and his life in South Africa, but was not making too many compliments or telling me how beautiful I was. He also said that he received a very good response to his ad, and that he "can only hope we can continue our correspondence", but in case if one of us decided to stop, we would let each other know. This was so different from all the other guys. They all were pouring compliments about "my beautiful picture" and sounded like they were sure they wanted to marry me tomorrow.

I must tell you that in Russia guys are not giving into marriage very easily; they need to be hunted down. A guy who immediately wants to marry you raises natural suspicion in his eligibility (it is often a trick used by married men to just get girls into bed) or he must be really desperate - which means he is definitely NOT a marriage material; if no girl wanted to get married to him before, why should I? A guy who is choosy, vice versa, sounds very interesting as he considers himself good enough to be able to choose from numerous offers, which means, he is a desirable object for many other girls - so I should have a closer look, he might be the right one.

Of course at that time I did not analyze it like I do it now - everything was going under conscious; if somebody asked, I would not be able to tell him why I liked this letter much more than others; but now, in retrospective, I can clearly see what kind of emotions and feelings those letters produced, and how they affected my decisions.
on how to proceed in my correspondence with this particular person.

The South African guy was the only man who said I was not the only one who answered his ad (which was pretty obvious anyway), but who at the same time made it clear he wanted to correspond with me and considered me worthy of his effort. So he, in a way, singled me out and said, "Look, I am interested in you but I don't know how it will turn out, so let's take it slowly and do not promise things we won't be able to deliver". I have to be honest, the fact that he had a good response to his ad, and probably was corresponding with some other women at the same time hurt a bit - even though that I was writing to other guys, too. But at the same time it was a sure sign the man was not a loser and "knew his price". He was not going to throw himself at me, neither he expected me to throw myself at him. It also displayed that he was honest.

He said that he had been married before - this was a relief for me, as a man of 40+ who hasn't been married before looks very suspicious for Russian women. It is so easy for a man to get married in Russia, the general opinion is that if a man hasn't been previously married by this age, there must be something terribly wrong with him (the same ideology as with unmarried women). There is even a saying in Russia: "20 years - no health, and would never be; 30 years - no wife, and would never be; 40 years - no money, and would never be". In Russia after 30 years a man is considered as a "hardened bachelor", and any woman will be very careful in dealing with this type.

Summing it up, the letter of the South African guy impressed me. He did not send his photo, and I asked him for a photo in my responding letter. He did not ask me for additional photos, so I did not send him any.

After exchanging a few letters with several men, I showed letters and photos from the men to my mother, and she was also the most impressed with the South African guy. My mother is a keen sportswoman and the South African guy was running marathons (his photo that he sent me with his second letter showed him running). This fact and probably something else made my mother pay special attention to him. She said she liked him. I said I also liked him but he was so good; I was probably not good enough for him and I did not put my hopes high. This was true. I felt this guy was perfect and he was too good for me. I decided I would do my best but I was afraid this would not be enough to get somebody as perfect as him.

I was continuing correspondence with some other guys who wrote interesting letters,
answering their questions and not knowing where it was heading. I was just going with the flow.

In about 2 months after my first mailing I started to receive letters in response to my profiles in agencies. All in all, I had about 12 correspondents that I was interested in.

Writing letters did not come easy for me. First, I had to read the letters that the guys sent me, having to dig in the dictionary every couple of lines, so reading one 2-page letter could take as long as 3-4 hours. Then I had to write a response, also with the extensive use of dictionary, first in a rough copy, and then re-write it to the final copy (I was writing letters by hand at home and I did not own a computer). A mere 1.5-page letter could take me a whole Sunday to write. Naturally, my correspondents sometimes were receiving my answers 1-2 months after I received letters from them.

I had to dig in the dictionary every couple of lines, so reading one 2-page letter could take as long as 3-4 hours

In 4 months since I started my search I received letters from about 40 men altogether, both from men that I wrote first and the ones who wrote to me. Some of the letters looked neither interesting, nor decent, and I never bothered to respond. I did not send a single negative response back. I simply did not think it was necessary or that the guys would be interested in hearing my "No". I had no doubts that the lack of response was good enough an indication of my disinterest in them.

Somewhere in October 1997 I made a new portion of re-prints of my best photo, because the old photos finished. I have sent to men all less-successful photos that I had printed. Since then I was only sending "the best" photo answering men's requests, and my response rate immediately soared (the men that received "bad" photos usually did not answer my letters). I also managed to compose a nice introduction letter, which was in a great extent constructed of the pieces of men's letters that I received. At that time my English was not exactly fit to express my thoughts and feelings, so every time I found in a man's letter some idea that I really liked, I would add it to this "introduction letter". I think it was a really nice letter as all men who received this letter (plus "the best" photo) were excitingly writing me back with a great enthusiasm.

By that time I figured out a trick, I could write a letter with a black pen, and then make copies of it on a copy machine, and one would not see the difference if it was a handwritten letter or a copy. I picked up this trick from one of the men who wrote to
me - the letter was obviously mass copied because my name written in dozen places was written in different color ink! The guy did not score high with me but I liked the idea - I just needed to be vigilant when using it. I made copies of my introduction letter, without the man's name in the beginning and without final greetings. When I was answering a man's letter, I would write his name after the salutation and add answers to his questions and final greetings on another list of paper. I took due care that it would be impossible to see the letter was just a copy and the name was inserted later. This reduced my workload with answering letters tremendously.

Even though I was a regional manager of a large marketing agency, I did not have a computer at the office. Our office was robbed on the third day of my work and computer that was left from the previous manager was stolen. The company sent me a second hand computer but it was broken as it arrived and I could not fix it. The company promised to buy me a computer later but my work as a regional manager mostly included client liaison and working with personnel on promotions; the paper work was not extensive and I was writing all reports by hand. All communication between the head office in Moscow and me was going through the fax and phone; important documents were sent via DHL. I also had a copy machine for printing instructions for employees. Not all the regional offices of our company had computers at the time, so I was not the only regional manager without a computer at the office. Now it feels unrealistic that a large marketing company did not consider computers necessary for their regional offices. But this was the real situation at the time. I believe if I had access to a computer my search could be very different, especially if the computer was connected to the Internet.

Again, it was long ago, in 1997 and now the situation in Russia is of course different. But still, computers in Russia are not as available and wide spread as in the west. Many people still have no access to computers and Internet. Many people feel they simply don't need it.

In my own search, with every week I was receiving more and more letters from foreign men as more agencies were publishing my data. At that stage agencies could take as long as 4-6 months to publish submitted information. All correspondence was arriving through regular mail, since I did not have an email address and only included my mailing address with my applications.
Since it was difficult for me to keep up with the existing correspondences, I did not even read most of the newly received letters. I would only read letters that had attractive photos. Even then, I did not answer to most of the men. I would only send a negative answer if a man asked me to answer anyway, even if I was not interested, or provided a return envelope and a coupon of post response. Although my salary was OK, no working woman in Russia can afford answering dozens letters a week paying out of her own pocket. I was receiving 10-15 new letters a week, every week, and the postage for 1 letter abroad was 7 Rubles, so including costs of stationery, sending answers to all letters I received would set me back about 150 Rubles a week. My salary was 1850 Rubles a month, so it would take about 30% of my monthly salary to answer all letters. This was way much more than I could afford. So I only answered to people who asked to answer them in any case or prepaid my answer by sending a coupon of post response.

One of the guys was particularly insistent. He was from Germany. I answered his ad in a newspaper and he excitedly wrote back. He did say I was beautiful and asked why I was single and he would be very interested in meeting me. This alone was enough to put me off but I also did not like the photo he sent me - he looked disheveled and weird, and made a picture in front of his Porsche (again a turn off), so I decided I would not answer. But he kept writing and sending me more letters and postcards, about once a week, asking me to write back, even just to let him know that I was no longer interested. Well, saying somebody I didn't like him was difficult for me; I just could not find it in me to tell a man I did not like him. After a month or two, however, his persistence made me change my mind. If somebody was so persistent in getting my attention, he must be truly interested and committed to get to know me. Also, looking back it was probably also the feeling that if a person were so purposeful in personal matters, he would be as purposeful in other areas. This is probably why women respect persistent admirers. So, yes, eventually I answered the guy: I said I was out of town and could not answer earlier. We started to correspond.

None of the guys that I was corresponding with was talking about any possible future for our relationship, or if he would be interested in visiting me. Some said they would be interested in visiting Russia one day but I did not take it as if they were going to visit me: Russia is a large country, stretching over 11 time zones, so I knew that if a guy visited Moscow it did not mean he would visit my native city Ekaterinburg, which was more than thousand miles from Moscow. Only if a guy said he would be visiting Russia and we could possibly meet, would I see it as a perspective of a personal meeting for us. Unfortunately, none of my correspondents were indicating our relationship would turn into something real anytime soon.
Russia is a large country, stretching over 11 time zones, so I knew that if a guy visited Moscow it did not mean he would visit my native city Ekaterinburg, which was more than thousand miles from Moscow.

I wrote to some more men from newspaper ads, this time including my work phone and fax number; before that I would only include my postal address. I don’t know why I did not include my phone number in my first set of letters to agencies and men; I just did not think it was needed. But nearly all men who answered my letters or wrote to me were asking for my phone number, so I realized I should include the phone number in my letters.

In one week after I sent my perfected introduction letter and "the best" photo to new prospects from newspaper ads, I received a call from a guy in Denmark. He said he received my letter and he wanted to meet me as soon as possible, could I visit him in Denmark next weekend? He sent a fax with a 2-pages letter about himself and how he thought we could meet. I was shocked but at the same time delighted: this was the first guy who said he wanted to meet me! The fact that he wanted to meet me so soon was apparently due to his high interest in me, which was also flattering. I wrote back that I would not be able to visit him next week because of work commitments but we could plan a meeting for the next month, for example. He asked me for more photos. I, without thinking why he needs more of my photos, sent him about 5-7 photos by mail, from the same summer film that we made with my friend.

He was a newly started real estate agent. He lived alone renting a 1-bedroom flat, in a small town near Esbjerg, Denmark’s largest fishing port on the North Sea; 33 years old, very tall and slim. He sounded intelligent and witty. Not the most handsome guy and his hair was already receding, but in Russia appearance is not the most important thing in a man. Personally, I was always wary of handsome guys; all Russian guys are spoilt; but handsome guys are spoilt rotten. Similar, I did not answer letters from foreign men that were handsome or claimed to be handsome. I have had relationships with handsome guys in the past; "No, thank you, never again!" You see, women judge their new foreign acquaintances basing on their past Russian experiences; and the judgment is not always reasonable. But it is the only judgment they can make.
All Russian guys are spoilt; but handsome guys are spoilt rotten

The Danish guy offered to send me a ticket but having compared prices we figured out it would be twice as cheap for me to buy the ticket in Ekaterinburg than for him to buy it in Denmark for me. He offered to send me money but I said I had the money to buy the tickets myself, and he could just refund me when I arrive to him in Denmark.

He sent me a visa invitation. I was visiting our Moscow office for training for 2 days, and went to the Danish Embassy in person to apply for a tourist visa. Apparently, he phoned the Danish Embassy, as they were aware that I was going to come that day to apply for the visa. At that time very few Russians could afford to travel internationally, and I received the visa without any problem the next day after my application.

So only 4 months after my decision to start looking for a husband abroad I was going to meet the first guy who was interested in starting a serious relationship with me. And the guy was quite alright! That was pretty exciting! In fact, it was a much better result than of many years of my searches through Russian personals.

I did not think if I really liked the guy or if I was going to get married to him. Marriage for me was kind of elusive thing that was highly desirable but seemed to be beyond my reach. So I did not set my expectations high, and did not even ask myself if I would be interested in marrying him one day or if we were compatible. I guess, I was feeling more like it was just a date - meet a guy, have a good time, and then we'd see where it goes. It was an exciting adventure; firstly, because I have never been to Denmark before, and, secondly, because he was the first foreigner who was interested in me. I met many foreigners on my commercial trips abroad but I have never had any relationships or even dates with foreigners. Usually I was traveling with a group of Russians and we would only communicate within the group or with other Russians that we met; in a great extent it was because of my poor knowledge of English at the time and inability to communicate with people who did not speak Russian.

One cloudy November morning I climbed into "Lufthansa" aircraft and headed for Germany. After the transfer in Munich, the same day I arrived to Esbjerg, Denmark. I was up for more than 26 hours, and quite tired after 8-hour wait in Munich.
addition, I misplaced the address of the guy, and the immigration officer would not let me through. He asked me to wait until all passengers came through. Just then a few planes arrived one after the other, so the wait took about 20 minutes. The immigration officer called me and we went to look for my guy. I recognized him straight away. He looked exactly as his photo. I showed the guy to the officer and he called him to write down the address where I would be staying. Not a very romantic beginning :-(

My guy took my bag and we went to find his car. It was late at night. On our way he asked me why I came with the officer, was it because I did not trust him and wanted to make sure an officer would check his documents and remember him. I said I forgot his address but I think he still did not quite believe me. He told me about the places we were passing by, and even stopped at some place to show me a building that was looking fabulous at night with the special lightening. I was very tired and I think I did not sound very enthusiastic.

I guess they are right when they say that you never get the second chance to make the first impression. It seemed this relationship was doomed from the beginning. Lack of knowledge about each other, multiplied by my "mistrust" in him, this was not the right mix to produce a success. After a week of sightseeing around Esbjerg, I went back. He promised to call me the next day to find out if I got home all right, but he never did. I called him on his phone, and he said he could not talk right now and would send me a letter. I guess I should realize straight away something was not right. A week after I received a letter that said he did not fall in love with me and this was the end. Even though I did not fall in love with him either, it was just not enough time to even get to know each other, I was upset. Somebody rejected me, again.

I understand for men "falling in love", or "being attracted to" means that they find the woman beautiful. It seems I did not look as beautiful as this guy imagined me to be. I realized afterwards that the very first photo that a man sees of a woman makes the biggest impression, and this is the image he keeps in his mind. The photo that my male acquaintances selected for me as the photo of a girl they would marry, was
not the exact image of me in daily life. I had met 3 or 4 other foreign men, who saw this photo first, and they also told me I looked different than on my photo. To me, it was still MY photo, and I could not understand what was the problem. But surely for men there WAS a problem; and it did affect my possible relationships with those men. They expected to meet a different girl judging by my first photo. Yes, they might still find me attractive but I just was not "that" girl. What a disappointment. This is probably what often happens when men say "Yes, we met, she is a nice girl but there was no chemistry".

For the women, "chemistry" means a different thing. They are not shocked if a man looks different than on his photo. They will only be disappointed ("no chemistry") if a man is a different PERSON than he was in his letters. For example, he was generous and confident in his letters and he is stingy and insecure when they meet. As long as the man is the same person, Russian women will be still as attracted to him as during their correspondence. Yes, there can be some physical turn-offs such as bad smell or strange voice, but generally women fall in love with the person, not the picture. This is the main difference between the men and the women in what they call "chemistry" or "no chemistry".

OK, getting back to the track.

After my failure with the Danish guy, I decided I needed to rather pay attention to the guys that really liked me, and gave the indication to my insistent German admirer that I would be interested in meeting him face to face. I also decided I would answer to every guy who writes to me and don't make a judgment until we meet in person. A pretty stupid decision as it may sound but many Russian women seeking partners abroad make such decisions after a failure of a relationship they hoped would turn into something special. In fact, they should do quite the opposite: they should screen the prospective candidates better and take more time to really get to know them - but they turn to all-acceptance instead.

Now I was treating my correspondences with foreign men as my most important work: I decided that all the rest, including career and money was secondary and I would spend my best efforts in letter writing. I was working during the days and writing letters at nights and on the weekends. Pretty boring but I felt I was doing
In February 1998 I went to visit my German admirer for a week. I did not fall in love with him but I was attracted to him; and he surely was a dream guy for many girls, according to Russian standards. He was self-employed, recently left his job at a large car manufacturer, and renting a 2-bedroom apartment in a small town 60 kilometers from Munich, with a small home office under the roof. We enjoyed each other's company and he introduced me to his friends (a good sign; the Danish guy wanted me to meet his family before I arrived but made an excuse that his family was not there when I was visiting him - another sign that should have rung the bell for me). When I was leaving Germany after we spent a week together, we decided he will visit me in Ekaterinburg in May, and we probably will go together on a diving trip during summer.

I went back home and signed up for German courses (we communicated in English). We were talking back and forth planning his visit for a month, and then he disappeared. I would not be able to contact him and he would not return my calls. I don't know what happened; it looked like he did not fall in love with me either but he did liked me; and probably he met somebody else that he liked more? I will never know.

Making 2 trips abroad while still working full time for a very demanding company exhausted me; and I decided in the future I would ask men to visit me rather than visit them. I figured out, if a guy was interested in me enough, he would visit me. If he is not serious, then I don't need him. As simple as that.

Right at that time, the South African guy who impressed me so much said to me he was intending to visit Europe this summer and he wanted to meet me during this trip. He offered to meet me in Moscow or St. Petersburg (he would be visiting both cities plus Finland and Estonia) and asked if I would be interested to join him during his trip. He also said he was not corresponding with anybody else but me; he dropped other correspondents. This news overwhelmed me with joy; I could not believe my luck! The man I liked the most wants to meet me and he is meeting ONLY ME! Instantly all my other correspondents were no longer important; I started to refuse the guys that I did not find interesting; I also refused all the guys from my correspondents that were there just because I felt insecure a few months ago, and left only a few guys that I liked the most and would consider marrying them. I also started to send refusals to every guy who wrote me, for the first time. Surprisingly, I received quite a few letters back thanking me for my refusal - the fact that I took the time to write back!
I have learned from the two previous experiences of meeting with my virtual boyfriends and wrote to the South African guy I would be happy to join him on his tour but: (1) I am working and cannot take such a lot of time off work, (2) It will be difficult to get visas to all those countries and (3) What if we don't like each other when we meet? Then his tour will turn into a disaster. I suggested we meet in Moscow and spend 3-4 days, and if we like each other, I can then join him in St. Petersburg - if my work allows me.

I think my guy was a bit disappointed (it must be quite heartbreaking to think that you go thousands miles to visit somebody you hope to marry and it might not work out) but he agreed that it would be more sensible to meet for a few days and do not plan a long tour together.

In his next letter, he said he would do better: he would visit me at my home city Ekaterinburg - this way I would not have problems with my work commitments. As it came out later, he did the right thing: summer 1998 was a hot time for our company and I would not be able to leave my work, even on the weekends (most Saturdays we were working).

Remembering my previous failed meetings, I continued corresponding with other guys and even started some new correspondences. I was taking the things slowly and was not leading the guys on but I did not want to lose them and start everything from scratch in case my meeting with South African guy would not work. But all my heart and expectations were in this meeting.

There also was one American gentleman who was the same age as my South African guy, 43 years old, very attractive and tall, who said he is visiting Russia in August and he would like to meet me. He sounded interesting and I agreed to meet him in my home city. In fact, the main reason why I was interested in him was that he already made plans to visit Russia and was interested in visiting me at home. His letter arrived in April 1998, and if he visited me before the South African guy, who knows how my life could turn out. The American gentleman was making plans to visit Volgograd, Ekaterinburg and Moscow. My South African friend would be visiting me at the end of June, so I decided I would have enough time to cancel our meeting if I am no longer interested.

In the meantime I met 3 foreign guys through my marriage agency; they were visiting Ekaterinburg and picked me up from the thousands girls in agency's catalogues.
One was a very nice American guy, 32 years old, living in New Zealand. He was just visiting Ekaterinburg and saw the agency's ad in a window; before that he was not aware of a possibility of meeting women in Russia that would be interested in finding foreign men for marriage. He just walked into the agency's office and they offered him albums with profiles of available girls. The meeting was at the apartment he rented (many foreigners prefer private apartments to hotels); we had one hour to talk to each other. Apparently, I did not impress him and he never called me back. I think one of the problems was that I was feeling so insecure and tried to produce the best impression, like on a job interview. I was probably overdressed, had too much make-up and poured too much perfume on myself. I did not think what we could talk about, and the conversation was fraught. I guess was too overwhelmed.

Another guy was from Australia; he was the same age as me (not my preferred age group) and we met when I visited the agency. He just arrived and the agency owner invited me and another young girl to talk to this guy; just to show him they had real girls visiting them at the agency's office every day. The agency owner said the guy had the philosophy that he would fall in love with the first sight; he just needed to see the girl and his heart would tell him if she was The One. Me and the other girl went to the manager’s room, and exchanged couple of meaningless phrases with the guy. I told him he was welcome to call me and I would be happy to show him around and gave him my phone number. He did not appear interested and he also was not my type but I indeed would be glad to show him around; it is just excitement and curiosity all Russians have towards foreigners; Russia was behind the "iron curtain" for so long; foreigners are still something exotic for them. In a few minutes, they took the guy through to view the agency albums, and this is where my second agency encounter finished - the guy never used the phone number I gave him. Strange enough, in a couple of days I received a call from the agency and they said there was a guy who wanted to meet me. He was an Australian, my age. I asked if this was the guy [name] and they said yes. I said we already met at the agency and he did not seem impressed. They said he selected my photo from the photo albums and I looked like his dream woman. Apparently he did not recognize me on the photo as the girl he was talking to at his first day in Ekaterinburg! Quite funny. The people from the agency said they would call me back about this guy, and never did. I guess he selected a few dozens of his possible "dream women". I know men go completely speechless when they see so many beautiful girls in blood and flesh that are really interested to date them, they are totally overwhelmed. This probably what happened to this young Australian guy. Also, it just confirmed I did not look like real me on my photo in the agency.
Those two meetings through the agency happened summer 1997; before my correspondences with other men started and flourished, when my English was still poor, and I was quite insecure about the possibility of meeting a nice foreign man for a serious relationship.

After 1 year of correspondence my English improved dramatically; plus I had 2 weeks of practice in spoken English through my two meetings with the guys from Europe - this helped a lot. I could now communicate in English and I knew there were many guys that would be interested to meet me and have a long-term relationship with me.

With this knowledge I went to my third meeting through the agency with a guy from Israel in May 1998. I received a call from the agency during the day, and went to meet the guy after work. He also was renting an apartment, and this was where I was supposed to meet him and his interpreter. He was 48, shorter than me and bald, although intelligent and funny. His interpreter said he and his two friends were visiting the agency to meet women for marriage. He was the designer of that trip; he was here a year before and managed to convince two of his friends to join him this year; how exciting it sounded in his descriptions. Then the translator left us alone, and I was talking to the guy on my own. We had a dinner at a café and he was fun to talk to; although one girl approached him and hugged him, talking some intimacies and asking me to translate as she could barely speak English (apparently she decided I was his interpreter). He quickly got rid of her telling her he would phone her later. I asked him who she was and he told me just one of his friends he met the other day. I guess she was one of his former dates but he did not like her. Also as he said she had a child (I did not... although I did not know this was an advantage).

He was the first guy that I met through the agency that wanted to meet me again. He asked me if I could join him for a weekend trip to the countryside; and I said "Yes" - not because I considered him as an option in search for a husband but because it is just simple hospitality, to take care of a guest and make sure he has fun. He was the guest of my city, so the custom dictates I as the host should look after him.

I think many foreigners are confused about it; if they ask girls for a date, nearly every girl is happy to oblige; they do not realize the girls are doing that because they are curious about foreigners and also because of this hospitality custom; the guys
think the girls like them. It may be that the girl indeed likes you but it can also be
the case that she is simply being polite and follows the rule of hospitality: and the
rule of hospitality is that any guest is precious. Any guest should be cared for and
looked after for: just because he is a guest. Any foreigner is a guest of her town and
also the guest of her country; so they feel obliged to be nice to you and take care of
you - even if they have no romantic intentions towards you. This is great from one
side; you can ask any girl for a date and she will most likely accept your invitation;
from the other hand, men are confused if the girl really likes them or if she is simply
being polite. I will tell you later how to figure it out; but for the moment, let's just go
back on the track with our story.

So, the guy asked me out for a weekend trip and I agreed. Since I had a car we
decided I would pick up him, his friend and his friend's girlfriend from his apartment
and then we would drive to the place. The place was a countryside house ("dacha")
of one of the agency's managers. There we would meet their third friend with his
girlfriend.

I only had one day off (as I said, most of that summer I had to work 6 days a week),
so I was really looking forward to relax in the nature and have some fun.

But things went wrong. When I arrived to the guy's apartment, there was nobody. I
had to wait for about 30 minutes until they showed up. What happened, they were in
a nightclub the previous night and then went to his friend's place to sleep (his
apartment was closer). When they 3 (my guy, his friend and his friend's girlfriend)
arrived that morning to his apartment, the door would not open. Something was
wrong with the lock or the key.

I must tell you that most doors in Russian apartments are secured by metallic doors
and frames because of robberies, and windows are secured by stainless steel bars. If
there is something wrong with the lock, there is virtually no way to get inside - you
cannot break the door! You have to hire special people to break the door or the lock
or enter the apartment through windows.
This was the case with my new friend. He wanted to change his clothes and wash, and he could not get inside. He was trying to reach the owner of the apartment so they would fix the problem (i.e. open the apartment for him) and he was calling the agency because they hired the apartment for him. We (me and the second guy's girlfriend) had to phone the agency every 20 minutes and ask if they have found the owner. We suggested that we go to the party and fix this problem later on our return to the city but the guy would not buy into it. He wanted to change his clothes and he wanted to do it NOW. We suggested to buy something in the nearest supermarket, including a new toothbrush etc, but he was not listening. We spent 3 hours (!) standing on the sun at the phone box (mobile phones were rare at that time; very few people had them and I none of us was the lucky owner) doing exactly that; phoning the agency every 20 minutes hoping they had found the owner. Eventually we managed to persuade the guy that we should rather go since fixing the problem would take some time anyway; this happened after 1 p.m.

Now I knew I would not marry this guy for all treasures in the world; but I still would have to stay with him for the day, because (1) he was a guest and (2) there were two other people dependent on me for a lift.

The girlfriend of the second guy told me she was actually his interpreter turned his date; he did not like any of the girls from the agency but liked her, so she went out with him. She said she was not interested in him even though he offered her marriage; he just was not her type. She was continuing dating him during the rest of his stay.

So we left the city and headed for the countryside, where we arrived very late but still welcomed by the managers of the agency whose house it was. They knew about the problem so we did not have to explain anything.

The third guy turned out to be very tall and handsome, and so tall and beautiful was his date, Anna. Anna told us he offered her marriage and she wanted to accept his proposal but she asked us for advice - what life in Israel like? Should she accept the proposal or not? I said if she loved the guy then she should accept the proposal, if not - she should not. She said she was not sure if she loved him - liked him, yes, but love is such a serious word. Anna was a medical doctor, a gynecologist. She was 32 and never married. Absolutely stunning blonde, blue eyes, 5'10". Medical doctors
from Russia can easily start practicing in Israel; there are many Russians and Russian qualifications are widely accepted.

All in all, the day was fine, and I enjoyed the outing. But when my guy asked me if we could go out again next week, I said I would be very busy during the week. He understood. Seeing a man unable to make a decision and being so selfish (keeping 3 other people on the sun for 3 hours when they were supposed to enjoy nature and for some of those people this was their only day off in a week!), this would put any woman off. For Russians, it is natural to put concerns and feelings of other people before their own; they are brought up in a community spirit and being selfish is the worst sin.

So those were my 3 dates with men through my marriage agency; it was a helpful experience even though nothing came out of it.

Now, the next meeting was with the South African guy. Preparations for this meeting occupied my mind for months prior to the meeting. I couldn't wait. I couldn't sleep at night thinking what I'd wear and how I would do my hair... You would need to be a woman to understand the torture I experienced. To correspond with a man - an attractive intelligent man! - and know his thoughts, hopes, and beliefs, and feel that the two of us were made for each other and - having never met in person before, can you imagine the flame that was burning inside me?

A man that I have chosen from the very beginning of my search and who had chosen me, was visiting me for the first time! I thought he was perfect. I was certainly placing all my hopes to meet the father of my future children on this meeting. In the beginning of our relationship, I was afraid to put my hopes high but by now, after he had said I was the only woman he communicated with, I was hoping that all those years of my searches for a partner, both in Russia and abroad, were coming to an end.

I was finishing a big promotional project for an important client the day before the Great Date. Advertising material came to an end in the most important promotional places, the supervisor's cars broke down or got stuck in traffic, personnel talked nonsense when the client's representative decided to check up on how we were doing and, of course, the reps then called and yelled at me. In short, a normal
working day in the agency. It seemed I would finish late at night, again. I realized I was going to have a sleepless night trying to make myself look nice - or at least less like a disheveled hedgehog.

The next phone call, in the middle of this crazy day, could only mean more problems. I hated the ringing machine. "Hi," - said Him, "I am here in the hotel. When can we meet?"

I don't remember exactly what I said; my mind was in a haze. All I could say was that I didn't expect Him today that He should only be arriving tomorrow. I repeated like a doll, "But you should arrive only tomorrow". I did not even say I was happy to hear from Him... but I was not!

Apparently feeling very welcomed, he asked again: "OK, I am already here. When you will be able to meet me?" Then he explained that he arrived 5 a.m. but still did not have anything to eat because no one speaks English and there are no English menus at the restaurants close to his hotel. I realized if I wanted to have any chance with this guy, I needed to feed him - and fast; men don't take it well going hungry and this spoils their personality and their feelings towards the people who are responsible for that.

I agreed to meet Him at his hotel in an hour during my lunch break. After I'd hang up, I looked in the mirror and wished I'd said tomorrow, or better still, never. My hair was in a ponytail; very, very plain and obviously a good wash would not hurt it (I had to carry heavy boxes all the morning because of the problems with supervisors, sweating like a horse). Not a trace of make-up (I remembered putting lipstick in the morning but the mirror showed otherwise.)

For a woman that never stepped out of her home without a proper make-up, being bare-faced felt like being naked. I was wearing boots that used to be nice (four years ago); an old T-shirt and faded jeans... looking, quite frankly, seedy.

I could not meet The Man Of My Dreams looking like this!

When things go wrong, they just do; I left my cosmetics purse in a different
handbag. I did not even have a hairbrush with me. I decided I would buy some make-up on my way to the hotel; at least some lipstick and mascara; but I could not make it. I needed to fix too many problems; and I run out of time and had to go straight to the meeting. Certainly, I did not look a bit like the gorgeous girl from my photos.

My most precious relationship was doomed. All the months of expectations would lead to nowhere, once more.

I just wanted to die - NOW! - But there was Him, waiting for me at the hotel and hungry.

I had to compose myself and go save My Dream Man from starving to death.

OK, I said to myself; we are already friends; the worst that can happen we'll stay friends. I was uncertain if He would even want to stay friends with such a dreary person; but I forced myself to think positively.

Minutes after I was parking at the hotel entrance.

There He was - tall, trim and waiting for me.
I recognized him in an instant.

I made an effort and forced myself to step out of the car.

He was a gentleman - He did not give a sign of astonishment. Strange enough, he recognized me, too (I was worried about that). We had lunch at the hotel restaurant - yes, they did not speak any English and all menus were in Russian. At least, now My Dream Man could survive for a few more hours. I promised to fetch Him for supper when I finished work. It was just after 10 pm - crazy day - and I had no time to go home change my clothes! Going to a posh restaurant in jeans, this was something. People simply don't do it in Russia. But off we went, enjoyed our meal and sat there talking until it closed at 3 am. We were the last guests.
After that, we had a wonderful week together and I could wear all my beautiful dresses. :-)

At the end of the week he asked me to visit him in South Africa to see if I like it there. We both felt like we knew each other for a long time (we indeed knew each other for nearly a year!). We really, really liked each other. He was every single bit the man I got to know by letters. Apparently, my plain appearance the first day of our meeting did not scare him, either; and he seemed to be genuinely attracted to me.

This South African guy became my husband. I visited him in South Africa, and absolutely fell in love with the country. It was so beautiful. My first visit was for 10 days; then I went back home and applied for another visa for 3 months; during which we got married.

In retrospective, this was probably my lucky star that made him to make a mistake in his letter to me; he did mix up the dates. For him it did not matter; but if he only knew what torture I came through because of that! Anyway, the fact that I accepted our relationship would fail and that I decided to be a friend, not a date; this was probably the key to our success. I relaxed and let myself just to be me; without trying to impress. I believe it is extremely important in meetings through a long-distance relationship, to allow you to be yourself. I was forced to it. Who knows what would happen if I arrived all brushed up and gorgeous to the airport to meet him, trying to be my best. The fact that he had to find a ride to the hotel in an unknown city where people did not speak his language, the inability to buy food for himself, made me kind of a savior and my casual appearance separated me from smart-dressed Russians and made him feel "at home" in my company. What I thought was a disaster, turned to be my lucky break. Things are not always what they seem to be!

By the way, when I asked him when he fell in love with me, he answered: "On the very first day we met. You were so confident and calm. And VERY beautiful". Not much else to say about that!
Part 1: What You Must Know Before Starting Your Search

While you are searching, I want you to understand and remember a few fundamental truths about Russian women seeking husbands.

**Remembering these simple truths will save you from gold-diggers of all types and at the same time will attract to you quality, decent, sincere, honest women.**

You might feel that the truths I am talking about are not universally applicable. You might have heard some things that contradict what I am about to say.

Please don't allow yourself to be affected by Media brainwashing. You might have read some horror stories about Russian brides - forget them. No, I am not telling that those stories are not true - but you have not been told the WHOLE truth. Journalists themselves admit, *"The first law of journalistic is that every story has to have an angle"*. What they mean is that facts in each story are specially combined to reflect a certain viewpoint of the phenomenon. And you can be sure that mass media will never promote a positive image of marrying foreigners instead of marrying a local person.

Ask any woman you know if she thinks it is a good idea for American (Australian, English, German, French etc) men to seek and marry foreign women. Listen to their answers. Now, you understand what half of the population will think if mass Media promoted foreign brides. So don't expect the Media will ever publish "happily ever after" fairy-tales about men married to Russian women. Marriage agencies are full of such stories but you will not see them in your regular morning show.

Another thing to remember is that these truths are not applicable to gold-diggers - but I don't think you are looking for a gold-digger, are you? 😊

These truths are about HONEST, SINCERE WOMEN. If you believe in these truths and make them your attitude, then honest, sincere women will be attracted to you unconditionally. If you do not, you will not be able to attract decent, quality women of any nationality. That's it.

So here are **The 7 Truths You Must ALWAYS Remember About Russian Women**, or your search is doomed:

**Truth 1. Russian women seek compatible partners.**

They do not seek men abroad because they want to get out of Russia or because they search a better life. This is a common misconception and it will get you nowhere if you want to find a sincere and loving relationship with a Russian girl.

Just because you live in a country with higher life standards, it does not necessarily
mean that it is your country that will make you attractive to Russian women. Russian women are getting married to men from Bulgaria, Hungary, Philippines, and many other countries where life standards are similar to Russia.

Personally, I have chosen a man from South Africa because I thought he was the most suitable partner for me and not because I thought South Africa was the best place on the Earth. If I had been looking for a country, I had admirers from the USA, England, Australia, France, Germany, even Monaco and Japan! If you seek a girl like me, don't question her intentions in search for a foreign husband. She is looking for her One And Only.

The truth is Russian women seek abroad for marriage because there is a huge demographic discrepancy between the number of men and women. There are only 88 men for every 100 women in Russia and slightly less in the Ukraine. With this imbalance, if ladies only seek locally, some women would be destined to be single for life. But with the invention of and ACCESS to the Internet, they have hope. They can seek globally where there is not such an imbalance. And they DO seek a partner, NOT the country.

**Truth 2. Russian women are intelligent, educated and feminine.**

Yes, they do combine all these qualities in one very attractive package! I believe since you are reading this book, you will be going to Russia one day. You will be able to see it all with your own eyes. It's a nice picture to see and very refreshing compared to western realities.

Russian people in general are intelligent. They read a lot and the school programs are more complex and intensive than in the west. When Russian kids move from a Russian school to a western school, they often complain they have already studied the things they are taught in western schools of the next grade level. While communicating with Russian people, westerners can see their intelligence even if Russians speak imperfect English. The deepness of their thinking and knowledge often surprises western people that don't know much about Russia other than this is a cold country with a struggling economy. One Russian woman that married an
American, said her husband’s family was very surprised to get to know her: "Russian, and so intelligent!"

Most Russian women seeking partners abroad hold college or university degrees. Just browse Russian dating sites and you will see how many of them are accountants, engineers, medical doctors, teachers and managers. I have even come across one dating directory created by an [American] woman in the form of reviews on dating sites, where she joked “but anyway, all those Russian women are engineers, medical doctors and managers, right?” Right! And they worked as hard on receiving their degrees as people in the west do.

It might seem unbelievable for a western country to have so many people holding advanced degrees, but in Russia it is normal for young people to go to college or university after graduating from high school, and it is NOT normal to graduate from high school and immediately start working. Education is free in Russia and anyone who desires a degree can get one... or two... Yes, there are also private educational institutes developing but diplomas of state universities and colleges are still valued the most and are considered the most prestigious in Russia. And anyone with desire and average abilities is capable of getting through the entrance exams and enrolling at state college. Also, in Russia there is no such a thing as studying for 1, 2 or 3 years through tertiary education. They have to study for 4 years to earn a degree or they will not receive any qualification; there is no equivalent to an "associate degree". This is how the Russian system of education was designed during Soviet times and this is the way it still works now, making young people committed to completing advanced degrees.

Even though they are intelligent and educated, Russian women are very feminine. As one Australian man said about his visit to Russia:

"The women were nearly all more beautiful than in Australia and [in] appearance and character, there is no confusion between who the man and woman are. Sometimes here [in Australia] I have to look twice; they walk and talk like men."
Russian women appear happy to be women. They dress femininely and elegantly, and are extremely fashion conscious. You will never, and I mean NEVER, meet in Russia a woman in baggy shorts, formless T-shirt and running shoes walking on a street or in a supermarket. If she is in shorts and a T-shirt, it will be something like this:

This sexy appearance is nothing special in Russia. Women there enjoy looking sexy and it does not mean the woman is "easy" or low-class. They just enjoy looking their best!

Russian women have lady-like manners. They are soft-spoken and polite. They enjoy men's attention, and do not consider it sexist. A Russian woman enjoys being treated like a lady.

**Truth 3. Russian women make marriage their first priority.**

In Russia, the cultural values of a woman are to get married and take care of home and children. She will most likely continue working to contribute to family budget but the vast majority of Russian women will be happy to sacrifice their careers to get married to the right man. This is why they are ready to leave their careers, their family and their friends behind and marry a foreign man - NOT because they are desperate to get out of Russia.
An unmarried woman in Russia cannot be considered successful. She will feel less successful than any of her married friends with children.

Marriage is very, very important for Russian women - make no mistake about it. In some sense, marriage is Russian women's career.

Truth 4. Russian women enjoy working.

This might sound like a contradiction to the previous truth; but in fact, it is not. Russian women do want to work and very few women would like to be housewives and stay at home for rest of their lives. The women who say they would prefer not to work after marriage most likely never had a chance to taste such life in Russia, so when they arrive in the west and have their dreams come true, they become unhappy after a few months of staying at home and want to find a job - any job.

I know a girl who was saying before her marriage to an American, "I am not getting married to ever work again!" - and in 6 months after her marriage she was working. She did not have to work; it is just she could not stand staying at home on her own all the time; she was used to working!

In Russia, being a housewife is a luxury; most families cannot survive on a single income. Women who can afford not to work are rare and they belong to "high class". They spend their days at beauty saloons, gyms, and swimming pools; visiting their
high-class girlfriends and eating out at expensive restaurants; going to boutiques and shopping for clothes; at the end of the day probably buying some fresh meat at grocery store and going home to empty house to cook. They don't spend their days tidying up their homes - most of them have maids and they seldom look after their own kids - they have nannies or send kids to private kindergartens and schools. This is the life of a Russian housewife. This is what Russian women call "not working".

Also, husbands of such women usually have multiple mistresses that they change often and attend functions with those mistresses rather than their wives. In Russia, influential men are supposed to have mistresses and attend functions with them. It is like having an expensive car for an executive.

Who would be looking for such a life? Only a lazy, idle person would want this. An active, hardworking person would start doing something even if her husband was making lots of money. If an unmarried woman states her occupation as "housewife", this should ring a bell for you. Either she is incapable of taking care of herself (even in the cities with high unemployment an active person will find some work) or she prefers to parasite off another - probably her ex-husband or her parents. If you are happy with this type of the person, that's fine - go for it. (It is not a girl like me though.)

Most Russian women seeking men abroad would like to work part-time; so they can have their own money (they don't feel comfortable being completely dependent on their husbands) and also to have some social life, which in the beginning is very limited because she does not have friends and family in her new country.

So as long as the woman was working in Russia, you can assume she will want to work in her new country. Her career will never be her first priority but she feels more comfortable having a job (even if only part-time) than being a full-time housewife. A Russian wife will be most delighted to help you in your business, if you have your own business. Charity or communal work would do too.

You cannot expect a woman with a university degree, who is used to working, to only look after children and home. She will not be happy with that.

**Truth 5. Russian women are not interested in your appearance but your good heart.**

Appearance is of very little importance for Russian women. They don't look for good-looking guys. They look for guys who are decent. This is what is important. They seek guys that are stable, honest, trustworthy and kind. They will forgive you a few extra pounds but will never forgive cruelty to animals or being inconsiderate to children or the elderly, or being rude and arrogant.
Russian women are not interested in your appearance but your good heart

Truth 6. Russian women seek equal partnership.

Russian women seek to be considered as equals and to be respected. They have had enough of male chauvinism in Russia and the respectful position of western men towards women is one of the things why Russian women favor western men.

Russian women are not submissive. They will not be happy being unfairly treated and since they are very intelligent, such a marriage will seldom survive. This happens when a man hopes to find a "mail order bride" and thinks she should be happy and grateful to him for the rest of their lives together just because he provided a means for her to escape poverty and hardship. Such perceptions have no grounds and can only lead the marriage to failure.

Real poverty and hardship is no longer present in most of Russia. Moreover, many women that seek partners abroad are successful and advanced, according to Russian standards. This means they can afford visiting beauty salons 1-2 times a week, attending live performances monthly, buying bestseller books, latest fashion, and Italian shoes. Yes, they handle those expenses on their budgets of $100-200 a month; it's easily done. While salaries are much lower in Russia, the cost of living and prices are proportionally lower. It is a mistake to think a person should be starving on a salary of $100-200 a month. $100 make 3,000 rubles!
Russians own their homes (during Soviet times, homes were given to people for free) so there is no rent or mortgage. Medical aid is free in Russia. Education is free. Public transport is effective and cheap. They don't have to pay social security and pension fund; their employer pays. Taxes in Russia are flat 12%, and when they talk about salaries, they talk about tax-free money. Food is cheap. Basically, if a woman earns 3,000 rubles a month, she can spend as much as 2,000 rubles on anything she wants: clothes, entertainment, etc. If she lives with her parents, they will provide accommodation and food free for her (that's normal) and she can spend all her salary on herself.

In Russia, a woman with the average salary is capable of affording such expenses that a woman earning US $3,000 in the USA will struggle to afford. They don't lead a life of a rat in a cage. They live fulfilling, interesting lives, but they need a man in their lives to feel completely happy. That's it.

**Truth 7. Russian women seek men that are leaders and will become the family's providers and protectors.**

Even though Russian women seek equal partnership, they don't believe in equal roles for men and women. They believe that men and women are equal but different. A man should be the family's provider and protector; the woman should "keep the home fire burning". These are the roles of a man and a woman in the family that Russian women will be happy with.

Russian women like men that are assertive. They don't want men that are unsure what to do next or prefer their women to make choices for them. They want men who know what they want and how to get it. They would prefer to have only one option ("Dear, I booked dinner at Marriott at 7 tonight, is it OK?") than having too many options to choose from ("Dear, where and when would you like to go out?"). If you meet in a city new to both of you, she will expect YOU to find out about the sights and suggest a plan for the day, tomorrow, etc. (Don't worry; if she has something particular in mind, she will let you know!) Russian women believe that woman's expertise is "kitchen, children and creating home coziness" - the rest is up to you, The Man.
**Summing it up:** If you want to find a quality Russian woman, you should remember these 7 truths and forget any "mail order brides" nonsense you may have heard. Sincere, honest, and decent Russian women will show all the traits discussed above. If you wholeheartedly accept and believe in these 7 truths, it will be easy for you to attract them.
Part 2: How To Start

First of all, you must decide why do you want to find a wife. Yes, that's right - not why do you want a "Russian wife" but why do you want to have a wife at all.

This will instantly give you answers to the question who you should be looking for.

If you want to find a wife who will share your interest in mountain climbing, then you know you need to look for a mountain climber. If vice versa, you have never been doing any sports, meeting a sportswoman is not for you.

Create a portrait of your ideal woman - her personal traits and qualities, her interests, her educational level, her expectations about marriage and the roles of husband and wife in the marriage, desire for children and expectations about the lifestyle.

If you are a reserved introvert, you will not feel comfortable in a marriage with an outgoing extravert. If you are practical (believe that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush), you will not feel comfortable with a dreamer who prefers to aim higher. If you are an avid diver, you will want somebody who enjoys diving too, or at least would be interested in learning how to dive and is not afraid of water.

Sounds as it goes without saying? You will be surprised how many men NEVER create a portrait of their dream woman in their minds - leave alone get it in writing.

So many men fall in love with a pretty picture on the Internet, then became emotionally attached to a wrong person, and then discover they are different people and their goals and expectations in life do not correspond.

According to the latest research, successful couples with enduring marriages have
many things in common; the more the better. It is a myth that opposites are 
complimenting each other and the pair of opposites will combine each other's 
strengths. They might find each other attractive and exciting for a while but they will 
struggle to build an enduring marriage.

When a person who is dominating pairs with a person who is submissive, it is a sure 
recipe for disaster.

If one person has a habit of avoiding discussion of problems and just "getting over it"
and the other person believes the problems should be immediately discussed and 
solved, it will be very difficult for them to exist under the same roof. The way one 
person acts will make the other person unhappy time after time - all the time.

People must act similar in similar situations and have similar attitudes in life. They 
must be on the same "wave length". The best is when the other person says 
something and you feel it is exactly the way you think. There is nothing wrong to 
look for somebody who will compliment you in certain fields - but you must have 
enough things in common that will cement your marriage.

In real life, very seldom people think about those things when they get married. 
Now you are looking for a life partner on the Internet - you are in a 
privileged position to let your mind to take the lead as opposite to 
something else (would it be in your chest or pants).

Take a sheet of paper and write down all the qualities you would like to see in your 
future wife. Then sort them out to the columns "desirable" and "mandatory".

Don't postpone - stop reading and do it NOW!

It is really important, even if it may sound superficial at first.

Done? Great. Keep those lists - you will add to them later, as your search 
progresses. From time to time, revise those lists; for example, make it your rule to 
check on those lists once a week. This alone will progress your search farther than 
90% of other men ever get.

Tell yourself that you will never compromise on "mandatory" qualities and will look 
for a woman that has lots of "desirable" qualities. Put the sheet of paper on the wall 
close to your computer. Repeat it to yourself as a mantra.
The thing is, **we always find what we are looking for.** Once you know exactly what you are looking for, searching becomes so much easier. You can see straight away if this person is right or wrong for you.

If you cannot give an answer to this question about certain persons, ask them in the very first letter about the things that are important for you. This way you get all the records straight from the beginning.

Write the qualities that you DON'T want in your future mate on another list. Add them as "no-qualities" to your "desirable" and "mandatory" lists. You must not only know what kind of person you are looking for but also what kind of person you are "NOT" looking for, to make a judgment call.

You definitely know many wonderful people of the opposite gender that you would never consider marrying. Some women you see on the Internet may be very beautiful but they are not right for you and you will not be happy if you marry them. Decide from the beginning what qualities will be "no-no" and what you can still live with, as long as other qualities fit your requirements. But the fewer things you choose to tolerate, the better.

With my advice, you will be able to attract nearly any woman. So make sure you took time to figure out what women will be wrong for you, otherwise this book might make you a disservice: you use its knock-out techniques to just pair yourself with somebody who is not right for you.

Don't do it!

Marriage is not only about love and romance; marriage is also about raising kids, daily chores, arguments, and solving problems together.

Remember, appearance will change but personality will stay. Marry a person not the looks.

This is what Olga, 29, a Russian woman who met her husband over the Internet, said about creating a portrait of your dream mate:

"I was divorced for two years, then read an ad about a marriage agency that was
placing data of single people on the Internet. For a fee they placed my profile on two websites. I started receiving 20 letters a day. Many letters were from foreigners. It is only then that I thought, "Why not? Probably I can find a husband abroad." I started a few correspondences but they all ended in vain. It is only then that I found myself thinking what type of man I would like to see by my side. I started a list and put there qualities that I would like to see in my future husband and also the qualities that I would like to develop in myself. ... **I have found exactly the man I was looking for, not more, not less.** He has all the qualities that were written in my list. Be careful when writing this list. For example, I forgot to add some romantics. I thought I would rather meet a guy who was practical than romantic. And he does not have any romantics in him. Now, we have two practical people together, and sometimes it gets a bit boring... But it also means we have something to work on! :-)"

Be very particular when creating the profile of your dream woman. You might get exactly what you are looking for - not more, not less!

**Summing it up:** Write a list of qualities you want and don't want in your future mate. You can find exactly the type of person you are looking for. Make sure you really want to marry such a person.
Part 3: What Russian women want?

You know what type of woman you are looking for; now it's time to understand what those women want. Can you give them what they are looking for?

We have touched on this subject in the chapter "Before starting your search" ("7 truths"); let's take a closer look on those matters.

The In short of Russian women desires will be: a worthy man for marriage.

Yes, it's that simple. You must be (1) worthy and you must be (2) seeking marriage.

What kind of man Russian women consider "worthy"?

If you still remember the 7 truths (you must! - memorize those things and use them every time you need to make a judgment call), Russian women seek compatible partners, men that will become family providers and protectors, men who are leaders.

Basically, any man that has a stable job can find a nice woman in Russia. There are just so many single women, and only limited number of foreign men seek partners there. Any man can be somebody's dream partner.

The only type of men that Russian women are NOT seeking for are drunks. Alcohol abuse is rampant in Russia and women are tired of this type of men. In Russia, a man who does not abuse alcohol and is a social drinker will say about himself "I don't drink". It means he does not drink TOO MUCH, not that he is a teetotaler. This
is what women mean when they say they seek men that "don't drink". They mean, "don't drink too much". What is too much? A bottle of vodka with friends once a week is too much. A bottle of wine with your wife Saturday afternoon is OK. It is not only how much you drink but who do you drink it with. In short, coming back home drunk more than once in a long while will not be very welcomed.

Will a Russian woman consider a man "worthy" if he does not have six-figure income? It depends. Most women don't care much for your income, as long as you are capable to provide for a family of 3 (this is their idea of "financially secure"), but there are some girls that aim high. Don't worry if your income is average. There are enough beautiful women for every man who has enough guts to look for a wife in Russia. If you come across somebody who thinks you are too poor for her, forget about her: there are thousands other women that don't place their highest value on money; and anyway, do you really want somebody who is looking for a moneybag? Let her find one - everybody gets what she or he is looking for! As the saying goes, being a slave of money is the worst form of slavery.

There are lots of men in Russia with six-figure dollar income that a decent, quality woman will not consider marrying. Most Russian people with lots of money did not earn them honestly because it is very difficult in Russia to be successful without compromising with the law. Russian women's dream is a man who has a stable job in a good company or is an owner of a small business. They are too afraid of men who have lots of money. Such people in Russia rarely possess the personal qualities they are looking for.

What personal qualities Russian women are looking for? All women would like to meet men that are intelligent, educated, kind, reliable, decent, honest, good looking, physically fit, interested in sport, love children and animals, even tempered, financially secure, generous, caring, attentive, and have a good sense of humor. They also favor men that are well read and well traveled. (Generally, this is what ANY woman, of any nationality wants!)

All Russian women dislike men that are: dishonest, uneducated, mean, unreliable, unfaithful, hypocritical, obese, lazy, broke, untidy, selfish, abusive, greedy, stingy, and have bad tempers. (And ANY woman of any nationality does not want such men!)
But this is obvious. We all have both positive and negative qualities: sometimes we are generous, sometimes stingy; sometimes caring, sometimes selfish; sometimes reliable, sometimes not.

The truth is:
**How the people perceive you is how you show yourself in your relationship with them.**

Any person has virtues and faults, and any person deserves to be loved just the way he is: you definitely have some people that love you for you, your parents, siblings, kids, and best friends. You don't need to invent non-existent virtues to attract a quality Russian woman. **Honesty, integrity, a good heart, and respectful and caring attitude towards her - that's ALL that you need to attract her attention!** You don't need to try to be somebody you are not. You also don't need to try to please everybody - just be yourself. **But be the best of all yourselves.**

Any quality can be presented in a positive way. For example, if you are shy, you can say that you are not the type of person that always strives to be the center of attention and you prefer to get to know people closer before you open up to them. If you don't have much money, you can say that you are financially stable and hardworking but by no means rich. If you are stubborn, you can say you are very persistent and know exactly what you want. Got the idea? Every cloud has its silver lining.

If you believe that no woman will love you for what you are, you will try to be something you are not, and the woman will fall in love with this imaginary person - **but she has to live with YOU.** What will happen when she is married to you and discovers you are not what you said you were? This will lead to her disappointment and can shatter your marriage. Remember, women fall in love with the PERSON, not a picture.

Don't think a woman will fall for you because of your country - there are millions of single men in your country and some of them will be writing to her, too. All of them
also live at the same country and it is only your personality that will make her choose you instead of another guy.

**Realize once and forever: you can find in Russia a decent, honest, and beautiful woman that will love you for you. YOU CAN DO IT.**

Start your search from this position, and you will never fail. Even if something does not seem to work, analyze the reasons and correct mistakes. **Don't TRY to find your dream woman. You CAN do it, so JUST DO IT.**

Ban the word "try" from your vocabulary. Forbid using the phrase "I will TRY my best" and use instead "I will DO my best". Decide what you want, check if it's realistic (we will talk more what is realistic in your search and what is not in the Chapter 5: How To Choose The Right Woman), and if you believe it is, then make a plan and just go and do it. Many people did it before you, are doing it now, and you can do it, too.

**Summing it up:** Any man that has a stable job and is marriage-minded can find a nice lady in Russia that will be happy to be with him.
Part 4: Do you need an agency?

Most men start with browsing databases of agencies. There are thousands of websites introducing Russian women, and it is not always easy to decide where to search.

Large personals sites where anyone is invited to place a free ad are good for meeting local people but they won't be of much help if you want to meet a quality Russian woman. Those sites are misused by various types of scam artists, from non-existing agencies asking money for correspondence or translations, to non-existing girls that fall in love with you after a couple of letters and then ask money for visas and tickets.

(You can read more about scams and scammers in my other book, "Anti-Scam Guide".)

For the purposes of this book, let me just say that large personals where anyone is invited to place a free ad are more prone to scams, since they do not screen their members and many ads are bogus. Personals sites do not give you any contact details of the women; they only forward your email to her. I would not recommend using large personals if your goal is to meet a quality Russian woman.

The easiest way of meeting quality Russian women is through specialized Russian dating agencies. They have thousands profiles that have been screened and addresses verified. They advertise aggressively in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union and most women who have just started their search, sign up with these agencies. Specialized Russian dating agencies supply their members with addresses of featured ladies. Many agencies also supply phone numbers and email addresses, in addition to postal addresses (for example, Elena's Models http://www.elenasmodels.com).

Do you really need a postal address and phone number of a woman? Why not correspond via email, since it is the most convenient way of communication? Yes, email is the most convenient way and Yes, phone numbers and postal addresses are of great help in developing deep relationship with a Russian woman. Most women in Russia still don't own computers and access their email at work or Internet café. If
your intentions are not just to chat with somebody via email but develop real relationship and eventually marry the woman of your dreams, you will need to use regular mail and phone in your communication with Russian ladies. This is why I recommend using specialized Russian dating agencies as opposite to other means of search.

Using an agency has many advantages. Usually an agency will have a facility to search their database by multiple parameters and you can only view the data of women who meet your requirements. For example, in our agency Elena’s Models (http://www.elenasmodels.com) we have the following search parameters available: age, height, weight, hair color, hair length, eye color, marital status, presence of children, education, knowledge of foreign languages (English, German, French), and date of publication. You can also include your own age and race and view only profiles of ladies whose requirements you meet.

Using a specialized Russian dating agency also has the advantage that all featured women will be looking for a marriage partner abroad and ready to relocate if find a suitable partner. If you use large personals, you cannot always be sure that women are interested in meeting somebody for marriage and will consider moving abroad.

In specialized Russian agencies, ALL women seek a partner for marriage and they are ready to move to his country.

Why use an agency? Cannot you just go to Russia and meet women there? Some men think it is a great idea and will save them thousands in fees to agencies. In reality, this way it will cost you MUCH more, with lower probability of success.
Let me explain why. **Most Russian women will never consider leaving their country and moving abroad.** Even though the agencies have thousands profiles in their databases, it is not more than 0.1% of the number of single women in Russia (or 1 woman in 1000) that chose this way of meeting a partner. All others don't think about meeting a partner for marriage from another country. How many women you normally can expect to meet "in a natural way" and date in 2-4 weeks? Let's say, you will have great success with women and manage to meet and date 20 girls. Then your chance to meet a woman who is interested in marrying a foreigner is 2%, or 1/50. **It means, in 49 cases out of 50 this approach will fail.**

Specialized Russian dating agencies are specifically designed for people who seek international relationships and cater for their needs. The agencies know a lot about the process and will be able to offer you help you with visas, travel arrangements, etc.

Most sources estimate the costs of meeting and bringing your Russian bride to your country as $7,000-10,000, and most part of it are the costs of tickets, accommodation, visa application fees, etc. Comparing to those costs, agencies' fees are negligible.

From this point of view, it does not look prudent to go to Russia without any contacts and search for women there, with such a low probability of success. If all you want is to meet and date beautiful women, then it can do; of course you must not be shy with women to accomplish that. But **if you want to meet somebody who seeks serious relationships leading to marriage AND ready to relocate to your country, then it makes much more sense to develop contacts via agencies first.**

How to choose an agency?
Choose an agency that is recommended by many sources. If the agency were bad, people who recommend it would constantly receive complaints and soon remove it from their list of recommended websites. There was one famous Russian dating agency that was once on all the recommended lists. Then they decided to change their policies in order to make more money, and the new system happened to be prone to abuse and scams. In less than a year all places removed their recommendations about that website, and now you will seldom find a link to this agency on reputable dating sites. On the Internet, good or bad fame spreads around like a fire.

If you know some agency that you would like to join, put their name in the search engine like www.google.com and see what pops up. This way you will receive an unbiased opinion of the Internet community in an instant.

As a rule, a good agency will be able to accept payments by credit card, provide references, and have their business address and phone number listed on the website. I strongly recommend western-based agencies rather than local based; because with western agencies you always have the law on your side to ensure they use honest business practices. With Russian-based agencies, you don't have this advantage.

With local Russian agencies, you never know how good they are. There are thousands dating agencies appear each year and the same amounts vanish into thin air. Best Russian-based agencies already offer processing of credit cards; without that, it is difficult to survive doing business on the Internet. So accepting credit cards is a must for a dating service; it is your safety net. Even FBI (http://www1.ifccfbi.gov/) insists that the safest way of shopping on the Internet is to pay by credit card.

**How the agencies work:** some agencies sell addresses of women, some require membership, others combine the two options. An average price per address is about $10. Membership options vary from site to site. When selecting a membership option, divide the membership fee on the number of women that are members of the site, and multiply the number by the months of access, then compare the figures.

For example, Elena’s Models (http://www.elenasmodels.com) offers three levels of membership: silver, gold and platinum. With silver membership, one address will cost you $10. With gold membership, one address will cost you from $2 (you can order 10-50 addresses for one-time fee of $95). With platinum membership, you can order unlimited number of addresses, plus this option gives you some extra services, such as premium listing in the gentlemen's catalog and subscription to the weekly catalog featuring all new members of Elena’s Models. (Weekly catalog can be also ordered separately, for one-time fee of $95, and there one address will cost you only $0.10). For people who don't have time to do all the seeking themselves, we also offer the option of Individual Search - personalized matchmaking for busy professionals.

So, as you can see, there are many different options to suit any pocket.

Some agencies also offer placing your own profile for Russian women to respond. It is a wonderful way to meet women that are already interested in you. On Elena's Models, we have many marriages originated this way.
I would recommend avoiding placing profiles for free, where you will be expected to pay for each letter received and sent. The reason for that is purely economical: how many letters you expect to send and receive to find your One And Only? If you were to exchange only 10 letters with only one woman, such agencies would charge you $6-8 per letter. It is $120-160 for exchanging 10 letters!

Also, agencies with "free" listings often share profits from forwarding men's letters with their affiliated agencies, which opens room for abuse - some affiliates send letters to men that girls themselves did not write, just to get the commissions for each letter a man opens. Once your "free" profile is published, you can receive dozens of letters from the agency's most popular girls - the reason is that affiliates know which girls are the most popular and send form letters "from the girls" knowing that men will not be able to resist opening them - and paying for that, so commissions guaranteed!

Agencies with "free" listings also remove addresses, phone numbers and email addresses from the letters - they don't want to lose business of forwarding your letters! After a while, it becomes quite frustrating to don't have any other way as paying $$$ to the agency for sending each letter. I have heard from men that spent $600-800 with "free" listings that did not give them a single real contact.

You will be in a much better of paying for placing a profile and then receiving and sending letters free of charge. For example, on Elena's Models (http://www.elenasmodels.com/services/listings.htm) we offer placing men's profiles with the widest distribution that will cost you only $129. You only pay once when place your profile, and we even give money-back guarantee! Compare that with the real costs of "free" profiles.

Of course, before becoming a member of some agency, you will browse their database to see if there are some women that you would like to contact. Make sure the agency has requirements to a potential partner listed in women's profiles. Some unscrupulous agencies may list women's profiles without mentioning their requirements to a potential partner. As you know, all women seek COMPATIBLE partners, and women's requirements to her potential mate should give you an indication if you are close to what she is looking for. No woman will accept just anybody. It is important that the agency you are going to join lets women list their requirements.

Regarding "free" offers, as the saying goes, you always receive what you are paying for. Another saying is that free cheese is only in a mousetrap. Just think: Why those people do it for free? I can assure you they are not doing it because of their love to humanity or to you personally. They are doing it for their own benefit. Try to understand: Where is this benefit? How this free offer will turn out in the future? Where they are making money, at the end of the day?
Try to understand: Where they are making money?

As a rule of thumb, free services at the end cost more: more in unexpected fees, or time and effort spent in vain. The same result you will get much faster and hassle-free with paid services. The main reason for men using free services is that they are unsure if something will ever get out of it, so they think "Let me try this free offer and then see what happens". Then what happens, comes up some kind of a bait and the men have to pay - and so attractive is the bait that they cannot resist! You know by now that any normal man can find a beautiful sincere woman for serious relationship in Russia. So there is no sense in using "free" services. Use the ones that offer high quality and are effective!

**Summing it up:** A dating agency may have significant influence on your success or failure in your search for your dream woman. Choose it wisely.
Part 5: How To Choose The Right Woman

You already have your list of requirements ("desirable" and "mandatory", including positive and negative characteristics); this will be your guidance.

When browsing agency’s profiles, you will see many beautiful women. Some of them may not have clear answers to your "mandatory" questions listed in their profiles. Should you write to them? Certainly! Write to them and ask about the things that are important for you.

As we discussed earlier, the fees you are paying to agencies to access women’s contact info are negligible. Since you are looking for your dream woman - Your One And Only, The Love Of Your Life - you must decide from the beginning how much this is worth for you.

Remember, you are not just looking to write a letter - you are looking for a partner for life, a relationship that will eventually change your whole life for the better. Assign this important task the value it deserves.

Look what qualities women list in their requirements. Do you possess all of them? Most of them? Some of them? Surely, YES! It means, you can write to this woman. Of course, if she is 25 and is looking for somebody 30 to 45, and you are 65, this is not a good idea. Even if things for you and her work out, such age difference is too big to ensure a strong marriage. Even if in the beginning she thinks the age difference is nothing; once she moved to your country, things will change. Even strong feelings may bleak under pressure from society.

Even if things work out, such age difference is too big to ensure a strong marriage.
What age difference is acceptable?

**Most women will not have any problem with age difference up to 10 years.** The age difference of 10 years and less is safe, and such marriages have the best chance to survive. Even with some discrepancies in personalities and interests, these marriages work out.

**Many women will accept age difference up to 15 years.** This age difference is still fine, but having common values becomes very important. You need to have the same personality type and share the core values.

**Very few women will accept age difference up to 20 years.** Here you need to have something special about you and many things in common that will cement your marriage. If you plan on having a mutual child soon, this may work.

**In unique cases, if you are a famous personality or businessman, you can get away with age difference of over 20 years** - in life of rich and famous it's not unusual. These marriages can be very exciting and happy; how long they will last is another question. But as the saying goes, it is already a blessing to be happy for a few years of your life!

Also, bear in mind that **young women under 30 will prefer their partners to be somewhat older, at least 2-5 years older.** It means that if you are younger than her, or her age, you will have less chances to attract her attention than the guy who is older.

**Women 30-40 don’t mind partners of their own age** but still don’t feel secure with younger men.

**Women over 40 would not mind to meet somebody younger;** if a man is older, they prefer him to be as close to her age as possible.

Take the information above as your guidance in regard to age difference, NOT what women wrote in their profiles. Why? Most women don’t have their lists of requirements compiled in the way we discussed. They write their requirements empirically, thinking about them for about 30 seconds when filling out an online form. It is likely a woman will accept somebody who is older or younger than her specified age limits, if he really fits her other requirements; and even if he does not fit all requirements (some of them may be just wishful thinking)!

For example, being 25 years old, a woman may state she is seeking somebody 30-45; you should realize her goal age will be 30-35, may be up to 40, and men 40-45 will be considered only if there is something special about them (they are very good looking; or very rich; have a great body; are [or used to be] famous - for example, a former Olympic champion, etc).

Another example, the same 25-year-old woman states she is looking for a man 25-35. You can still attract her attention if you are 39, and you may be more successful in that than the guy who is 25, because young women prefer older partners. A girl of 25 years old will most likely reject the guy who is 23.

Let's take another woman, who is 42, and states she is looking for a man 40-55. She
will prefer a man who is 40 to a man who is 55. She is likely to accept a man who is 38 but may reject a guy who is 57, because women over 40 prefer their partners to be of close age or younger.

Regarding other women's requirements, a requirement such as "a tall brunette with broad shoulders" is likely to be a wishful thinking, and a woman will not have a problem if you are not as tall, or don't have really broad shoulders, or if you happen to have brown hair. If she says "non-smoker" and you smoke, she might still accept you. But she will not accept you if you drink too much, even if she does not specify it in her requirements to a partner.

If she is seeking a man who is kind and you are unsure if you are, think about it in the way that she is looking for a man who will be kind to her - are you going to be kind to her? If yes, then she is looking for you. If she is seeking a man who loves children, it means she wants a man who will love her children. Personal qualities that women describe are not requirements made of stone; in the marriage it will be more important for your personality types to be compatible than to have particular characteristics.

Regarding education; most women will prefer a man who has the same education as her. A woman with university degree will want a man who has a college degree as well. Intellectual compatibility plays an important role in the marriage, and it is prudent to choose a partner of similar intellectual level. Many women will compromise on education but it can make you a disservice in the future, as this is likely to affect stability of your marriage.

Some women specify geographical region of their interest. If a woman says she is looking for a man "from the USA, Europe or Australia", she is likely to accept a man from Canada and New Zealand as well, and in many cases, if he is the right man, she will accept men from other developed countries or citizens of developed countries that reside temporarily or permanently in the countries of third world. But if she says "from England", there are must be reasons for such a request and she is less likely to compromise on that.

If a woman states that she seeks a man who is "physically fit" or "sporty/sportive" (means the same as 'physically fit'), she will not compromise on that requirement if she is doing sports herself, and will compromise if she is not.
"Good looking" is not the requirement you meet often in women's profiles (remember **Truth 5: Russian women are not interested in your appearance but your good heart**), but if you see such a requirement, than it is rather a wishful thinking. A Russian saying goes that "A man should be a bit more attractive than a monkey"; if you are more attractive than a monkey, than don't let "good looking" intimidate you. If you look good on your photos (which means, neat and tidy, friendly and stable), then you will pass as "good looking".

![Russian saying goes that]

"Financially secure" is another requirement that you will see fairly often; this means you must be able to provide for a family of 3. There is nothing wrong with this requirement; basically any man who has a stable job will pass. But if she says, "rich", then take it seriously: she is indeed looking for somebody rich. If you are not rich, don't bother. Even if you are, proceed with caution as this type of people are sure gold diggers and once she moved to your country, she may keep looking for gold.

Another confusing requirement may be "generous". In Russian, this word means a person who is helpful, open and not stingy - the generosity of the soul is as important as the ability to part with money with a smile. "Generous" does not mean the woman expects you to give her money. The correct word would be "supportive"; this word is closer to the actual meaning of the Russian word "generous".

Another important moment is that Russian word "family" actually means "marriage". If you see in woman's profile that she wants "to create a family", it means she seeks a man for marriage and not for a short-term fling - NOT that she wants children. Two people that are married are already considered as a "family" in Russia. If she wants children, she will say that she wants to have children. "Create a family" may look quite weird in profiles of women over 40; now you know what they mean.

But you also need to remember that all Russian women of childbearing age (18-35) **want to have children in a marriage**, and most of them will want to have a child as soon as possible, especially childless women 27+. Childless women 30+ are crazy about having a child as soon as possible and may be willing to compromise heavily on other requirements if you promise her a child soon after the marriage. You should not hope to meet a childless woman 18-35 who will agree to never have children. Since I started to work in Russian dating in 1999, I came across only 2
women of childbearing age that said they don't want children in a marriage; both because they had a medical condition where having a child would be dangerous for their life. If you want to marry a childless woman of childbearing age, be prepared that she will want a child.

If you want to marry a childless woman of childbearing age, be prepared that she will want a child

Women who already have children are usually open in the question of having more children: if her new husband wants his own child, she will be happy to give it to him; if her new husband does not want children, she will be happy with that, too. Still, there are some women that have children and expressly want another child in a new marriage, or expressly do not want any kids. They may or may not state it in their profiles.

Women that don't have children will prefer men without children or where children live separately with their mother full-time. Women that have their own children will be more willing to accept your children.

Women with children usually have fewer requirements to a prospective partner than childless women and they are ready to compromise on other requirements if you are a kind and caring person and promise to love her child. In Russia women with children have a very small chance to re-marry, as men are not interested in somebody else's children.

When browsing profiles, you will see many professional and highly educated women - medical doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc. Although in Russia these are low-paid jobs, and these women don't have the same attitudes as people of those trades in the west. Medical doctors and teachers are the lowest paid jobs in Russia, as they are paid by the government. Russian medical doctors earn less than cashiers in supermarkets. They study just as long and as hard as western doctors, and their jobs are just as demanding, but their income is in lower strata of the population, may be even lower than teacher's. This is why Russian women - medical doctors cannot understand why foreign men make a big deal about them being doctors. That's nothing in Russia. In the west, a Russian doctor needs at least 3 years to confirm her qualifications and be allowed to practice in a western country (medication and equipment are so different).
Russian women - medical doctors cannot understand why foreign men make a big deal about them being doctors.

Engineers, mathematicians and software developers receive better salaries in Russia but they also don't feel it is a big deal to have such a qualification. There are millions of engineers in Russia; the old days most universities were producing engineers. Engineers can easily find good jobs in the west, if they worked as engineers in Russia.

There are also many accountants and "economists" among Russian women seeking partners abroad. ("Economist" is a person who graduated from the faculty of economics; they also have a job position called "economist" for people working in financial and accounting departments.) Traditionally, accounting is a female's job in Russia. Very few men work as accountants there (and they are usually the ones receiving promotions and becoming chief accountants). Accountants make good money in Russia. The system of accounting is completely different in the west, and Russian women will need to learn everything from scratch if they decide to continue their career, but since western system of accounting is simpler, this will not be difficult for a qualified accountant from Russia.

You will also see many women working as managers. In Russia the word "manager" is used to describe many different types of jobs: from an advertising agent (who is called "advertising manager") to proper manager's positions such as managing a large advertising agency. If a woman states she works as a "manager", you will not be able to figure out what her real occupation is. The key is to ask how many people work under her management and what exactly her job includes. Do not be intimidated by "managers" - her real position may be of a supervisor or she might not have anyone she manages except herself.

Women from smaller regional cities and towns have more down-to-earth attitude and lower requirements to a partner than women from capitals such as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kiev, Odessa and Minsk. Life in capitals is pretty much European style; if you don't live in a large metropolitan area, you may want to avoid women from capitals, it won't be easy for them to adapt to a life style of a small town (unless she is over 35 and calmed down). On the other hand, if you seek somebody sophisticated and refined and can offer her such lifestyle, a woman from a capital will be exactly what you need. Women from warmer climates (areas of Black Sea in Russia and Ukraine) will not generally enjoy moving to a colder climate (such as Alaska).

If you live in countryside, look for women who listed "gardening", "growing flowers"
or "growing plants" as their interest. People, who enjoy such activities, enjoy quieter life style and being close to nature.

It is great if woman's occupation or profession by education (many women work in different fields that they were trained in, because of discrepancies of Russian job market) is similar to yours.

For example, people with medical background will have something important they share both, namely helping people to stay healthy or easy their suffering. Two teachers will understand each other better than if one was a teacher and the other was a car salesman. Two people working in sales will have common personal traits that unite them, even if they have different interests and hobbies. Our occupation is a very large part of our life and it both reflects and shapes our personalities. Choose a woman whose occupation is the same as yours, and you will have greater chance to attract her interest.

**Summing it up:** *When browsing agency's listings, think about compatibility in the future marriage. Life is a long journey.*
Part 6: How To Write Introduction Letters That Receive 9 Responses Out Of 10

This part will teach you to write letters that receive responses, time after time, ANY time, from ANY woman. Even if you already passed the introduction stage and are in correspondence with somebody, write a letter like this - and she will be the most impressed. But if you are only starting correspondence, this is the sure way to soar your response rate.

Once you have found some women that you would like to contact, your first contact will be to write letters to them. Those letters are called "introduction" letters, as they are written to introduce yourself to a person you have never met before.

In search for your dream woman, you will probably send many "introduction letters" to many women.

- The average response rate is 1-2 responses on 10 letters sent.
- If you are young and good looking, you will have a higher level of responses; if you are older and not that good looking, you will have a lower rate of responses.
- From those 1-2 responses on 10 letters sent at least half will be negative.
- It means to receive one positive response you will need to send at least 10 letters.

But those are average figures.
You don't want to read this long book and be average, do you? :-)

Once you have found some women
that you would like to contact, your first contact will be to write letters to them

Now, it’s time to learn to write letters that receive responses; moreover - POSITIVE responses.
I am going to teach you how to receive 9 responses on 10 letters sent.

How do you go about it?

Simple - just give them exactly what they are looking for!

If you don't know what is it that they are looking for, read on; I am going to tell you now.

Most attractive women receive many letters. And surely you don't want to limit yourself to writing to unattractive women to avoid competition.

Now the trick - you can actually use your competition to your benefit!

How?

Just be different!!!

Imagine you see a line of pretty girls from a distance and all of them are in black dresses. Now there is one girl in a red dress. Which one of them will attract more attention? Right - the one in red dress, even if she is not the prettiest one.

Which girl will attract your attention?

Now stop for a second. Remember the 7 truths about Russian women? They are less interested in your appearance than in your personality. You also remember that essentially Russian women seek worthy guys for marriage. They will pass 10 good-looking guys out of 10 if they think they are not "worthy" or what they seek is not marriage. So in your first introduction letter you must convince her that you are "worthy" and what you seek is marriage.

You must also remember that all women are emotional by nature. They go with the feeling. If your letter "feels" right, she will respond positively. If your letter does not "feel" right, you might never receive a response. So your letter should not be a book of facts but an entertaining, enjoyable and easy reading. And it should show your great sense of humor. If you manage to make the woman smile, you are halfway there!

Writing the first "introduction" letter to women is the trickiest trick of all - this is THE THING that makes it or breaks it in your search for your ideal Russian woman.
Too bad most guys don’t realize it!

But you are reading this book, so you will be able to use your competition to your benefit: their BAD introduction letters will just highlight for women how GOOD your letter is. (And good or bad introduction letter makes the woman think that the guy himself is good or bad, accordingly.) You will be thankful to all the guys that wrote to this woman before - they made your job so much easier. Now she will be able to notice the difference.

You might have used personals in the past, and remember the type of introduction letters people send to each other: "Hi, I'm John, I liked your profile, have a look at my profile, cheers".

This is OK letter that might generate some responses if you write to local people (actually, it's too bad even for local personals; one can do so much better than that!).

But it will NOT work with Russian women AT ALL! They dismiss letters like this in an instant.

First, most of them don't have a convenient access to a computer, and read their emails at work or Internet cafe. They have limited time and usually just save the letters to a diskette to read them later, offline. Even if she owns a computer and has Internet access at home, she uses dial-up and low-speed phone lines, and pays for the time she surfs, so she tries to cut off her online time. (Unlimited Internet access and broadband are available in Russia but they are too expensive for an average person and only large companies can afford them. The prices for Internet in Russia are on average double the price of Internet access in the west - with salaries being 10-30 times smaller.)
If your initial "introduction" letter does not awake woman's interest, she simply won't answer. Answering takes her precious spare time and expensive Internet time to send it, and she feels the lack of response is good enough an indication of her disinterest.

Also, some men when receive a negative answer, start filling girl's mailboxes with letters like "Why do you think I am not right for you, I feel we would make a great couple" and send girls dozens of their photos (including nude ones) and electronic postcards.

Now, imagine the girl who refused to a guy only to spend an hour the next day to download his 20 photos! (He of course did not bother to make the size of photos smaller and sent them as they come out after scanning in "BITMAP" format, 5Mb each.)

One experience like this will teach this girl to never, NEVER send anybody negative answers. It is so much easier to just delete the letter from a guy who is not her dream man.

So the biggest task of your introduction letter is to convince the girl that you ARE her dream man.
For that, you must at least tell her about yourself and demonstrate all-important qualities that every Russian woman is looking for in a man PLUS the qualities this particular woman stated in her description of her dream man. In short, you must picture yourself as her dream man.

Sounds daunting? It's not!

Consider your introduction letter as a sales letter. It is a letter where you need to "sell" yourself.

Most successful products are not necessarily the ones that are the best but the ones that are marketed the best.

You need to effectively "sell" or "market" yourself through your introduction letter in the way that women will not be able to resist. And it is easy if you know what women want and what their fears and doubts are.

Successful marketing requires showing potential customers "benefits" of using the product; not it's "features".

Classic example, perfume companies are not selling men an after-shave with a certain smell; they are selling them women's attraction. They don't say in their ads: "This smell is constructed from such and such ingredients"; they show how all women are after this man after he had used the after-shave. Got the idea?

Although personal marketing is similar to marketing services rather than products.

Service is a thing that depends first of all on its supplier. To buy a service, you must be sure that the quality of the service will be good, the assistance timely, and the supplier himself is trustworthy and will deliver what he promised. To sell you the service, the supplier must overcome your fears in his ability to solve your problems and to ensure you that you will benefit from using his service.
This is exactly what you should do in your first introduction letter to women. You must ensure a woman that you are a quality ("worthy") man that will provide her with what she is looking for (marriage), that you are trustworthy and what you say are not just words but hard facts and that you will deliver what you promise. You must overcome her fears in your ability to solve her problem (finding a "worthy" man for marriage) and to ensure her she will benefit if she chooses you.

But wait; don't all other men try to do exactly the same? Why is it that that their response rate is 1 out of 10? Because **most people don't think.**

Bernard Shaw said, "*Few people think more than two or three times a year; I have made an international reputation for myself by thinking once or twice a week.*"

**Writing a letter in response to a personal ad seems to be such a trivial thing; most people just write a letter!** They don't actually think **what** the other party is interested to **read** in this letter.

Even if they think what to write in the letter, they usually undersell or (what is even worse) oversell themselves. They either just throw facts ("features") into woman's face (and often pick up wrong features), or they try to convince the woman so hard that they are right for her that they scare her away.

The right way of "selling" yourself is to give the woman exactly the facts that she needs and explain their "benefits": not just "*I work as a quality supervisor*" but "*I work as a quality supervisor at a large "Ford" automobile factory for already 3 years; it's an important and very responsible work and it is well-paid. I am financially secure and will be able to provide well for my future family.*" This way, you show that you have a stable job (you work at a large company for a long time), and will be able to provide for your future family - the "benefit" she is looking for.

You might think it is too much to tell all these things and it's enough to just tell her you "*work as quality supervisor at Ford*", and she will know what does it mean - no, she won't. She also does not think when read your letter and your "facts" not necessarily become obvious "benefits" for her; moreover, she is unfamiliar with realities of your life and does not know what "benefits" certain facts hold.
As you were surprised to find out that medical doctors are one of the lower paid professions in Russia, she might be surprised to learn that medical doctors are considered as elite in the west and make very good living. So you absolutely must translate all the facts into "benefits" for her.

**In no way it means that you should be bragging about your achievements.**

In Russian culture, a person who is successful is never the one who talks a lot about his achievements. Vice versa, Russian people who are successful usually don't talk much. Russians have a superstition that if you talk about something a lot, it will not come true. So, people that talk too much about how good they are, rise immediate suspicion in Russian women. If you tell about yourself as "intelligent, hardworking, educated, generous, caring, loving, romantic, devoted, faithful, sincere, honest, with a great sense of humor" - this is the sure way to turn the red lights on, in Russian women's heads. People who talk about themselves in superlatives are, in Russian understanding, people who have nothing behind their words, a "big mouth". Instead of telling how caring and loving you are, tell about a real-life case where you were caring and loving; better still, be caring and loving and actually DO something for her that will demonstrate that you care about her. Instead of saying about your great sense of humor, make the woman smile - and you don't need to say a word about your sense of humor. Demonstrate it!

As a rule, **avoid bragging about your achievements.** Present them in a humble, unpretentious way. For example, if you scored many awards as the best student in college, say: **"During my student years, I received several awards for my excellent results in academic studies. My mother still keeps them; she put them in frames and they fit her pink walls very nicely".** Show you don't take your achievements too seriously. You don't hang on them; achievements of the past are just milestones of your life, which is much more exciting now. You MUST mention your achievements; no doubt about it; it just must not look like necrology article: been there, done that... Add some life and humor to the facts. Otherwise, she will think you are bragging; and bragging is a sin in Russian culture. **Great people should be modest.**

Another thing is that Russian women are not used to compliments. They are very insecure and tend to undervalue themselves. They consider people having some quality only if this quality is abundant. To be called "beautiful", one should be a winner of beauty pageant. All other women are just "pretty" or "attractive". "Kind" is
what mother Teresa was; "noble" is what English Queen is. If you shower women with compliments, they will only feel uncomfortable because they don't think they really possess those qualities in enough extent.

I remember how uncomfortable I was feeling when men called me "beautiful" in their letters to me. I knew I was just "attractive"; there were thousands more beautiful girls than me (and I have never won a beauty pageant! ;-).

If you tell the woman you are "looking for a special woman with exceptional character, who is very beautiful, kind, caring, considerate and honest" - she will decide straight away she is not the right woman for you! She thinks she is just normal. Even most beautiful and educated Russian women do not consider themselves "special". You might argue that everyone is special - right; but this is NOT what Russian women think; they live in a different cultural environment. If you want to be successful with Russian women, you must understand it and present yourself accordingly. **The more compliments you give to a Russian woman, the more insecure you make her feel!**

When writing to Russian women, never make more than 1-2 compliments per letter. Even then, avoid superlatives. It is better to say "thank you for the nice photo" than "you are so beautiful". On her photos she sends you, she of course looks the best. She does not look like this when she gets up in the morning. She believes, this is real her - the way she looks when she gets up in the morning. In the west, people believe the real way is when they look their best. Cindy Crawford once said, "Even I don't look like Cindy Crawford when I get up in the morning". So her self-image is the Cindy Crawford that makes magazine covers, not the Cindy Crawford that gets up after sleep. For Russian women, it is vice versa. They take their worst moment and keep it as their self-image. If you say something that contradicts with this self-image, they feel uncomfortable and doubt your interest in them; since they feel you are interested in that "perfect girl" and she is not perfect.

Western women believe they are princesses even if they look like frogs; Russian women believe they are frogs even if they look like princesses. That's the difference.

Don't worry; this will change as soon as she moves to the west and live in your country for a while. She will adapt to your culture and will become much more confident and secure. But she cannot impose this change on herself while she is still living in Russia. It will not help explaining her that. Just remember this and act
accordingly. Don't jeopardize your chances by trying to make women live your way. **Let them live their way, and you will be miles ahead of your competition** - this is what you want to achieve, right? So let it be.

Now that you have learned so much about Russian women and what do they really want, it's time to start writing your letter.

Ready?
Let's start.

1. **Greeting.**

Russian people start letters with "Hello", which sounds as "Zdravstvuite" in Russian. The etymology of this word comes to the meaning of "keep being healthy and prosperous", but now it just means the formal version of "Hello", which is seldom used in spoken Russian but they keep using it in private letters as opening line.

Another issue is using the word "you". In Russian, there are two forms of "you": plural and singular. Plural "you" sounds like "vy" and singular as "ty". "Vy" is also used to apply to a person with high status or to a stranger. "Ty" is used between people who know each other well.

Naturally, your first letter should use the form "vy", which is used between people who don't know each other well; but it also sounds more respectful and polite.

When I translate letters of my clients to Russian, as a rule, I use the form "vy" until the couple met in person. It sounds so "gentlemanly" and courteously; like in old romances; and makes letters so charming. After the couple met in person, I would use the form "ty".

I suggest you start your letter with "Zdravstvuite, [NAME]!"

This will grab woman's attention; not many men know this word and would use it. (This is a plural form of the word; if you want to use the singular form, this should sound like "Zdravstvyi")

2. **First paragraph.**

Research shows that people make their mind about a person in the first 4 seconds of personal meeting, and seldom change it afterwards.

Similarly, the first paragraph of your letter will give the woman feeling of "worthiness" or otherwise; and will determine if she will read your whole letter or just press the button "delete". The first paragraph must make the mood for the whole letter. **It's not the right time to talk about yourself; even though you might feel this would be the proper thing to do.** Not yet! She is still unsure if she wants to learn about you. Make her feel good about you even BEFORE she learns anything about you.

Get into her head. What kind of feeling she has about meeting somebody through an ad, from another country? How do you, personally, feel about that? How most other
people feel about that?

Right, they feel uncomfortable. They think it's a bit crazy. They may feel ashamed. They feel like it is only losers and social misfits that would use this way of meeting a life partner (isn't it what Media is teaching us all the time?).

Your dream woman feels similar. Play along and you will score.

Some examples of opening lines:

"Where do I start? I feel somewhat strange writing to somebody I have never met before, and explaining I am looking for a wife. What's wrong with this guy, may you think, why cannot he meet somebody in normal way?"

"This is the first time I am doing something like this and it feels a bit crazy: writing to somebody on the other end of the world and telling her I am looking for a wife."

"I am writing those lines that might change my life forever and think about you reading them. It feels incredible that people from two different ends of the world can so easily talk to each other."

"What time of the day it is there now? It is a beautiful sunny afternoon here in California, and I am writing those lines laying on the beach and typing on my notebook..."

"Was it just my luck that I came across your profile on the Internet or was it destined to happen this way? By the way, do you believe in destiny? I am not sure if I do [I certainly do] but for the moment, it's not important: what's important is that I have a chance to talk to you, and apparently you are reading my letter!"

"I am looking at your photo on the Internet and trying to figure out what you might think about this brown-eyed brunette from the USA (I have attached a photo of myself so you could get some idea of what I look like)."

"It was 10 days ago that I came across your profile on the Internet and it struck me. I was coming back every day and eventually decided I must write to you. Here I am, writing those lines and wondering what can I say so that you like me and decide to answer me?"

"I am sure you have received many letters and I can only hope my letter will not disappear in this powerful stream! So I know I must write something very interesting and funny that you like me and decide to answer me, and probably one day meet me in person and marry me. OK, I am joking. I am just trying to impress you and don't know where to start."

"How are you today? Are you in a good mood? If I have met you somewhere on the street, I would give you a red rose and invite for a dinner in a beautiful restaurant. But we are on the other ends of the world, and all I can do is to write you a letter."

"I have been struck by your beautiful photo! You are the most beautiful woman on the Earth! I am looking for a very beautiful, kind, loving, affectionate and sincere woman to start correspondence with. I just hope your inner beauty matches your
appearance..."

Well, the last one is a joke of course. It is an example how you must NOT start your letter.

You understand by now that you must apply to a person, not a picture. **Women don't want to be judged by their appearance alone; the same way men don't want to be judged by the size of their wallet.** Talking about her appearance matching her inner qualities is the same as if you were said: "Oh, you've got such a nice car! I just hope your inner self is as nice as your car." Yes, it is not exactly the same but the feeling it produces is very similar.

**Women want to be loved for their beautiful souls, too.** They know this is the value they will keep through years, even when their outer beauty vanishes. They want to be confident you are in love with her and not with her picture.

3. **Addressing her fears.**

Every woman has certain fears connected with the search for a husband abroad.

**The first fear is that she will never find anybody and all her efforts will end up in vain.** There are many men that are writing passionate letters to girls and then disappear without a notice. May be they misrepresent themselves and just get a kick by being in a "relationship" with a beautiful woman, never intending to move it into the real world; may be they meet somebody locally, or something happens to them; does not matter what, the end result is the same: a woman spends lots of time and emotional energy to correspond with a guy and he vanishes into the thin air.

**Spending her time and efforts on somebody who will abandon her is the biggest fear for all Russian women seeking partners.** Remember, if she decided on search for a husband abroad she feels her time to get married is ticking away and she does not want to be forced to start all over. So she wants to make sure the guy who is writing to her is really interested in her and is ready to go all the way to make their relationship happen.

To address this fear, you should ensure the woman that you are serious about finding a wife and ready to visit her country as soon as you find the right woman.

Something like this:

"I know I must tell you about myself, but before I start I want to tell you that I am very serious in my intentions to find a good woman for marriage. If we decide that we are right for each other, I don't want to correspond for months; I will come to your country to meet you, so we can meet in person and see if we like each other. I don't seek an Internet romance. I want a real relationship and eventually marriage."

**Another fear is that something is wrong with the guy who is writing to her,** since he could not find anybody in a "normal" way. Remember, in Russia any guy who has a stable job in a good company, owns a car and lives (rents or owns) in his own apartment is considered a "prince".
If he also "does not drink" (which mean in Russian that he does not abuse alcohol, not that he does not drink at all), then he is a dream for any girl.

If he, in addition, is marriage-minded... Well, such guys simply don't exist in Russia! If a guy is stable and marriage-minded, he will be married in no time!

Notice I don't talk what this guy looks like. It is virtually unimportant. If he is a bit more attractive than a monkey, then he's OK.

So if you were a stable, sober, marriage-minded guy, you would be a prince on a white stallion in Russia. And you will be for her.

Now, why such a wonderful man is not married? In Russia, men like this can be unmarried only because of 2 simple reasons: (1) something is wrong with them, or (2) they don't want to marry ("hardened bachelors"). Since you say you want to marry, then she has a reasonable doubt: is everything all right with you? Are you sexually capable? Don't you have some criminal background? Are you mentally healthy? Aren't you just looking for a servant or sexual slave?

Forgive her for being suspicious. You also have some doubts about her intentions - is what she is looking for is really life-long marriage? Isn't she just after a passport and will divorce her husband once she has one? How such a beautiful, intelligent, caring and kind girl can be alone?!

You must understand by now that marriage for a woman is very important in Russian culture (as much as career and money are important in yours), and demographic discrepancies prohibit her from having one. You must also understand that if your goal is a happy, lasting, loving and mutually faithful relationship and marriage, it exactly what she is looking for and your aspirations match to the "T".

This is why you must be considerate and understanding of her fears, and take time to ensure her in your honorable intentions.

Variants:

"You might be wondering why I am still single. I am surprised myself! I am not a "hardened bachelor"; I always wanted to have a family of my own. I guess I just wasn't lucky. I have had a few relationships but they did not lead to marriage. And since I could not find the right woman here, I decided to broaden my search, and this is the reason why I am writing to you."

"You might be wondering why such a nice guy is alone and looks for a wife abroad. Well, the truth is that in the area where I live, we have more men than women! It's not easy to meet single women - they all seem to be already married."

"You probably ask yourself a question, how it could happen that a man of my age has never been married. Well, at first I was very busy with my education, then with my career, and now when I have a great career and feel I will be able to provide well for my future family, and started to look around, it appears there are not many options! All good women seem to be already taken."

"You might be wondering why this guy is not married. Cannot he find somebody at
his own country? Well, the truth is, I can find somebody in my country; women are attracted to me and I don't have problems with meeting women. But I have not yet met a woman I would like to spend the rest of my life with."

"You might be wondering why I am not married. I was married before, and have 2 great kids. They live with my ex-wife. Life is unpredictable, and sometimes it happens people grow in different directions and become incompatible. This is what happened to us. We are still friends with my ex-wife, and I see my kids regularly. But I don't have somebody special in my life. Now that I decided I want to marry again and started to look around, there are not many women available! This is why I decided to broaden my options and look besides the borders. The world is becoming increasingly small. I feel that my second half may be living somewhere else, I just need to find her."

"I want to tell you from the beginning that my goal is marriage; I hope this is your ultimate goal, too. I am not looking for a servant, or a cook, or a nanny for my children. I can perfectly do it on my own and did it up to now. What I am looking for is a loving and sincere relationship leading to marriage; nothing more, nothing less. I hope I am crystal clear about it."

"I understand that meeting somebody internationally differs from meeting somebody locally. You might be wondering why I am doing that and if everything's OK with this guy. Yes, I am physically, mentally and sexually healthy. I also don't have any bad habits, I am not a criminal and I don't have problems with dating - women find me attractive, and I have had some serious relationships in the past. I honestly don't know why I am not married yet! I guess I just was not lucky enough to find my one and only, my second half. Probably, I stayed single because I knew that one day I would meet you! :-)"

Notice that I say nothing about disappointment in western women, or how materialistic and spoiled they are. True or not, some men do feel this way about western women. This is not the place to discuss it. If you say you have a problem with western women's attitudes, it immediately raises suspicions that you simply cannot get somebody locally, which means no one wants you.

**The third worst fear of women is that guys are lying to them; trying to pretend being something they are not.** Convincing women that you are honest is tricky. The more you say how honest you are, the more concerned she will be. Honest people usually don't need to convince others they are honest; it is liars that do.

So you must be very subtle here. Rather don't include such words as "honest", "sincere" and "trustworthy" in your self-description (i.e. don't write: "I am honest, sincere and trustworthy"). Also, don't say you are looking for an "honest" woman; this will make her think you suspect she might be dishonest.

Variants:

"In the following paragraphs I will tell you about myself, what I like and dislike and what I am doing for a living. I try to be as honest and direct as possible in describing myself, which is somewhat difficult because I don't want you to think that I am bragging. But I believe one needs to really know the other person to establish a
relationship. I want you to know as much as possible about me, so you can make your choice with your eyes open."

"It is not easy to describe myself, but you need to know about me to decide if I am worthy of your attention! I will do my best to give you a correct picture of myself, so you can decide if you are interested in somebody like me."

"I believe that nothing good can be built on the base of lies. So I am going to be completely open with you."

"I think you want to know about me, who am I, what I like and dislike and so on. In the next paragraphs I will write about myself in details. If you don't find some information that is important for you in this letter, please don't be afraid to ask; I promise to answer honestly to all your questions."

Now that you have addressed most of women's fears, it's time to tell her why you are writing to her.

4. Explain her why you have chosen her.

It is important to show women that you don't just send your letter to every woman on the Internet but you are selective.

You should also assure her that you consider her good enough for you and that you indeed are interested in her.

Remember, she might be feeling you are too good to be true, and such a wonderful man cannot be interested in somebody so ordinary as her. There are thousands girls like her in Russia and men like you are every girl's dream. Give her confidence to respond to your letter.

For example, I did not answer a few letters from the guys that seemed to be too perfect: too wealthy, too handsome and too intelligent. A girl might feel you have written to her by mistake and she does not deserve you. She will not analyze those things by mind; this all will come to her on the unconscious level - unless you take care to give her your explicit assurance that she is indeed what you are looking for. She needs it!

For example:

"As I told you in the beginning of this letter, I am looking for a good woman for marriage. I believe you may be this woman. Of course, your questionnaire on the Internet included only limited information, and this is why I am writing this letter - to tell you about myself and to find out more about you."

"I have read in your questionnaire on the Internet that you are looking for a man who is [include some things from her partner requirements here]. I believe I possess all those qualities, and I believe you also possess the qualities that I am looking for in a partner. Of course you first need to learn about me and I need to learn more about you - but I have a feeling that you might be really my second half."
"Your questionnaire on the Internet says that you are [include some qualities from her self-description here]. I really would like to meet a woman who is [repeat the qualities from her self-description here]! I also think your description of your prospective partner sounds very much like me. :-) Let's get acquainted and find out!"

"I know you are the woman I was looking for my whole life! I fell in love with your beautiful picture at the first sight! I know we will make a wonderful couple."

Of course the last example is again what you should NOT say in your letter. If you overdo it, it sounds rather desperate.

5. Self-description.

Now - and only now! - it is time to start talking about yourself.

Here you must use what we have discussed in details previously, namely giving her not only facts but benefits, too. You need to give her the facts to make your letter sound trustworthy, but never forget to explicitly emphasize benefits connected with those facts.

How long should be your self-description?

On Elena's Models, in the course of Individual Search service (personalized matchmaking) http://www.elenasmodels.com/services/individual.htm we request very detailed information from all our clients - both men and women - and they write 10-15 pages. Then we translate this information for them to Russian or English, and use it as a base when people decide if they want to start personal correspondence.

In this way, people receive detailed information about the other person BEFORE they actually started any personal relationships and developed emotional attachments.

I believe this is the best way to go. Otherwise, people start writing letters back and forth, develop emotional attachments, and only then discover some things that could pose problems later. Then they don't know what to do; they are already attached to this person and invested considerable amount of time and effort in her; they don't want to start all over. Then they go and meet each other in person, and don't like each other. Too bad! So, why not condense this "introduction" letter-writing period, if you have a perfect way to do it? This will be a real time-saver.

The only thing is that if you decide on "long" introduction letter, you absolutely have to translate it into Russian. Otherwise, a woman will quickly grow tired of reading it in a foreign language.

I certainly advise you to opt for professional human translation because it will give you enormous competitive advantage.

See, most men do not translate their letters. 95% of men send letters to women in their own language. Remember I told you in "My own story" how reading letters was eating away my time and that I did not have time to read all the letters. Now, if the letters were in Russian, I would certainly read them! Reading Russian letters,
especially if they are well written and well translated, is a breeze! This way, you turn reading your letter from a daunting exercise into an enjoyable and exciting experience.

So **if you want to ensure the woman will read your letter, you must translate it.** Even if she speaks English well, it is difficult for her to read letters in English unless she is completely fluent in the language and lived abroad for a long time in an English-speaking country. But even having lived in the west for more than 5 years, I immensely enjoy reading letters in Russian.

Translating your introduction letter to Russian you give women a gift that has great value for them. Applying to them in their language you show them your respect. You show yourself as a considerate and kind person, who cares about other people. This is what Russian people mean when they say, "actions speak louder than words". Don't tell them that you are kind and considerate. Demonstrate it!

If you seek a service to translate your letters, seek experienced service that specializes in translating personal correspondence. It must be done by a real human and it must be professional - the impact your letter will have will depend in great extent on the correct translation.

On Elena's Models [http://www.elenasmodels.com/services/adtransl.htm](http://www.elenasmodels.com/services/adtransl.htm), we offer very competitive prices for Russian translation, and at the same time guarantee the highest quality. (We only charge $5 for 1,000 characters while most other companies advertising their services as "cheap" require $10 per 1,000 characters.) Our translators are experienced and provide adequate translation, even for most artistic letters. They only translate personal letters and know how to express things the right way. If you seek a service to translate your personal correspondence, this is a professional and discrete service (the translators don't know whose letters they translate).

So, **if you want to make your letter stand out, write a long, detailed self-description and translate it Russian, so women will read it - GUARANTEED.**

But does it really worth it to send such detailed information to women from the very beginning? Cannot you just give it step by step over the course of correspondence?

Remember, **your goal is to stand out from the crowd.** You must also prove her that you are really interested in her and committed to completing the process. By writing a letter that is so much more thought through and shows great effort, you accomplish both of those goals. A woman will see you are "for real" and not just entertaining with the idea. This will give you a competitive edge over the other guys that might be trying to steal her attention.

Another advantage is that this way **you answer all women's questions before she even asked them!** I will tell you what information we include in the questionnaire for our Individual Search on Elena's Models - women are stunned after receiving such letters and they say there is nothing more to ask for! To say they are impressed is an understatement; they are OVERWHELMED. This man becomes more important for her than anybody else - in an instant. You will no longer be a stranger for her. She will feel like she knows you for ages.
The questions we use for the Individual Search service are:

1. Short questionnaire (age, height, weight, color of eyes and hair, marital status, presence of children, education, profession, religion, smoking and drinking habits, knowledge of foreign languages)
2. Your biography - from birth to the current time
3. Your family
4. Your education
5. Your work (informal CV)
6. Your personality
7. Your interests and hobbies
8. The place where you live
9. Your usual working day
10. Your weekends
11. Plans for the future and dreams
12. Your idea of an ideal partner
13. Your idea of a marriage and the roles of wife and husband.
14. Why you are looking for a wife in FSU (Former Soviet Union)

The whole story will be about 10-15 pages. It should have subheadings such as "My personality", "My idea of marriage" etc. It should include facts and your emotional experience around those facts, plus benefits coming from those facts.

For example:

"Every morning I run 5 miles. [Fact] When I just started to run 8 years ago, at first it was difficult, but now I really enjoy it. [Emotional experience around the fact] It gives you an instant energy boost and I feel like I can move mountains! Keeping healthy and in a good shape is important for me. I feel I am stronger and have more energy than most men of my age. [Benefits]"

"When I was 16, my cousin died in a car accident. [Fact] This was a shocking experience for me. I realized people are not here forever. [Emotional experience around the fact] This made me more attentive and caring to people around me, especially to my family and friends. I believe small arguments should not separate people that love each other and care about each other. Sometimes people argue about stupid things, or even break up. We must always remember to see bigger things and understand what is really important in life. [Benefits coming from those facts]"

Writing such a story can take you 1-2 weeks. As a side benefit, you will be able to understand yourself better and have a look at your life in a perspective. Many of our clients told us they re-discovered themselves and realized some things that they did not pay attention before.

Your story must create a positive feeling in the reader. Never complain. It is losers that whine and complain; winners learn from their mistakes and they are grateful for the wonderful learning experience that life gave them - how hurtful it was.
You don't have to tell about every single event in your life. **Just tell about the things that are important.**

**After you have written the story, let it lie for a day or two**, then re-read it and make corrections. Re-read it from the positions of a Russian woman. You know what she is looking for - does the letter answers her wants and doubts? Imagine this is the guy who wants to marry your daughter. Is this guy respectful enough? Does he sound as somebody you would like your daughter to be dating?

**Be honest and open.** Don't lie and don't tell the things that are misleading. But don't be self-degrading either. Imagine what you would do if you were to buy a car, and the dealer would tell you: "This is of course a great car, but it has some problems with breaks and also the motor is about to collapse. Sometimes lights are giving problems. Otherwise, it is a great car." Would you buy it?

Some men believe they must tell the woman they are not rich, they have problems with health, their city is small and not exciting, and they want to correspond for at least 2 years - then they wonder why their response is so poor. I can tell you, it is only a very desperate woman who will want to hang on such a guy. Normal women that are not desperate would avoid such a guy as a plague. **They want a guy who knows he is "OK".**

It is all right to tell women "I am financially secure and I will be able to provide for my future family, but I am by no means rich". But it is not all right to tell them "I am not rich and you will have to work so we can pay our bills." Even if you want your future wife to work, don't make it as you will not be able to survive without her working - this will scare her; she does not know if she can get any work in your country; she is insecure if her qualifications will be recognized; if she speaks English good enough to get a job, etc. Tell her she will need to work, and she will decide you are looking for somebody to provide for you.

**It is a good idea to tell women that you are healthy** when writing about yourself ("my personality"). If you have some medical problems, you can say, "I am mostly healthy" or "I do not have any major health issues" but **do not discuss your medical problems in details**. You can do it later when you decide that you are really good for each other.

If you do have major health issues, such as loss of limbs or being in a wheelchair, you **have to** tell about it. Some women may accept it but you need to be realistic: most women won't. You will have to write to many women to make the numbers work for you. In this case, tell what is your problem and how it happened, especially if there is some heroic element in it (for example, you saved a kid and lost your limb). Tell her what you are capable to do as a normal person (for example, "I drive a car, go to shops, and even play some volleyball with other people like me, and I am perfectly capable sexually"). In Russia, disabled people have to stay at home because Russian streets are not equipped for wheelchairs and you will never see somebody in a wheelchair in a shopping center or opera. You should explain that in the west disabled people have much more options and they are able to enjoy life, much like normal people do. Small disabilities such as a loss of a few fingers will not scare a woman.
There may be also some fears from your side about women's reaction on some of your personal qualities or life circumstances.

For example, if you are overweight, you may be worried if it would not scare women away. Well, of course it will - and this is why you need to address this issue in your letter rather than let it happen!

Something like this:

"You can notice that I have a few extra kilograms [don't write "pounds", they have no idea what it means]. Yes, I know I should lose them and I am working on it. I have started to run every morning and signed up with a gym, so I can assure you I will be much slimmer when it is time for us to meet in person, in a few months."

Did you notice how it moves the issue from your extra weight to the highly desirable "benefit" for her - your personal meeting? This way you show her that: (1) you know what you want; (2) you plan your life; (3) you work to become a better person; and (4) you are really interested in meeting her in the real world.

Another example: you do not own a home and rent a small apartment, and you are - reasonably - worried if she will be comfortable with it.

Write something like this:

"I live in a separate apartment on my own. It is very close to my work, which is convenient for me. I would like to buy my own house one day when I have a family but for the moment I simply don't need it; it's more comfortable for me to have a smaller place so I can cope with looking after it and keeping it clean and cozy. I believe a husband and a wife should buy their house together, so they are both happy with it. I sometimes dream of the day when my future wife and me go to look for a house for our new family. There are lots of beautiful houses over here. My future wife will be able to choose her own house where we will live, a house that she would make our home."

By saying that you show her that: (1) you are capable of looking after yourself - you keep your current place clean and cozy; (2) you have plans for the future; (3) you are considerate since you want your future wife to choose the house together with you; (4) you really want to get married; and (5) she starts feeling dreamy - with you she can buy her own house... how wonderful and romantic!

In the same way you should deal with any other issue that may be a problem for women: your race, your height, your eyesight, kids living with you etc, etc. Think what are the benefits coming from this fact, or how you can connect it with benefits - there should be a way!

If you are afraid she will reject you, you can even spell out this fear:

"Probably, you are not even looking for somebody like me! Then it is going to be a very short acquaintance: "Hello, [HER NAME], I am John" - "Hi, John, I don't like you" - "Too bad!" :-( Well, if this is the case, I would like to hear from you anyway. I will be disappointed of course, but I promise I will respect your decision."
A person who is not afraid to laugh at himself and confront his own fears sounds secure and confident. We unconsciously respect him. This is the type of person women are instinctively attracted to.

When writing about your ideal partner, only list things that are on your "mandatory" list. But still remember that women may feel insecure whether they fit your requirements even though they may possess the qualities you are looking for. Therefore, it will be good to include something like this:

"I tried to describe my ideal woman but I know we don’t live in an ideal world. I also know I am not ideal. So I am not looking for an ideal woman. I am looking for a real woman and I will accept her as she is, with all her strengths and weaknesses."

When writing about why you seek a woman in the countries of the former Soviet Union, again, avoid mentioning anything about your disappointments with western women or your bitter divorce. The best is to say that you don't mind which country your "second half" is from, she can be from any country, you just want to find the right woman.

6. Closing

Closing your letter is as important as its beginning. This is the feeling that will stay with her and that should prompt her to answer. The emotional impact that the closing will have on a woman cannot be overestimated. It must produce positive emotions and make the woman feel comfortable and compelled to answer.

It is not easy to write a negative answer for women. It means that if you convince a woman to answer you, she will most likely answer positively! Now I am going to unveil for you techniques that will skyrocket your response rate. Even if you don't use anything else but only the closing techniques, your response rate will soar two to three times!

Closing should include a request to answer you in any case, even if she is not interested - as I said before, women believe the lack of answer is just as indicative as a negative answer.
If she is not interested, she may never bother to respond - unless you explicitly asked her about it. Also, by the fact that you want to hear from her in any case you highlight how important she is for you. You not just sent a letter to her (and probably a couple of dozens other women) - you really want HER feedback. I suggest you tell her that you will continue trying to contact her until you get an answer from her - positive or negative. Telling her you will be sending her copies of this letter until you receive a response you really don’t leave her any other option as to answer you - to save time for you and herself. This will also confirm how much you are interested in her.

You must also include here all the requests that you have to her. If you want more of her photos - ask her about it in the closing. If you have some important requirements that you need to clear up - ask her about it.

Overall, if you want something from a woman - **ASK HER ABOUT IT**. As easy as that. If you want her to answer your letter - ask her to answer your letter. If you want her phone number - ask her for her phone number. You don’t need an excusable reason for that. If you straightforwardly ask women for something, most often they will just do what you requested, without giving it a second thought. It is perfectly normal in Russian culture to directly ask a woman for her contact details. She knows you will not pop-up tomorrow at her door. So if you want something - ask for it.

I suggest you also request the woman to write you about herself in details. This is not mandatory but this will be very helpful for you, to learn about the women as much as they have learned about you. But **to get it right, you must allow them to write to you in Russian.** You see, it is very difficult to express herself in a foreign language. Remember I said it would take me a whole Sunday just to write a 2-pages letter in English. If I were to write it in Russian, it would take me much less and the letter would be more open and articulate. Also, you one more time will be able to demonstrate her how considerate and caring you are.

In our **Individual Search program** [http://www.elenasmodels.com/services/individual.htm](http://www.elenasmodels.com/services/individual.htm), people write to each other in their native language, and the results are amazing. People can express the slightest nuances of their feelings and their deepest thoughts, and they are not worried if the other side will be able to understand it correctly. Their relationships develop faster and they are able to write longer letters and understand each other better.

So **if you can, offer women to answer you in Russian.** They will be very happy to do it, and you will receive longer and more detailed letters from them this way, and will be able to see who seems to meet your requirements the best and make a better choice.

Yes, it will cost you the price of translation, but all in all it will be much cheaper than if you took a woman out for a dinner. At the same time, this would provide a much better insight into her real self for you than if she were writing to you a short letter once in a while. I definitely recommend using translation, both ways - from English to Russian and from Russian to English, in the beginning of your relationship. This will provide you with a much better understanding of each other’s goals and aspirations and will give jump-start to your relationship. **It's well worth it.**
At closing, you should also thank the woman for reading your letter and tell her that if you are not her dream man, you wish her good luck in her search. This shows you as an altruistic, generous and easygoing person who wishes well to other people. Women are amazed by that and they love men who are generous, easygoing and altruistic. This way you will score even more in her eyes.

At the very end, give your complete contact details - postal and email address, phone and fax. The more complete contact details you supply, the more trustworthy your letter looks.

Example of the closing paragraphs:

"I will be finishing here, [HER NAME]. (And you are still reading? - Great!!! :-) Now you know what kind of person I am, what I like and dislike and what I am doing for a living.

If you think you would like to see a guy like me one day as your husband, I will be very happy to hear from you. If you don't think so... Too bad!!! Of course I will be very disappointed. :-((( But I will respect your decision, whatever it will be. I certainly would like for us to get acquainted and develop friendship and hopefully something more.

I truly want to hear from you in any case, if you want to continue our correspondence or if you don't think we are right for each other, just to let me know. I am really interested in you and I want to know that you have received and read this letter. If I don't hear from you, I will send you copies of this letter - until I receive an answer from you.

If you are interested, please write me about yourself in detail. I will not write a list of questions here - just write something similar to what I wrote, and I am sure it will be very interesting for me to read. Please write in Russian, so you can express yourself in full. I will be able to translate your letter.

If you have access to email, it would be the fastest if you can email me. My email address is john@smith.com. But if you don't have access to email, you can send me your letter by mail or fax it, or phone me. Please use the way that is the most convenient for you.

I have included a couple of photos of me with this letter. Could you also send me some more of your photos - as many as you can generously share with me? :-) If you would like to have more of my photos, just ask and I will send them to you. You are also welcome to ask any questions. I promise to answer honestly.

Dear [HER NAME], I think I should really stop abusing your patience and finish this long letter. Thank you for reading it. If you decide to answer, please include your address and your phone number and the best time to call. If you think we are not right for each other, then I wish you good luck in your search. You are a wonderful woman and the man who earns your love will be a very lucky man.

Your new friend,
John Smith
7. Photos

You MUST include photos with your introduction letter. Letters without photos don't look trustworthy. Women are not much interested in your appearance but they want to have an image that they can associate with the words.

The best photos for sending with introduction letter are professionally done pictures in suit and tie. Russians believe people should look their best when they introduce themselves. It is proven that photos in suit and tie receive 300% better response and from better quality women than non-professional photos in shorts and T-shirts. Never send women photos with naked torso - this means disrespect in Russian culture. If you want to ensure women that you are stable, send them photo in suit and tie. If you do not own a suit, you can make a photo in a long sleeve shirt and a tie. If you don't own a tie, buy or borrow one.

It is a good idea to send one portrait photo from studio and another less formal photo in full length showing you doing something: playing tennis, lifting weights, rowing, or simply sitting on the side of your swimming pool.
Any reference to warmth of climate will score you with women; they live in a cold country and warm climates with swimming pools and palms are fascinating for them. It is like living a life that is one long vacation. I think any woman dreamt to live on the seashore. If you live in a warm place, use photos to point women's attention to this fact.

If you live in a cold place, don't send photos that remind of this cold. They see snow for 6 months a year so it will not impress them. Photos of you in your garden in summer or inside your home will be more appreciated. Kitchen is a place of interest for any Russian woman for they all believe a woman must be able to cook - and live up to this belief. You can make your photo in your kitchen and send to women, they will be interested.

You should look friendly and open on your photos, and you must certainly like your photos very much. If you don't like your own photos, why do you think somebody else will like them?! A smile is not mandatory but the expression of your face should be warm. Women will decide about your personality looking at your photo, even if they don't actually realize it.

As one woman said about the first letter she received from her future husband, "I looked at the photo and said to myself, "I would not mind to get married to a man with such an open smile!"

Remember, first impressions last!

For sending via email the size of your photos should not exceed 20-30 Kb, or Russian women will have problems with downloading them using their low-speed Internet connection. At the same time, the actual size of the photos should not be too small, preferably just a little smaller than the computer screen. Use lower resolution (50-55% quality) and save the photos in JPEG format.
8. Sending your letters.

You have created your perfect introduction letter and got the right photos.

Now, the tricky part!
SENDING LETTERS!!!

This is where you will boost your success with the girls up to the sky!

You did not think it was important, did you?

You might have thought that sending letters was as easy as pasting them into the email message and pressing the button "Send".

Well, it's not so!

If you send letters the wrong way, you might significantly decrease your response rate; and vice versa, sending letters the right way will increase the number of responses you will get.

Naturally, first you will send a letter via email. Since your letter will be long, it is advisable to send it twice to ensure she is able to download it and read it.

The long letter I suggest to write to women should be sent to their direct email address (or by courier mail) – NOT through the website. It's very hard to read such a long letter in the format of online website – and also most women prefer to download their mail quickly, and then cut off the Internet connection – because they pay for the connection time.

It's great to send a woman a short note through the site and say something like, “Hi, I am James and I have just sent you a long letter with photos to your direct email
address xyzjahsgh@yahoo.com. The Subject line for the message is “To Irina from James” and my email address is james@hotmail.com. So, check your mail and let me know! Ciao for now! Your new friend, James.”

If there is a facility, attach a photo to your online message – and not necessarily your own photo! She can look at photos in your profile; send her a photo of a rose or a sunrise, or an ocean view – or even a view from your window (if it’s impressive enough). Tell her you made this photo just 5 minutes ago – or yesterday, or last week, or last year during the carnival in Rio – whatever is the case. Make her curious, so she cannot wait to check your letter.

But do NOT send this long letter through the dating site!

**Sending your 1st message to her direct email address:**

Copy the text of the letter into the body of the message. Insert your optimized photos into the body of the message, too - ON TOP of your letter (use the option "Insert" => "Picture" of your email program).

Copy and paste her email address into the line: "TO".

Copy and paste any additional email addresses into the line "CC" (some agencies, such as Elena's Models http://www.ElenasModels.com, may give you more than 1 email address for a woman; in case if one email address has problems, you will be able to reach women at their second address).

Write in the "Subject" line in block letters: "TO [HER NAME SURNAME] FROM [YOUR NAME SURNAME]" - for example, "FOR ELENA PETROVA FROM JOHN SMITH". Writing in block letters will make the "Subject" of your message stand out and mentioning her name will make the woman curious and your letter will be read first. She will also learn your name straight away and it will help her to remember you. Remember, your goal is to make the woman fall in love with you! She must at least remember your name for that. :-)

Change "Encoding" of the message through "Format" => "Encoding" => "More" and choose "Cyrillic K018-R". This will ensure your letter in Russian is displayed correctly.

Check your message - is all the text in the message, are the email addresses correct, did you use the correct name in salutation; did you use the correct name in the "Subject" line?

**ONLY NOW!** Press the button "Send".

**2nd message:**

Send files as attachments: one file with your letter in "Word" format and 2-3 files with your photos in JPEG format. Use the option "Insert" => "Attachment". Use the "Subject line": "TO [HER NAME SURNAME] FROM [YOUR NAME SURNAME] - attached files" - for example, "TO ELENA PETROVA FROM JOHN SMITH - attached files".
Write in the body of this message (in English): "Please see attached files" - do NOT write anything else.

This way you can be sure she will be able to read your letter: at least one of the letters she will be able to open.

3rd message:

Send a copy of your introduction letter by courier mail (FedEx, DHL, Express Mail etc). Print it and include your photos. Those should be the hard copies of the same photos that you sent her via email plus you can include some additional photos of your home, neighborhood, your city etc. The place where you live is of great importance to women - after all, this is where she will live if you two click. This will also help her feel that "you are for real".

In the letter sent by courier you can also include a guide to your city and something special - such as a dried rose from your garden, etc. Show her your romantic side. :-)

You can include an additional note in this letter, so when the woman receives it, there is something new for her compared to the letters she received via email. This note can be in English or you can translate it via a free online translation service at www.translate.ru: it is OK to translate short notes through this service though I don't recommend it for longer letters, especially where the emotional impact from a letter very important. When using the online translator, always run translation backwards and see if it still makes sense. If it does not, rephrase your letter and try again.

You can use this free online translation tool in the future. I recommend using human translation for long letters and letters that contain any important information that should not be misunderstood, and software translation for short notes.

I cannot emphasize it enough: the biggest thing is to make a woman trust that you are really interested in her and not just entertaining with the idea.
The more effectively you do it, the farther you set yourself up from all the other guys.

Always go one step further - and you WILL succeed!

This is why you need to make sure she indeed received and read your introduction letter; by sending multiple copies by multiple means you prove to her how important is for you to receive her answer.

After you have sent all 3 copies of your introduction letter, wait for responses.

I suggest first sending letters to 5-10 women that you like the most. If you write to too many women at once, you can get confused who is who.

You should wait for responses for about a week, then send another double letters via email, including the note on top of the letter that you are re-sending the letter and that first time you sent it a week ago and did not receive an answer.

If you do not receive a response within another week, send another set of emails with the note that you have sent her this letter twice and never received a response. When sending letters the third time, send letters from a different email address - just in case if your main email address is not compatible with Russian servers.

It happens sometimes that some Russian servers block sending mail to certain servers abroad; also your local ISP may block her Russian server. Then her answer to you could just get lost. Those things happen from time to time and to avoid such a situation where a woman simply cannot answer you because of server incompatibility, send letters from a different email address, and include both email addresses (primary and secondary) in your letter.

You must be aware of the problem with server incompatibility, which can arise suddenly any time: yesterday you could send messages to her email address and today you can't. Often messages return marked as "address blacklisted" or the like; it only means the recipient's address is on the list of spammers - senders of unsolicited commercial advertising (junk email). It may be the whole domain was blacklisted; for example, all addresses ending "@mail.ru" may get blacklisted and it has nothing to do with this woman personally. Sometimes free email servers have software problems and may erase a whole lot of email accounts at once. Since most women have their addresses at free services such as Mail.ru, List.ru, Inbox.ru, Rambler.ru etc (analogs of Hotmail), it can happen any time that her email account experiences problems.

If the correspondence just suddenly stopped and you don't hear from a woman for a few days, don't wait for an answer until the end of eternity - send her another message, try sending letters from a different email address or contacting her by phone. The problem is most likely email related and it does not mean this woman decided to give up on you. Persist until you restore the contact. Even if the woman decided to give up on you, your persistence may make her change her mind.
You must be aware of the problem with server incompatibility

So coming back to sending your introduction letter: you must send it 3 times: via email (in the body of the message and as attached files), plus by courier mail; then repeat it twice via email. If after sending all those letters you did not receive an answer, you are unlikely to ever receive it. The woman may be away temporarily (studying on 2-3-month courses or on a business trip) or she could move away permanently and did not inform the agency about it.

If you have the woman's phone number (some agencies supply phone number in addition to postal and email addresses; for example, Elena's Models http://www.elenasmodels.com), you can have a Russian speaking person to phone this number to find out what happened to the lady. You may also phone yourself but you might not be able to communicate with the person on the other end if they don't speak English. This is where a Russian speaking person can help.

Some agencies offer three-way phone translation services: you order the service, the translator phones to the lady and then phones you, and translates your conversation for you. You might not be able to contact the woman herself and can only speak to someone who lives there (her parents etc). For this case, you should give explicit instructions to the translator to ask questions about whereabouts of the woman you are interested in.

Generally, if you cannot get an answer from a woman and cannot locate her, the best is to move on and write to other women. But sometimes men feel attracted to one particular woman and are not interested in anybody else. In this case, it is possible to locate a woman you are interested in, though I don't recommend going that far. Most likely, you will not succeed in starting a relationship with her, even if you do locate her.

I remember a case where a client, let's call him Mark, wrote to me with request to translate his letter. He had found a girl that captured his attention, Irina, on another site. For a week or so he could not get her out of his mind and decided to buy her address. By the way, he was not looking for a Russian woman or thinking about Internet romance at all; he was just checking on an Internet project and came across a Russian dating agency, where he saw Irina's ad. Now, he decided to learn more about Russian culture and came across my site Russian Brides Cyber Guide (http://www.womenrussia.com). This is where he decided he would translate his introduction letter to Irina. He only had Irina's postal address. He was writing her a letter every 3-4 days, translating it and forwarding it through us to Russia. No response. Then we made some checking through a background check company and...
found out that there was a phone at the address. I called this phone number and somebody on the other end said the apartment had been sold and Irina moved out. He was the new owner and he did not have her new address. Mark wrote to the agency where he purchased Irina's address and they said sorry, we will replace the address. But he did not want an address of another girl. I said, OK, we would find Irina. Through our partner agency in Irina's city we had run another background check and tracked down her new address and they have sent somebody to deliver a parcel to her. The next day Mark received a phone call from Irina, but he was not there when she called. Mark was so excited. This entire search was over the course of 2 weeks, and he was very anxious. The next day he received an email from Irina where she said she already met somebody and was getting married. So that was the end result of his search - we did find the girl but there was no possibility of a relationship.

But the story had a happy ending. Searching for Irina Mark learned so much about Russian women that he decided he would try to meet somebody else. He joined our service and subscribed to our Weekly Ladies Catalog (http://www.elenasmodels.com/services/catalog.htm). He was corresponding with some girls but nothing special. Then he decided to write to another lady, Jana, who was the member of our agency for already quite a while. He wrote to Jana, and she said, sorry, I am currently corresponding with somebody else and we are getting serious; as an honest person, I cannot start a new romance. Mark asked me what to do and I said to him, if you really like Jana, ask if you cannot write to her just as a friend. So he did. To cut the long story short, in just a few weeks Jana refused the other guy and asked Mark to visit her. They met and clicked. This is how things happen sometimes. (By the way, Mark used many of the techniques that I am describing you in this book!)

That's all about writing your first introduction letter to women.

If you follow my advice, most women WILL respond to your introduction letters. You can get response rate as high as 9 out of 10.

In the next chapter I will tell you how to deal with those letters.

**Summing it up:** Your introduction letter will have the most impact on the future of your relationship. It is a chance for you to make an unforgettable impression on a woman. You will need to write your introduction letter only once and it deserves your best effort. With the right introduction letter and letter-sending tactic, you can get response rate as high as 9 out of 10.
Part 7: How To Deal With Responses To Your Letters

On your introduction letter you will get many responses.

The key in dealing with responses is to have the process properly organized.

Create a new folder in your computer where you will store all the documents related to your relationships with women.

In this folder, create a separate folder for each and every woman you are going to write. Save their personal pages and photos in their folders. Save all the information related to a particular woman in her folder, for example, her addresses that you received from the agency, your letters that you sent to her, her responses, etc.

Print all the documents and save those hard copies in separate files. *(You cannot imagine how often we receive requests from men that had all their correspondence with a woman stored on their computers, and computers crashed or were infected with a virus and all information was lost!)* Keep hard copies of all your letters and women's letters and photos - it is much easier and faster to look through hard copies than scanning documents on the computer. Save all phone bills, receipts for parcels etc in the same folder - anything that has something to do with your relationship with this particular woman.

You will need all those documents when apply for a visa for your fiancée. The more documents you have that prove the length and intenseness of your relationship, the easier they will give her the visa.

When you receive first responses to your long introduction letter, look if they are in Russian or English, how long they are and if they write about the same things you asked them to write. Most women have prewritten letters that they send in response to any introduction letter. Women do it because all men ask the same questions, "Tell me more about yourself, your interests, you work, your family and your city". So they write a template letter and send it in response to all mail they receive. *Those letters are in English.*

If you receive a short (1-2 pages) letter in English in response to your letter, it is likely to be a template letter. Usually if you send a long and very special introduction letter, women should be impressed enough to send you something better than this. In this case, send the woman a short nice letter and tell her you are very happy to hear from her, but cannot she please write in Russian and tell about herself in details, as you asked her to do. You want her to be able to express herself and this is why you ask her to write in Russian. If she again sends you a short note in English, saying that she speaks English good enough and wants to correspond in English, say OK but you are still interested in learning more about her. Tell her that you consider marriage a very important step and you want to be confident that you find the right partner and that you will be able to be the right partner for her. This is why you want
to learn as much as possible about her. Tell her that you spent many days (or
weeks) to write the letter where you told her about yourself and you really want to
know the same information about her. Tell her that you don’t want empty
 correspondence but a meaningful relationship and you cannot imagine starting a
relationship with a virtual stranger. Tell her that you are really interested in her and
this is the reason why you wrote to her and why you want to learn about her.

This should convince any genuine woman that is interested in you; if it does not,
then this person is either not interested enough or she is not genuine. If a woman
says she does not have time to write a lot, ask her how important is for her to find a
good husband and build a happy marriage. Some women get tangled in the everyday
hassle and lose the feeling of priorities. If she is a thoughtful and intelligent person,
this should wake her up. For the right guy, a woman will do whatever he asks
for.

If she does not want to do something for you, especially something so simple that
does not require any expenses but only her desire to do it and some effort, then
why do you think she will leave for you her homeland and friends and go to an
unknown land to live with you? If you cannot convince a woman to tell you
about herself, then meeting this woman will not make you any good. Move
on.

If the answer to your introduction letter is in Russian (even if it is short) or if the
letter is in English but it is long, then the letter is most likely written specially for
you. It means you managed to impress the woman and she already considers you
special.

The women that are interested in you the most will send the longest letters
and will answer your questions in more details. Those are the women that you
should concentrate your attention on. Of course you will choose somebody not only
because she wrote a long letter but because of what she wrote IN the letter; but a
longer letter surely indicates high interest.

Now you will have quite a few women to choose from. In the next chapter we will
discuss how to handle correspondence with them.

In case you don’t feel like any of the women that wrote back are for you, repeat
everything from the beginning and find more contacts.

Summing it up: The way women respond to your introduction letter displays their
interest in you. The women that are truly interested in you will write longer and
more sincere letters; the women that are not really interested will use “copy and
paste” technique. Select the women that are truly interested in you: if a woman is
not interested enough
Part 8: How To Win Her Heart Through Correspondence

From now on, there are no exact rules what to write in your letters. You will respond to the actual contents of the letters you receive.

But there are rules how to handle correspondence and what NOT to write in your letters:

1. Don't be ecstatic that this beautiful woman answered you.

It was expected that she would answer; you did everything right, so she could not help answering your letter. Remember that women don't like sending negative answers, such as "I did not like you", or "I don't think we are right for each other", etc. They would rather not answer at all, or if kindly requested to answer, they are more likely to answer positively. The fact that she answered you only means that she thinks you are a good enough candidature to consider. You will still need to prove to her that you are indeed the dream man that she has been searching for.

2. Don't shower woman with compliments.

Women don't feel they deserve all those compliments and you will make the woman feel uncomfortable. She might decide you are in love with some ideal image and not with her. You can compliment her deeds (for example, "I really enjoy reading your letters") but you must not compliment her talents (don't say, "You are such a wonderful writer"). Regarding her appearance, you can say "I like you" or "I am attracted to you" but you should not say, "You are a beautiful woman". You can say, "I think you are stylish" but don't say, "I always dreamt to find such a stunning and stylish girl like you". Tell her about YOUR impressions about her and not about HER qualities.

3. Don't use superlatives and multiple adjectives.

Using superlatives and multiple adjectives makes your letters sound flowery and untrustworthy. Be stingy with your words and generous with your deeds. This is what worthy people in Russia do. They don't talk much. It is the person that talks too much that does little.

4. Don't ask women a list of questions in every letter.

Never mark your questions 1, 2, 3, etc. Don't ask questions just for the sake of asking questions. If you really need to know something about the woman, tell her about yourself in the particular regard, and then ask her what her opinions and thoughts are. If it is important for you that she does not know your opinion before
she renders hers, ask her about it like you have read about it in an article, or book, or seen a movie. From experience, most couples that start meaningful and exclusive correspondence discuss lots of books and movies. It helps people to understand each other. Books and movies are available in a multitude of languages, so you could both read the same book in English or Russian, and then discuss it.

5. Don’t discuss any sexual topics.

In Russia, such topics can be discussed only between lovers. If you start talking about any sexual things, such as enjoying kisses and hugs, the woman will decide you are a sexual maniac. (Honest!) People in Russia do not approve of public displays of affection, and would never talk about those things with strangers. They also do not discuss sex until it happens in a natural way, but once you are lovers, she will be open to any intimate conversations. Since talking about sex with people you are not intimate with is a taboo, she will be shocked if you start talking about it in your letters. Women in Russia do not have sexual inhibitions and enjoy sex. But they are brought up in the way in which it is not appropriate to talk about it. At the same time they are very interested if you are capable sexually - remember, they suspect that something may be wrong with a man if he is over 30 and has never been married. For that purpose, you do need to tell them that you are sexually healthy at the very first introduction letter, in order to address those fears. From that point on, you should avoid the sex topic altogether - until you have the chance to demonstrate her your sexual skills in action. :-)

6. Don’t keep quiet about future of your relationship.

Women are not interested in correspondence. They are interested in marriage. They only correspond with you because they hope you will visit them one day, and if there is the right chemistry, you will proceed to marriage. Nothing will advance your relationship with a woman faster than informing her that you are going to visit her country with the goal of a personal meeting. If you feel you would like to meet this woman, tell her about it and start planning your meeting, even if it is in a few months time. Tell her everything that you have done in respect to organizing your meeting together: you have read a website about travel to Russia, visited a travel agent, bought a Russian-English dictionary, etc. Engage her in your travel plans. Ask her which hotels in her city she can recommend, or better still, find information on hotels in her city on the Internet and give her the names of the hotels you found, then ask for her comments. Unless a woman feels there is the real prospect of a meeting, she will not be particularly interested in you. Remember, any guy who offers her a personal meeting will score major points in her eyes.

7. Don’t be too pushy.

Women are wary of men who want to come and marry them tomorrow. This sounds desperate. They want worthy men and in Russia worthy men do not surrender to marriage easily. If you are too eager, she might decide you are not "worthy", and anything that you said about yourself is not true, i.e. something is wrong with you.
8. Don't limit your communication to email.

Use all ways of communication - email, phone, airmail, etc. Call her at least once a week; some couples speak on the phone daily - I highly suggest the use of a discount phone card that allows calls to Russia at a consistent cents per minute rate. You may also want to teach the woman using instant messengers and video meeting software such as NetMeeting (if she agrees, you will need either to send her a webcam or money to buy one; this will be expected, as it was you who suggested it). Also, don't be afraid to "say it with flowers", by sending your woman flowers for: her birthday, New Year's, St. Valentine's Day, and Woman's Day (8 March).

9. Don't keep corresponding with dozens of women for a long time.

Usually 3-4 letters are enough to understand if you can imagine this person by your side for the rest of your life, or not. If you feel that this person is not your dream woman, or that you have some incurable incompatibilities, it is the best to stop correspondence, the sooner the better. This way you both can stop wasting your time and move on. By closing down unsuccessful correspondences, you open space for the right person to appear. Apologize and tell her how you feel, and wish her the best of luck in her search. She will be disappointed of course, but you also will not want to waste her time. Even though she will be disappointed, she will appreciate your honesty. You never know, this girl may be in contact with some other girls from your correspondences via online forums or the like. I know real life cases where girls compared their notes and found out nice or nasty things about their suitors. Remember, once you created something, it lives its own life and can surface anywhere, anytime.

The world is so small.
Online world is even smaller.

Example of a "farewell" letter:

"Dear [NAME], I feel terrible writing this letter but I know I have to collect myself and tell you. You probably already know what I am going to say. [NAME], I think you are a wonderful woman and will make one lucky man very happy but I also feel we are two different people. I think I should not mislead you and tell you honestly I cannot see us in a serious relationship and getting married. I am terribly sorry. I do like you and I wish you all the best in finding your second half. We can continue corresponding, if you wish. Remember that you can always count on me as on your friend. You are a wonderful person and deserve to be happy. Your friend, John Smith."

10. Stick to your priorities.

Before you started your search, you decided what type of a woman you are looking for. Stick to it. If you have placed your own ad, you may be receiving lots of letters from women that are younger or more educated than your initial choice.

Don't be tempted to go for more than you bargained for.
Yes, you can attract and marry a woman that is perfect in every way, but then you may find yourself in a situation where you worry if she will stay with you. *Are you perfect in every way?* If not, then you should not go for somebody who is. Stick to your priorities.

Do not ask women about your age difference, how they feel about that difference; how they feel about moving out to the countryside from the city; or how they feel about you not having a college degree while she has more than one. **Don't even start** a correspondence with a woman if you think she might have issues of this nature.

I have seen many men asking questions about age difference, even though they were the ones that wanted to find a woman who was much younger than themselves. If a woman corresponds with you, she does not think it is a big deal. **She already made her decision about it.** By asking her, you will make her feel that you are insecure, this will lead to her thinking that **you** have doubts about her. It also injure your image of a man who knows what he wants.

_Think before starting a relationship with the woman; but once you have started, don't question her if you are good enough for them. If they say they want to be with you, they certainly think so._

Those were "10 don'ts" - what you should NOT do in your correspondence.

Now, what about what you should **DO**?

**You should continue assuring the woman, not through words but through deeds,** that you are **THE MAN she has been looking for.** And now you know what kind of man she is looking for, a man who is stable, confident, a man who wants and is able to become the leader in a family, a provider, and a protector. Not somebody "special", just normal. If you are this man, then she will fall for you.

**Now, what to write in the letters?**

*I have told her everything about myself, what else can I write about?* Are some of the many questions I have received even from professional journalists.

First, remember, that **you NEED some correspondence.** Foremost, to confirm that your choice is right, and also to allow the woman to feel comfortable with you.

Topics for correspondence are endless, because something happens around us every day! Successful couples usually discuss books, movies, and such. This helps them to clear up their views on certain subjects. If you need the woman's opinion about something, this is a great way. So, there are always things to discuss. Even if nothing really happened, you might have bumped into somebody you had not met in a while and you could talk about some interesting stories that happened previously with you and this person.

**Send lots of photos of yourself and the neighborhood, and certainly send her**
a photo of your home. Ask her for some recent photos. If you send her your photos, a woman will be happy to send hers. Ask her for photos with her family and friends. The point is to get her non-professional photos, this way you will not develop an incorrect image of her. Keep in mind that on her photos in the agency catalogue she will look her best, and she may look slightly different in real life.

Don’t fall in love with the pretty pictures. Fall in love with the REAL woman.

When you send photos of your home, don't show her that you live in a palace (i.e. you are rich), don't forget to send her a few photos of inside the house - kitchen, living area, etc.

If you are not rich and are unsure if a woman will be happy with your lifestyle, definitely send her pictures of your home, so there are no surprises. You want to be fair and honest with her.

If you are rich, it is a good idea not to tell women about it - you don't want gold diggers, right? So, only tell women that you are financially secure and will be able to provide for a family. That's enough for an honest and modest woman. For a "spoiled beauty", probably not.

In your letters, continue to be humble and modest. Don't try to be impressive. The best way to impress a woman is to talk about great achievements as if it's nothing special: "Oh, yes, and I also have a black belt in karate". This way she will be far more impressed than if you said, "I am such a great fighter... I have black belt in karate." Remember, according to Russian cultural traditions great people don't talk a lot.

And don't forget about emotional side. Women need food for their emotional receptors or they feel something is missing.

There is such a thing in love as "love conversion". You can employ this phenomenon to your benefit. It is when you talk about something or somebody you feel passionate about, and you inadvertently transfer those feelings on to the person you are talking to. All you need to do is to figure out what the woman feels strongly about, and get her to talk about it in her letters to you. It shows great understanding to explore her passions, hobbies, interests and people she cares about, besides it is usually easy to bring those subjects into discussion. This will already help you to take advantage of the "love conversion" phenomenon.

But you if you manage to explore it more deeply, you can get really fascinating results.

The best is to make the woman talk about her past love experiences. In this way, you get her to converse the feelings she once had for a former love to you. (This is the reason people often fall in love with their psychologists and marriage councilors.)

It is a powerful and absolutely unconscious process, so there is no way she can resist falling in love with you.
She won't understand how it happened but she will start feeling more and more strongly about you, once she shares with you her past love experiences. But for that, she needs to completely trust you and feel comfortable with you. You cannot hope a woman will tell it in the first 2-3 letters. You will need to exchange at least a dozen letters before she feels comfortable telling you those things.

Moving from discussing her current passions to discussing her past love passions will feel just natural for her, so start discussing current passions (yours and hers) as soon as possible, and then, when an appropriate opportunity arises, ask her about her past love experiences.

For example:

"[NAME], I want to ask you a very serious question. It is about your previous relationships. Have you had some serious relationships in the past? If yes, can you tell me about them?"

Once she starts talking about her past love experiences, ask questions to encourage her to open more and discuss her feelings connected to those experiences. It must be done with the utmost care and understanding, NOT keen curiosity. You must give her a chance to share her feelings, NOT question her.

For example, she told you she had a two-year romance with her classmate while studying at high school (they call it, "older classes of secondary school").

Now, try to imagine yourself during your own school years and how people feel and think at this age. At this age hormones are going wild and overpower everything. People can only think about love (young girls don't think about sex - they think about dating and courting only!) and don't care about studies. Adults interrupt all the time with unsolicited advice. They always try to dismiss your "puppy love". All the while it feels like it's the most important thing in your life and will stay with you forever.

So tell her about the feelings a person might have experienced and ask her if this is what she felt. If you are correct, she will be amazed by how sensitive and understanding you are, and will definitely converse the feelings she experienced to you. If you are incorrect, she will appreciate that you tried to understand her. Again, this will rejuvenate her feelings and transfer them to you.

For example:

"You told me about your school sweetheart and your beautiful romance. Feelings of love are so wonderful in youth. You feel like your love is the most important thing in the whole universe. School, studies, and home chores are just unnecessary interruptions. Your mom probably was not as excited about your love passion as you and tried to make you study instead of spending all days long wandering around with your sweetheart hand in hand. Young love is such a wonderful and enlightening feeling. They say people never forget their first love. Is it how it was with you?"

Do NOT tell her about your past love experiences. A woman will feel jealous and she might wonder if your feelings towards her are as strong as as the ones of
past passions. If she insists, tell her about your love passions very briefly, without details, while continuing to encourage her to describe her past experiences in detail.

If she tells you in details about her past love experiences that hurt her, keep in mind that this is the most powerful transference. Love is a strong feeling and if it turns into hate, it only becomes an even stronger feeling. Sharing strong feelings with you (either love or hate), the woman starts unconsciously experiencing strong feelings towards you.

This is why it is easy to move from being just a friend to being her sincere passion. Women feel at ease sharing intimate details with a friend and openly discuss past feelings, sometimes even their current romance. Later on, they are astounded to find that they have developed feelings for their "friend", but it is only natural.

Personally, I am of the opinion that true friendship cannot exist between a man and a woman. If people find each other interesting enough to be friends, at least one of the parties would not mind to become more than just friends.

Usually friendship exists between a man and a woman if something prevents them from having a romantic relationship (for example, one is already involved or married), or if one of the parties is not interested in a relationship, but would like to use possible future favors arising from the privileged position of the other persons love interest. This is what is going on when a woman tells a man that she would like "to just stay friends". Well, the truth is, she only wants to use you for favors, and is making it clear that she is not going to return them. By the way, it is usually women that want to be "just friends". You see, women have a natural instinct to have as many admirers as possible.

Sexual instincts [our unconscious] are more powerful than civilized [conscious] behavior, and when a man and a woman that like each other get in close contact, they will sooner or later slip into a sexual relationship - unless there is something powerful that prevents it (i.e. if one of them is openly involved with another person).

Therefore, discussing your feelings with a person of the opposite gender will ALWAYS result in you having feelings for this person. If these feelings are confirmed and reinforced, then there is no way one can avoid falling in love with said person.

To reinforce those conversed feelings further, you need to tell the woman how you feel about her from time to time. By doing this, you will make her look inside her feelings towards you and realize on the conscious level what she already feels on the unconscious level. Once she acknowledges her feelings towards you, if only to herself, she will believe that this is how she feels about you and she will consciously build up your relationship from that base.

For example:

"Dear [NAME], I feel as though we have known each other for years. I cannot wait for your letters; every time you surprise me with your deep understanding of things and feelings. I think you are a wonderful person and I certainly feel honored to be
your friend. I don't want to develop unrealistic expectations but I think I am falling in love with you... And I do want to fall in love with you!"

"[NAME], I want to tell you that you mean a lot for me. Our relationship is very important for me and I really like you as a person and find you very attractive as a woman."

"My dear [NAME], we only know each other for a few weeks but it feels like I know you for many years... You became a very important part of my life - a very attractive part, I must say! :-)")"

Through the entire process, you need to continue assuring the woman that she is right for you and you enjoy corresponding with her and that your ultimate goal is to move your relationship into the real world, and eventually marry.

If she wants you to move faster than you are comfortable with, tell her how you feel about it. It is perfectly OK to tell the woman that you are very attracted to her but you cannot yet commit yourself, because you need to know her better.

But if you feel comfortable and confident that you have found the right woman for you, then do not hesitate to proceed.

Life is too short to wait and worry "what if".
If you want to be happy - let it happen to you!

_How long should you correspond?_

If you write each other every day, it may take 4-6 weeks; if you write each other 2-3 times a week, it may take 2-3 months; if you write each other once a week, it may take up to 6 months. If you correspond via email, 6 months is about the limit where women want to know what you think about the future of your relationship, and want to meet you in person.

If you keep them in the dark for longer, this may erode your relationship. You don't have to go and meet her after 6 months; but you must at least let her know when you are going to meet her in person and start making plans.

**Summing it up:** Women need food for their emotional receptors. It is the way you make her FEEL that counts. Use "love conversion" to make women fall in love with you: when you make them rejuvenate the feelings they had experienced previously, they will transfer these feelings to you.

Your correspondence should be:

- meaningful;
- emotionally deep;
- purposefully lead to the personal meeting.
Part 9: How To Organize Your Personal Meeting

If you live in America, Australia or Canada, you do not have a choice, you will have to visit the woman in her homeland, or meet her in a third country where she won't have visa problems (such as Jamaica, Turkey, Thailand, Egypt, Bulgaria, etc).

If you live in Europe, Africa, South America or Asia, you can invite your girlfriend to visit you.

In my opinion, meeting in a woman's country is the best and the most preferable meeting place is in her home city. This way you will be able to see the woman in her natural environment and meet her family and friends. Most women will be happy if you ask to visit them in their home city, since it is convenient for them and they feel secure. Meeting your lady's parents and friends will help you to make a better judgment about her; it is a wise truth, "Like the mother, like the daughter". In Russian they also have a saying, "Tell me who your friend is, and I will tell you who are you". It will help you understand your future wife better. Besides, Russian hospitality is amazing and you will be able to dispel many myths that you may have developed due to the distorted image of Russia, typical for western media.

The fact that a woman is eager to meet you in her home city is another clue to her sincerity and high interest in you. One would not want to introduce somebody that she does not like to her family and show up in his company on the streets of her home city.

There are some women that don't want men to visit them at home but would prefer to meet in an exotic location. This type of women does seek her soul mate and partner. Although, if a girl makes such a request, it means she is not sure about you. You can be confident that she is looking for somebody VERY special, as opposed to the majority of other Russian women who are looking just for an ordinary guy. It is only the experienced seeker that will do it this way.

In the beginning of her search for a partner abroad, girls' expectations and requirements to a potential partner are very modest. They just want to meet a "normal" guy. But if a girl is very pretty, she will start receiving lots of letters from foreign men and they will all tell her how beautiful she is. She becomes arrogant, and the more letters she receives, the higher her expectations grow. Many men try to "buy" the woman by sending her expensive gifts and taking her on exotic vacations. She quickly becomes accustomed to it and does not want to settle for less. For her it is an exciting dating game, just like beauties in your country enjoy having multiple admirers, so does she.

The more admirers a woman has, the more difficult it will be to make a choice. So if you choose to pursue a woman like this, you must understand that you'll have tough competition. She may have already met some foreign guys before and knows she is beautiful because guys fall for her. Sometimes girls develop unrealistic expectations and start looking for "Mr. Perfect", and as you know, no one is. She will eventually
realize it, or if you are strong and confident enough, you may be the guy who will help her understand. Just know that this girl will not fall in love through correspondence! She is too experienced and set in her ways.

What she needs is not a man who will put her on a pedestal, but someone who can handle her. If you have little or no experience with women in the past, more than likely you will not be able to do it. If you are the type of man that women always fall for, she will fall for you, too.

A good check would be whether you ever managed to convince her to tell you about herself in details, as well as answering your questions. If you did, you might be successful with her. If you could not get her to tell you about herself in details, and answer your questions, not to mention write to you long letters a few times a week, then most likely your personal meeting will not result in a relationship and marriage. In this case, she will allow you to court her but she will not think you are good enough for her. As one of the guys dating a girl of this type said, "She would not allow me too close, and I asked her if she liked me and she said, "Yes, I do like you, but not so much that I would marry you".

You probably heard about a similar situation that happened to your friends, or it may have even happened to yourself. Simply because two people are dating, it does not mean the girl will accept a marriage proposal, even if she marries someone else in a few months time. She met her dream man. He is not necessarily better, but he made her heart beat faster.

Girls that have lots of men's attention usually chose guys who have lots of women's attention. If you have a long record of successes with women, go for it. If not, think twice.

There aren't many girls who are "spoiled beauties". Most women will be happy to meet you in their home city. This is the best option, but if you don't feel comfortable with this idea, or have very little time to travel, then you can meet in the capital of her country or in a third country. This way you both will be on equal terms, no one has to be the host and show the other one around, and it may be more relaxing for the first meeting. Many couples meet in the capital for the first few days, and if everything turns out OK, they head to the woman's hometown.

If you live outside of Northern America or Australia, you can also invite your girlfriend to visit you. I would not recommend this way for the first meeting, because it makes the woman completely dependent on you. This will make her feel uncomfortable, which may result in her behavior being unnatural, in which case you would not see the real girl.

I make this judgment from my own experience and the experiences of other women. Meeting men at their homes does not work as well, for the success of the relationship, as meeting men in the woman's hometown or a neutral location. So if the success of your relationship is important for you, try to take time off and fly to her home country and meet her at the capital.

If success of your relationship is important for you, try to take time off and fly to her home country and meet her at the capital (if you can't meet her at her home city, which is by far the best option).
If it's the cold period of the year (in Russia it is November-March), then you may consider meeting in a warmer climate such as Egypt or Turkey where Russian women can easily receive visas to go and many Russian travel agents organize tours.

Planning the personal meeting requires considerable expenses and most likely your lady will not be able to afford the cost on her own. You will need to either organize her tour yourself or send her money. Here you may get into hot water, since **sending money to a woman is NEVER a good idea.**

It is overwhelming for a woman when she suddenly has so much money. It is also a hassle for her to organize the visa and tickets on her own.

It might seem redundant to you, but **it is better to find a travel agent that will organize her tickets and visa than to send her money and let her organize her travel on her own.** It will also score you a lot of points in her eyes, if you can have her visa and tickets delivered to her.

I recommend "Maria Travel" agency in Moscow http://www.maria-travel.com; they will arrange her visa and tickets and will have it delivered to her by courier, and you can pay them with your credit card. It will also ensure your relationship develop scam-free.

*(I don't want to talk about scams and scammers here; you can read about them in my book "The Complete, No-Nonsense Anti-Scam Guide For Men Seeking A Russian Wife" http://www.womenrussia.com/antiscam.htm. Read this book and you will protect yourself from scams and scammers.)*

The main question for many men is **how many women should they meet during their trip, one or many?**

There are some men and agencies that advise seeing multiple women because it might not work with one woman ("no chemistry").

Having extensive experience in this field, I **am a strong believer in meeting only one woman at a time.**

What is being said when people say there is "no chemistry" is that the woman was not attracted to the guy or the guy was not attracted to the woman.

For the guys, the most disappointment is a women's **physical appearance** - they feel disappointed if a woman doesn't look like her photos. This is why you should have asked her to send you her photos with family and friends - she definitely has them, all people do! This way you would have already seen her in real life. Even the most beautiful women sometimes look plain. Don’t be afraid that this is "the real her" and the beautiful pictures were all photographic tricks. It is she. Sometimes she looks like a model, sometimes like a plain Jane. *Every woman does.* But remember, Russian women are used to taking care of themselves. They know how to do it and enjoy looking their best; that's the advantage.

So, if you do have many current photos of her, in both professional and unprofessional formats, **you will have a very good image of your girlfriend and will not feel disappointed when you see her in the flesh.**
The right "chemistry" from your side will depend on how many of her photos you have seen. **Make sure you have seen enough of her photos before deciding to meet her in person.** If she hesitates to send you her photos, encourage her with something like, "We are going to meet in person soon and I want to be sure I won't kiss the wrong girl at the airport!" Also keep in mind that the best form of encouragement would be sending her lots of your own photos. In short, never go to meet a woman that you have only seen a couple of photos of, and you will not be disappointed.

**Don’t go and meet a woman that you have seen only on a couple of photos and you will not be disappointed.**

The lack of "chemistry" from the woman's side is usually in the guy's behavior, NOT in his appearance.

Here you must just remember that if you have been honest about yourself in your letters, the woman will not be disappointed. For a woman, the image of a man is his inner-self; she does not care as much about your outer appearance.

**As long as you are the person as you presented yourself as in your letters, she will not be disappointed and the chemistry will be right.**

So there is little risk in meeting only one woman if you have had meaningful correspondence and exchanged many photos.

**By meeting only one woman you give your relationship the best chance.**

If you meet several women, they all will have a feeling that something is not right and may even guess that you are seeing other women during your visit. This is humiliating for a woman who invested a lot of effort in your relationship. I know of many examples of men who informed their correspondents that they were visiting them and other women as well, and many of the women rejected them. Women don't want to be one of many. They want to be your one and only.

My relationship with my future husband progressed rapidly **when he said he was only corresponding with me and would come and see only me.** It is fine that you correspond with several women in the beginning. Most women expect that you will. But they don't want to be one of many choices when you have already developed a relationship and emotional attachment. You may ruin or risk your best relationship if you decide to visit a few women, rather than just the one.

**It is official that women discount your relationship once they figure out, or even suspect, that you visit somebody else.**

In our experience with Individual Search program:
Most of the couples that met on 1-to-1 basis, were successful. All the couples where men met with more than 1 woman (even though the women were not told about that directly, i.e. women did not know for sure if the man was meeting somebody else), did not work out.

I used to believe in meeting multiple women (even though personally I would prefer a man who would visit only me, and would be explicitly clear about it). Having heard about men that met one woman during their visit and she was not the person they expected her to be, it seemed to make perfect sense to meet multiple women.

Well, in reality it simply does not work!

Quality women don't want to feel like you are still shopping around when you visit them. On Russian women forums, they advise each other to "drop the guy immediately if he is going to visit somebody else". I have read many forums, and the advice experienced women give to newbies is always the same, "If he is visiting somebody else, send him to hell!" And unless you explicitly tell your lady she is the only woman you are going to visit, she will still suspect you are going to see somebody else!

So there is virtually no way you can visit many women and they won't know about each other. Even if you don't tell them, they will figure it out by your silence in regard to your mannerisms.

For example, you arrive in Russia on the 10th of May, but you visit your lady's city only on the 15th of May, she will be convinced that you met some other women during those missing five days. Even if you are not seeing any other women during this period. She will feel this way because you did not tell her you would only visit her, this is what she will be thinking, and there is NO WAY you can ever change her mind!

In the girl's opinion: you have had the time to shop around; you developed a personal relationship with her; you could have requested any information from her during your correspondence; and you've had enough time and info to decide if she is the right woman for you, if you are still unsure and cannot make your choice, you either don't know what you want, or are just seeking a sex tour.

In both cases, you are NOT the type of man she is looking for! She won't even feel sorry when she discounts your relationship, since she does not need such a person in her life!

Don't think she won't know that you are visiting other women if you don't tell her - she will. Women are not rational like men. They trust their feelings and intuition, and she does not have to be a medium to figure out that you are trying to hide something from her. She will have the feeling that something is not right, and this feeling is enough to destroy the "chemistry" from her heart. If her chemistry wanes towards you, her distant actions will stifle the chemistry you feel for her, the result will be disappointment for both of you.

In opposition to above, meeting on one-to-one basis has multiple advantages.
First, **time limits**. If you, like most people in the west, have only a short vacation, you simply cannot afford to go to Russia for the prolonged periods of time that are necessary to meet multiple women. It is not easy to establish a relationship within 2-3 days, especially when you know you must run off to another woman. Thus, you cannot wholeheartedly commit yourself to the one you are currently with. But if you spend 1-2 weeks with your one and only, you will have enough time to fall in love, both of you.

Second, **money**. Another advantage of meeting one woman is that it it much cheaper than meeting multiple women. In fact, it is less expensive overall to visit one woman, and then fly back all over again to meet another if things do not work out, than meeting multiple women on one visit. You see, Russian courting etiquette requires that you invest a bit of money into the process (*more about it in the next chapter*). It is simply not practical to meet many women. You will either end up spending too much money on them, or you will find it unaffordable to spend enough to get any of them.

Third, **emotional input**. The law of physics says, **"For every action, there is an equal reaction"**. This is perfectly applicable to the situation with the personal meeting: the more you put in the meeting with this particular girl, the more you will get out of it. Spread your effort to a few meetings, and you will not get enough strong response from any of them. You can also look at it like this; if you needed to cross a lake covered in a sheet of ice, would you: cross where the ice is spread thin and over a wide area; or cross where the ice is concentrated thick, but narrow?

**It does NOT work this way: "Let me meet a few girls and then make a choice".**

What will happen is that you will meet them all, and then all of them (or most of them) will reject you. So, **instead of having a choice, all you will end up with are meetings with a few wonderful women, but they will not want to know you!** Then you will be struggling to figure out what happened. You will end up blaming a lack of chemistry, when all the while it was you, yourself, who ruined your own relationships!

**Even the guys that have gone through this process themselves never understand this.** They think: they did not have enough women to meet; they met the wrong women; or that they should have learned more about the women before visiting them. Later, they go back to Russia again and visit multiple women, again, and achieve the exact same result. They become "dating junkies" and lose the sight of their ultimate goal - meeting a partner for marriage.

This will become a never-ending circle, unless, on one of his tours, he is lucky enough to meet a girl that makes him acknowledge his devotion to her, then he will forget about "looking for a better deal". Otherwise, his effort will end in vain, time after time.
Why? Well let us take a look at this another way. Imagine how would you feel if a girl you were corresponding with was visiting your country, and meeting several men in several cities. How would you feel? Well, let me tell you that for women it feels much worse! No girl would want to devote herself to a man who cannot devote himself to her. **It is not in women's nature! It is men who are supposed to fight with each other to get the girl; girls don't fight with each other to get men!**

How about a peek into the animal kingdom. Is there any species where females fight to get males? No, in all the species, the males fight with each other to get females. **It is in a woman's nature to wait for a winner.** She will prefer to wait for the winner rather than make an effort herself. **This is absolutely natural for a woman.** A decent girl will walk away if you expect her to make an effort to "win your heart", she is looking for somebody who wants to win hers!

When you put a girl in a situation where she has to compete with other girls for your attention, she feels extremely uncomfortable and prefers to remove herself from the situation altogether. She will be disappointed, yes, but she will not wish to pursue any further relationship with you - unless she is really desperate to the point of going against her feminine nature.

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**So, to put it simply:**

- **If you visit one woman, you give your relationship the best shot.**
- **If you visit multiple women, you will most likely not succeed with any of them.**

Choosing one woman is not as tough as it may sound. Usually in your correspondence, there will be one girl you feel the most attracted to. **It will happen, inevitably, that one person becomes more important than others.** When this occurs, it will be natural to visit this one woman and forfeit all the others, since both of you will be seeking a monogamous relationship that leads to marriage. Besides, you cannot marry more than one person anyway!

If you are still feeling unsure, go on an organized "romance tour" and invite your lady to visit the city of your stay. The tour company will take care of all the travel arrangements, and you will be safe and have help on-hand when you are in the lady's country. If things work for you and your lady, you just won't need to meet other single women. If things don't work out, you meet other girls. You can meet other single women through socials or individually, this depends on what you feel more comfortable with. During socials, women will not have issues about men meeting many other women, because it is just like going to a bar or night club. There are many singles all in one place, along with many opportunities. The same with "blind dates" through a dating agency. **But, if you are in a relationship, that's a different story.**

If you want to visit the lady at her home city or she cannot come to another city to meet you, then you can buy more addresses of women from her city before your departure. If things don't work out, then you can phone those women and meet
them. In their own city, women don’t have problems with meeting men - they are very curious and will meet you without seeing your photo or knowing much about you. There are also many dating agencies in every city and you can just ask someone to help you to find one of them, then go there. Any dating agency will be happy to let you look through their databases and arrange meetings for you.

But if you did everything correct - meaningful correspondence, long letters, multiple photos, then you have nothing to worry about. You will meet your dream woman and have the right "chemistry" with her.

Oh, yes, you will also need to know the "do’s and don'ts" of Russian courting etiquette - and this is what the next chapter is all about.

**Summing it up**: Prepare to make a choice and meet one woman during your visit. By meeting only one woman you give your relationship the best shot. By meeting multiple women, you jeopardize your chances with all of them. The best chance your relationship will have is if you meet a woman in her home country, or in a third country, as opposite to inviting the woman to visit you.
Part 10: How To Avoid The Hidden Traps Of Russian Courting Etiquette And Start A Sexual Relationship The Right Way

There are some things in Russian courting etiquette that you should be aware of, or you may unknowingly ruin your relationship.

Yes, I am not joking or exaggerating. **You could create the completely wrong impression about yourself and thus, destroy your image in your woman's heart.** She might decide you are a different person than you were in your letters, and this will ruin your relationship.

I am writing this chapter based on my experience of a multitude of Russian women who were disappointed in their foreign boyfriends when met them in person. **This is important stuff, guys! Please pay attention for your own sake.**

The first and most important point, is **how you should dress** when go to Russia to meet your dream woman. You might not think it is important, but it is unquestionably important for a Russian woman.

Most foreigners in Russia are easy to recognize by their less than formal attire: jeans and T-shirts with checkered over-shirts. Russians don't dress like this, and neither should you, especially during courting.

You may dress in slacks and a long-sleeved shirt, or polo shirt. If it is cool, a nice jacket that can go with anything from jeans to formal trousers will look great. For special occasions such as going to a restaurant or meeting her parents, a suit and tie will be appropriate. **NO SHORTS! Not even if it is really hot (which does not often happen in Russia).** If you go to the beach, shorts may be OK, but first observe what other people are wearing on the streets. I would still suggest wearing jeans rather than shorts. Shoes should be relatively new and fashionable. If you don't know much about fashion, ask a shop assistant to help.
Most foreigners in Russia are easy to recognize by their less than formal attire: jeans and T-shirts with checkered over-shirts

Russians are extremely fashion conscious. If you dress like most people dress in America, you will look very poorly dressed. Your woman will feel uncomfortable in your company, especially introducing you to her family and friends.

You will win if go for a classic style, it is always in fashion. You will look great in formal trousers and a dress shirt on any occasion, with or without a tie, depending on the circumstances. **In Russia, it is much better to be overdressed than underdressed.** If it is a colder time of the year, you will look better in a long wool coat of neutral colors (gray, beige, or light brown) than in a warm sporty zippered jacket.

Make sure you wear an expensive cologne or after-shave. Classic Aramis will do for any woman. If you have some other favorites, no problem, just keep in mind that the price of the bottle should be at least $30. Dump those cheap aftershaves from supermarket. They won't make you smell alluring. A man that smells great will always score points with women more often than one who does not smell nice. **Women are extremely receptive to a man's smell.**
The next point of the Russian courting etiquette is **gift giving.** You must *always* bring gifts when visiting your girlfriend for the first time, and not just for her but for her family as well. Gifts are very important in Russian courting etiquette. Gifts show that the man is "generous". It is not only about spending money on a girl. Gift giving shows the quality of the soul. It shows a person who is not selfish, a man who enjoys giving and receiving.

**Giving generously, without expecting anything in return, was the traditional quality that was the pride of Russian character.** Historically, Russians were always proud of their non-materialistic nature, and this included giving generously (if you had something to share). Since you are financially secure, it would be perceived as stinginess, if you did not make occasional gifts when dating a woman. It would mean that you are not generous. That you have something to share and do not share it. She would think that you want everything only for yourself. In the end, she would consider you selfish.

There is a saying in Russian, "It is not the gift that counts, it's the attention". Most Russian people (including me) enjoy giving gifts much more than receiving them. It is the joy of making another other person happy. If you do not enjoy giving gifts, then you are not a good person. This is what makes gift giving so important in Russian culture and in Russian courting etiquette.
Gift giving is very important in Russian courting etiquette

You must bring a few gifts for the woman and at least one gift for each member of her immediate family that live in the same city.

Appropriate gifts for your lady:

- Perfume or toilette water (buy from Duty Free Shop at the airport)
- Silk scarf (should be a big brand name; buy from Duty Free Shop and you won't get it wrong)
- Leather gloves (size 7 for a slim woman; size 7.5 for a woman of medium size, size 8 for a bigger built woman; black is the preferred color)
- Nice dress or evening gown (buy at home; ask shop assistant for help in choosing the right size basing on her photos and height/weight data; choose stretch fabric and it will fit perfectly)
- Brand-name T-shirt (Guess, Lee, Diesel etc)
- Anything of gold or silver (a chain and a pendant would be great, also anything with diamonds has great value in Russia even if the diamond is really small)
- Watch
- Specially packed chocolates

Gifts for her family:

Men:

- Brand name alcohol from Duty Free Shop (whisky, gin etc)
- Toilette water or after shave (buy from Duty Free)
- Tie
- Shirt
- Wool scarf
- Key ring

Women:

- Perfume or toilette water (buy from Duty Free; a good idea is a collection of a few fragrances in one package)
- Silk scarf
- Chocolates
• Anything of gold or silver

Kids:

• Boys - car toys
• Girls - soft toys or Barbie
• Some funny sweets, such as rotating handler for candies etc.

Those are GIFTS. You also should bring some **souvenirs** from your country (which are *not* gifts). Souvenirs don't have to be expensive. You know what is most typical for your locality; bring those things.

Gifts should be given on arrival or the first meeting with the person the gift is intended for. For your girlfriend, you may want to leave a gift for your last day, such as giving her something of gold or silver as an engagement gift.

Another interesting variant may be giving your girlfriend one gift a day for every day you meet. You could tell her, "*I have something for you...*", and give her something really unimportant the first day. She may become disappointed at first, but it is OK. You then would move slowly toward more and more expensive gifts. Give her each new gift the first moment you meet every day. This will totally hypnotize her! She won't be able to contain herself. Whatever you do, don't tell her you have more gifts for her, even if she asks. Just smile and say, "Let's wait until tomorrow and see".

One of the most romantic gifts for her could be a rose that you brought with you from your country. It should be red and it should be a rose. You must bring it from your country. (Don't waste your time buying one at the airport on arrival.) Indeed, it might look a bit worn-out, but it will be much more appreciated than a big bunch you bought around the corner. Just remember, you must give her this rose the first moment you meet her at the airport, saying, "*This rose made all the way from [Austin, Texas] to you*". She will be absolutely smitten, I promise! If you decide to go on with the "gift-a-day escapade", you may make the rose your first gift. Just decide which phrase you will use to present your gift each day. It can be "*I have something for you...*", but it can also be something different as well.

NEVER give a gift that has sharp edges, such as a knife, scissors, etc., it will be looked at as a bad sign for the future of the relationship. Points and sharp edges equal fighting, and handkerchiefs equal sadness or crying.

Don't expect an outpouring of gratitude for your gifts. Usually, after receiving a gift, a woman will say something like, "*Oh, you really should not have...*". Don't worry, it really means that she is impressed! If she did not like it, she would offer a lengthy thanks, and tell you how much she wanted to have something like it.

This is yet another side of Russian culture. It might feel as though nobody appreciates any of the things you are doing for them, but rest assured that they are not taking you for granted. Please understand Russians are not used to expressing their gratitude in words. Their gratitude will be in a warmer tone of voice, an affectionate glance, etc. If you do get a "*Oh, you really should not have*", it means she is very smitten, and more than likely, no one has ever given her such a gift! She simply does not feel that she deserves it! You reached your goal - she is impressed.
Now, after the gifts, let’s talk about the things you should completely avoid during your meetings.

**The biggest turn off for Russian women is when men talk about money. Money talks are a big "no-no" in Russian courting etiquette!**

Talking about money in the Russian courting stage is as bad as chewing with your mouth open. She just cannot help feeling disgusted.

Being frugal when you are dating equals being cheap. *You might accidentally say, "Wow, that's expensive!", and "bam", you may have just blown your chances.* Russians call it being greedy, which translates to mean stingy.

According to Russian courting etiquette, men should pay for everything on a date - and do it with a smile. Even if this means he must spend to his last ruble (ruble is the name of Russian currency). If you say that something is expensive, what your woman hears is that you don’t think she is worth this money! For example, if you say, "Wow, $5 for a glass of Coke, that's expensive!"; what she hears is that you don't consider her worthy of those $5!

In Russian, the meaning of the word expensive is rather absolute, it means "I cannot afford to buy this item", as opposed to the relative meaning, "this item is overpriced".

If you say that something is "expensive", and she knows you have the money to buy it, she will develop a contradiction in her mind, which will cause distrust towards you.
Sometimes, men erroneously start explaining the details of their travel arrangements to their woman. An example would be that they need to book tickets at least two months in advance because it is 10% less. For Russian women, this sounds cheap. Of course, one would assume that if she is making $100 a month, for her saving 10% from $1,000 ticket would be equivalent to her monthly salary, which is a lot of money. But women don't think that way. They consider it relative to the size of your salary. Let us say that you make $3,000 a month and move your meeting with her off for another two months just so you can save $100 (3% of your monthly salary). This will sound completely out of sync to her. She would not care about 3% of her monthly salary to meet you sooner. And since you can afford to spend that extra $100, you just don't really want to see her, or you just don't like her that much.

Put it simpler, remember as the rule of thumb: mentioning money matters is taboo in the Russian courting etiquette. You pay or you don't pay, and that's it. If you don't want to pay, just tell the woman, "No, we are not buying it", or "No, I don't want to buy it", but NEVER tell her you are not buying something because it is "expensive". If you have the money in your pocket to buy it, then it is NOT expensive. Otherwise, your remark is just disrespectful, nothing more, nothing less. If you just say, "No, we are not buying it", you show you are the man, and since it is your money you can spend it the way you want. This is perfectly acceptable.

Do not use any other excuses either, such as you don't have enough money on your credit card, or they don't accept credit cards, or else. This will mean you agree to buy this particular item and she will feel free to come up with ideas how to get around your imaginary "obstacle". If you don't have enough cash, she will suggest a place where you can draw money from your credit card. If you don't have enough limit on your card, she will suggest to lay-by the item and draw money over a few days to pay for it. The solution? Don't come up with any excuses: simply say, "Darling, you know I like you very much but we are NOT buying this. Let's go and have something to eat (see that church you wanted to see, catch a taxi, or whatever else you were going to do)". It is really not that difficult as it may sound. Try it in front of the mirror accompanied by your most charming smile - see, you CAN do it! :-)

In Russian, the meaning of the word "expensive" is rather absolute (I cannot afford to buy it) than relative (this item is overpriced).
The key is NOT to be hostile to her suggestions and remember to tell her that you like (love) her before refusing her request, and to NEVER, EVER explaining yourself or pointing out that you gave her other gifts - I can assure you that she is well aware of this fact!

When you do buy something, don’t make a choice because something is cheaper. If you do, don’t tell the woman that you did it because of that.

If there is any problem at all in your relationship, and you tell your woman how much money you spent on her, you are signing your own death warrant in her eyes. This action is an unforgivable offence. There is now no possibility of recovery, you have lost her forever.

Never, EVER tell the woman how much money you have spent on her. You would not tell such things to a western woman you have been courting, so don't do it with a Russian woman either, or it sounds as you were trying to buy her. No matter how much money you spent on her, she does not owe you a thing.

You are spending your money on her because you like her and want to do something nice for her. If you think some expense is too much, forget it. It may happen that things between you and her don’t work out, nothing’s guaranteed! Only spend an amount of money that you can allow to be wasted.

Never make sacrifices! You will not impress women this way. Again, an honest woman won't ask to spend thousands on her, and if somebody makes money a condition of continuing your relationship, you’d better get off the train immediately, or it will take you to greater disasters. Women who are genuinely interested in you don't need your money, they need YOU. They need YOU as much as you need THEM.

But when you are together, you as the man will be expected to pay for everything. In Russia, there is no such a thing as separate bills when dating.

From time to time, you need to ask her if she is hungry or thirsty. If she says she is not but you are hungry or thirsty, most likely she is just being shy. Russian custom insists that a person should refuse a kind offer the first time. It is also considered polite to refuse a second time, so offer it at least 3 times. This means, that even if she is dying of hunger and you ask her if she is hungry, she will answer, "No, I'm fine". She will then be offended that you did not offer it again, and consider you stingy. Why? Because you just jumped on the opportunity not to buy her something, since you did not offer it again. Therefore, your offer was not genuine. If your offer was genuine, you would insist.

So, even if she says she is not hungry or thirsty, but you are, go and buy some food and/or drink, and ask her what she wants. Most likely she will also choose something. If she does not choose anything, suggest to buy her the same thing as you are buying for yourself.

One woman wrote to me once saying that she met a guy, and at first he seemed OK, but then he showed himself as being "so greedy"! They would walk all day long doing some sightseeing, and he would never even buy her any food or even a glass of
water. And when she would buy some bottled water with her own money and offer to
him, he would drink. He would never buy anything himself. She was absolutely
disgusted and of course she refused the guy.

This might seem a bit extreme to you, but to me it is completely understandable. It
is really unacceptable for a man to behave like this during the courting process. **If
you allowed a woman to buy something with her own money, you MUST
reimburse her for what she bought.** The woman might not accept your
reimbursement, but you must offer it (at least 3 times!). It is a disgrace when a
woman pays for a man. You lose your "manly" image in her eyes. This is why most
women will starve, but won't ask you to stop and eat something. You, as a man, are
supposed to offer it yourself.

In general, you as a man should look after the woman. Unless she is at her home
city, you are supposed to learn about the city and plan where to go, what to see, etc.
You may ask her suggestions, but only in the way, "I know there is this attraction,
would you like to see it? Or would you like to go somewhere else?" Remember, the
man should be the leader. Once you accept this assertive position, your personal
communications will go much more smoothly with her. This might be not the style
you are accustomed to, but this is the style that works with Russian women.

If you are in her home city, the woman will be looking after you, after all, you are
her guest. She will look after you, even if she does not like you, just because you are
a guest. In Russia, every guest is precious and will be treated with the utmost
respect. From your side, you will be expected to agree to her suggestions, even if
you are not very excited about them. For example, if a woman takes you to a theme
park, and you don't really enjoy rides, you still should go on some of the rides. You
will hurt her feelings if you say, "I hate all those things". If you don't enjoy
something, you should offer a different activity, but do not reject the activity she
offered. After all, she is making the offer with an open heart. For example, instead of
rides you could suggest to stop at a café and sit down and talk. If she suggests going
on the rides again, you could just smile and say that you enjoy talking to her more
than going on the rides.
If you are visiting the lady's country, you might be offered to try some national dishes. Many of them need getting used to and may taste weird to a foreigner. But you have to eat them. You might not eat everything, but you have to at least try everything that is offered. If you don't, you will offend the hosts, even if they did not cook the dish themselves and just bought it or suggested you to buy it. If you do indeed like something, do not hesitate to ask for more. This is good because you will not leave hungry, and you will also have the option of excusing yourself from eating anything else because "you are already full".

I also suggest that if you are offered something, you ask what its made of, and take just as much as you think you will be able to eat if you really hate it. If you end up liking it, you can always ask for more. Usually, at a Russian table, there will be a wide variety of dishes. For a festive table your host will usually have 10-15 salads and other starters, plus soup, a main course, and deserts (usually cakes). You will be expected to try every dish that is on the table.

It would be a very good idea to ask the person you are with how many dishes are in the queue, this way you can adjust how much you take accordingly. The host would have worked hard to offer you such a large feast, and they will be offended if you do not try everything. If you don't like the taste, you don't have to eat it all. You can leave what you don't like on the plate, but it is much better if you don't allow yourself to get into that type of a situation. It is far safer to just take a very small portion at first. If you are asked your opinion about a dish and you simply did not like it, say that "It's an interesting taste". This is good, because you won't be lying, and your hosts will be happy that you tried the dish.

I remember when my husband was visiting me for the first time, my parents offered him some sweetened cottage cheese (which is the way Russians eat it) and "okroshka" (a cold soup made of cucumbers, spring onions, boiled eggs, potatoes and meat, mixed with "kvass", a drink made of bread, which tastes a little like light beer). To top it off, this soup is eaten with sour cream! Russians love it but to a foreigner, it can taste a bit weird. My husband ate it all. Later, when he was asked about his impressions, he said, "It was interesting". It was very apparent that he struggled to eat it (and I can tell you, he is a very fussy eater!), but he did eat the food, and survived. I suggest you do the same. It will make good impression. If you reject some of the food, and then request to stop at a McDonalds, you will get yourself into trouble. It is considered the peak of rudeness to behave this way.

You must also know about drinking in Russia. Russians drink much more on social occasions than you are used to. If you don't want to drink at all, tell your host that you have a medical condition, or tell them that you are taking medication that does not allow to drink alcohol - say antibiotics, for example. If you say that you don't drink at all, they will think you are nuts. You will make reasonable impression if you drink, even just a little. Take a small sip every time they have a toast, this will be enough.

You will gain the most respect while in the company of Russians if you can drink a lot without getting drunk. But, since you have never trained doing something as dangerous as this, you'd be better off refraining from drinking too much. Getting drunk will ruin your reputation. Besides, your girlfriend definitely does not want a husband who drinks. Alcohol abuse is one of the major problems between Russian women and Russian men.
If your girlfriend does not drink, you should not drink either. Even if she doesn't mind, do not drink! It is not nice to be with a man who's breath smells of alcohol.

I know of one woman who was visited by her American boyfriend, and she was driving him around her city. Now, Russia has a zero tolerance level with drinking and driving. You are not allowed to drink alcohol at all if you are behind the wheel, not a single glass. If you are caught, you will lose your license, so she could not drink. Well, he drank a beer with every single meal, and while he was not drunk, he did reek of beer. Needless to say, she found it repulsive and inconsiderate. It was also one of the reasons why she refused him.

The other reason was when they visited her office. As the story goes, she needed to check on something at work after hours, since she took a few days off to be with him. While there he asked to use the toilet. She showed him the way. He appeared back immediately and demanded to be taken back to his hotel because "This toilet is terribly dirty".

Now, understand that this was the building where she works five days a week. She of course was using the same toilet, even if the ladies version. To her it sounded as though he was saying she was terribly dirty, too. The toilet was good enough for everyone else working in her company, but apparently, it wasn't good enough for the American. She found it arrogant and inconsiderate. And even though his hotel was not far away, she found it insensitive that he wanted to be delivered to his hotel immediately. Especially, since she had not finish what she came to the office to do. Now, this was a large office building where hundreds companies resided. There were many more bathrooms available. If something was wrong with one bathroom, he could have always tried another. Insulting the woman was really unnecessary.

Yes, bathrooms in Russia may be not always up to the standards that you are used to. But you must remember that people are proud of the places where they live and work, and even though something could be better, they don't like when outsiders criticize.

**You must never make comments that something is dirty, of bad quality or not up to your standards. Keep it to yourself. Remember the golden rule? If you cannot say something nice, say nothing.**

This is particularly applicable to the situation when you visit lady's country or city. Be shocked by nothing. Keep your calm, no matter what. **There is nothing more important than meeting the love of your life.** Even if you see a cockroach in your hotel room, don't panic. This is not the end of the world! But it may be the end of your relationship if you make a scene. Being squeamish is not the right trait for a man. It is as if you were screaming in the sight of a little mouse. Women are allowed to be squeamish, not you.

When visiting people's homes in Russia, take off your shoes. This is the prevailing custom, besides they will offer you a pair of slippers. In Russia, people don't wear the same shoes in their home as they do outside. If you don't take off your shoes, they will consider you rude and dirty.
If your girlfriend wants to introduce you to her parents, be happy, this is a good sign. It means that she is serious about you and she really likes you. If for some reason she does not introduce you, don't fret. She might not have the best relationship with her parents, or she may think they are nuts, and is embarrassed to introduce you to them. Whatever you do, don't pressure your girlfriend to introduce you to her parents. If she wants to do it - great; if not, don't worry.

The fact that the woman's parents meet you and treat you well means that they approve of their daughter's relationship. If they do not like you or don't approve of your relationship, they will outright refuse to meet you.

Should you ask the parents' for permission to marry their daughter? In Russia, they normally don't do it, but if you want to ask, you can. It will look very conservative, but at the same time very gentlemanly.

Shopping with women. Many men feel they should take their girlfriends shopping, so they can buy something nice for themselves. This is completely against the Russian courting etiquette. Men in Russia don't do it. It is considered a disgrace for a man to go shopping for clothes with a woman. She will feel very uncomfortable if you offer it. She may be happy to buy some things for herself but you will be losing your manly image by doing so. Shopping for food together would is alright. But shopping for clothes and other items that require her time to try on and make choices before buying is absolutely out of the question, no man in Russia would do it. Women in Russia only go shopping for clothes with their girlfriends, not with their men.

Some websites suggest taking a woman shopping when you visit her. But now, you know how a woman would really feel about it. A decent woman would hesitate to buy anything, and even if she does buy some small thing, you can be assured that it will not be something she really wants.

If you want your girlfriend to buy something for herself, give her money. She will be grateful and will not be offended. She may hesitate a bit, but all you need to say is that you insist, and just put the money in her pocket. This may not be appropriate in western culture, but this is how it works in Russian culture.
It is also inappropriate for a man to browse shops with a woman to buy her something. Just give her some money, and send her shopping with a friend, or on her own, if she does not have a friend nearby.

Russian women are not used to buying the first thing they fancy. **Buying some clothes or shoes is a big event in their life.** Money will be saved and the purchase will be planned for a long time. Due to the low salaries in Russia, clothes are relatively expensive. Needless to say she will browse shop after shop looking for just the right article, for just the right price. Shop assistants are more than used to hearing that a shopper will come back later to buy a particular item, even if the shopper absolutely adored the product. And if we are talking about something serious like shoes, a purchase tantamount to you buying a car, then it is reasonable that she cannot be rushed. It is also understandable that she will be hesitant to shop in your company, since it is rude to make somebody wait for you - remember, in Russian culture, people think first about others.

Then, there is still this money-during-dating stigma. She will feel awkward to tell you that she wants to see if a similar item is cheaper in another shop. She will therefore, hesitate to buy it immediately. As a result, she will leave the shop frustrated, and more than likely, without an item.

I remember when my future husband took me shopping on my first visit to South Africa, we spent about two hours browsing through the various shops in the shopping center. The end result... I bought myself a package of hair clippers!

Yes, I did like lots of things there, but I felt it would be impolite to make my man wait while I was looking for things to buy. It was clear that I would need to look at a lot of outfits to choose just the right one. I also knew that it would take a long time to try them all on, but I felt that no man would feel comfortable waiting for me for hours in a shop. Any Russian man would go mad within twenty minutes. How could I possibly do it to the man I loved? In the end, we just walked through the shops together and glanced at what was on display. That's it. He was surprised, to say the least, although he said nothing.

But once he gave me money that I could spend as I pleased, I would dive into the shops for hours, just to buy a pair of shoes. This is just the way we are used to doing it in Russia! Shopping for clothes is an exciting experience for a Russian woman, and she wants to enjoy every moment.

So please don't let her down. If you want to make it nice for her, give her some money and enough time to shop around on her own. She will be more than happy to show off her purchases to you afterwards!
Give her some money, and send
her shopping with a friend

I want to remind you once again, **women don't need your money. They need YOU!** If you give her gifts, understand that it is simply a sign of your good nature and that you value her. Never give the gifts a value in and of themselves.

And remember, even if a woman needs something, she will feel awkward telling you. That "something" is not important. **Your relationship and your opinion of her is what is most important to her.** She does not want you to think she is with you because of your money. She also won't ask you to buy her expensive things, or order the most expensive food and drink in a restaurant. If a woman is doing that, or asks you to take her shopping, you have come across a gold-digger. Dump her pronto. Honest and sincere women will not act in that horrendous fashion. But, if you followed my advice up to now, there is no way you would have picked a gold digger. They would have been long gone by now.

Communication. Learn at least a few phrases in Russian before you go for a visit. You can find a list of phrases at [http://www.womenrussia.com/phrases.htm](http://www.womenrussia.com/phrases.htm). Learn and use them as often as you can. The woman will laugh at you because you are destined to say something the wrong way, but she will appreciate your effort very much. Ask her to teach you how to say certain things in Russian.

When you speak English to her, speak very slowly and in a clear voice. The English that is taught in school is not the same English people speak in your country. If you speak at a comfortable speed, and pronounce your words as you do at home, she will not understand you. It is your responsibility to make sure she understands you. If you were speaking Russian, then it would be her responsibility to understand you, but since she is speaking your language, you must be forgiving and VERY patient.

It is a good idea is to purchase a talking dictionary. This is an electronic device in which you can type in a word in English, and the machine will pronounce the word in Russian, and vice versa. You can buy such a device through the Internet and have it delivered. It will be of great help in learning Russian. (*Checkout [http://www.womenrussia.com/dictionaries.htm](http://www.womenrussia.com/dictionaries.htm) for more information.*) It will also allow you to communicate freely with other Russian people that don't speak English.

OK, the next big thing. According to the Russian courting etiquette, is that **men should demonstrate good manners and be a gentleman.** This means you must:
open doors for her, offer her hand when getting off the bus or out of the car, move chairs for her, hold her coat for her, help her on with her coat, etc. You will look rude if you don't do it. It will translate to mean that you do not respect your lady. Any Russian man courting a woman would do it. She will be expecting it, and will be appalled if you don't act accordingly.

I remember being a bit shocked when my future husband never offered me a hand when we were getting off the bus. You see, they don't have public transportation in South Africa, everybody travels by car, so he didn't know that help was supposed to be rendered. Now, in Russia every man would do it, not only when he is courting a girl, but also when he is with any woman; his neighbor, sister, anybody. When a man does not offer a woman a hand to get off the bus, the woman will instinctively feel that he does not care for her. Since it is part of her culture, it will simply come to her as a feeling, and not as rational thought.

Feelings are quite difficult to deal with because they do not come from the conscious mind, and are nearly impossible to control rationally. This means that we cannot really change our feelings. They come and stay. It is our feelings that create the elusive "chemistry" that everyone talks about. Simply put, chemistry is just the feeling from being in the presence of another person. If the feelings from your presence are negative, there will be a "no chemistry" situation. So, if you somehow made a series of mistakes, your girlfriend will develop sour feelings from your presence. If those feelings blossom in a way that does not correspond to the image of the man she had from your correspondence, her chemistry for you will wane. In other words, the more mistakes you make, the less "chemistry" she will feel.

Now about a very important part, sex. (I can hear you cheering up :-)

Can you have sex during your first visit? Yes. You must actually strive to have sex, because this will confirm a woman's interest. Any woman who is genuinely interested in you and wants to spend the rest of her life with you, will be willing to have sex with you. Unfortunately, it does not work the other way around; a woman may have sex with you and not consider you a potential partner for marriage.

Anyway, if you do manage to have sex on your visit, consider it a great achievement. She is more than likely interested in you, as opposed to a woman who refuses to have sex with you because of some excuse. Any normal woman will want to know if her future husband is sexually capable. Of course, your woman hasn't sleep with every guy she has dating, but if she really cares for you, and wants to spend the rest of her life with you, she will want to have sex with you.

When can you have sex?

It would be unwise to have sex on the first or second day of your visit, unless your relationship had already progressed to the stage of virtual sex before your visit, which is doubtful.

Generally speaking, the first day of your personal meeting can be applied as an actual first date, and having sex on the first date is absolutely inappropriate. She would hate herself for acting so crude and tawdry, and feel uncomfortable for the rest of your visit. Since anything that makes a woman feel uncomfortable will tear away at your relationship, wait.
So, when is sex OK?

At least after the third date, and it must happen naturally. This means that you will not say to the woman, "Let's go and have sex now".

Start with a romantic dinner together, and maybe some slow dancing (there is live-band music & dancing in almost every Russian restaurant), which will impress her greatly. Later in the evening, you can suggest to buy a bottle of champagne and drink it in your room... if she agrees, she is ready for "that".

If you rent an apartment, you may offer to cook dinner for her, or you may offer to cook her dinner at her home. A man who wants to cook dinner for his girlfriend is something very special in Russia. Russian men don't do it, so she will be intrigued. Usually you'll have more success trying to seduce a woman in the evening, rather than during the daytime. When a woman visits a man at his home at night, she understands the man might try to seduce her, and she is apparently willing to give it a go.

She is probably just as eager to check how good you are between the sheets, as you are to demonstrate it!

Do not be in a hurry. As you drink the wine, take her hand in yours, and kiss her fingers. If she allows, touch her hair and smell it, then say how nice it smells or how nice it feels. If she is OK with that (does not try to move back), then she is ready to be kissed on the lips. You must kiss for quite a while before you can proceed further. You can lift her and take her to the bed, or if there is a couch, just gently push her back to lie on the couch. Here she might say "No". Continue kissing and try again later. Try a third time if the second time did not work - remember the Russian custom of a genuine offer. If she says no again, ask, "You don't want it?" If she says she does not want it, continue kissing but don't attempt going further this particular evening. Whatever you do, don't jump up from the couch and say, "OK, if we aren't going to go further, let's go out and do something else", just keep kissing.
Smell her hair, then say how nice it smells. If she is OK with that, then she is ready to be kissed on the lips.

Women enjoy kissing and hugging. They are not just teasing, they really like it!

For a girl who has never been married, sex is not the most necessary act. Kisses and hugs are necessary for her, but NOT sex! She is curious about sex, but she does not really have to have it. Sex for her is the culmination of her emotional commitment to a man, rather than just a physical act.

Women who have been married before do have the physical need for sex, but their sexual drive is still not as intense as a man’s. She can survive without sex. She would rather masturbate instead of having sex with somebody she does not fancy.

The fact that a woman is interested in kissing and hugging you is a more important sign of her sincere interest in you than sex. A woman can force herself to have a quick sex with a man, but she cannot force herself to have a long kissing and hugging session with somebody she does not really like.

If you reach the point where she wants to be kissed and hugged, but does not allow sex, you should actually congratulate yourself; this girl is serious about you. (An insincere woman will either allow you quick sex, or refuse all physical contact.)

If your first attempt to get sex was unsuccessful, continue kissing, and proceeding further another day. She will expect you to continue trying. According to the courting etiquette, a woman should resist having sex. This is in her "unconscious" so you
must accept it. Once she allowed you to kiss her, she will allow you to do it again and again. Keep trying to proceed further but don't be too pushy and don't tell her: "Look, we really don't have the time; we SHOULD do it now; when are we gonna do it; we must do it before I leave." Presenting yourself this way will solidify that you NEVER get to do it.

**Sexual initiative is completely on the man in Russian culture.** It is considered inappropriate for a woman to initiate sex, and it will seldom happen with Russian women. They will wait for you to initiate sex and then they will be happy to follow your lead. Sometimes a woman can initiate something during sex, but she will not take initiative completely away from you - that's against her culture.

**In Russian culture, when a man tries to initiate sex, a woman considers it a compliment; it means he considers her desirable.** Vice versa, if a man spends time with a woman for a while and does not try to have sex with her, she will think he does not really like her, or something's wrong with him. So, if she is dating you and allows you to kiss her, keep trying. Making at least three attempts each time, unless she states that she is menstruating and this is why she cannot have sex with you. Sooner or later, she will give in. She WANTS to surrender, but her cultural barriers won't let her do it too fast, after all, she is a decent woman. Unlike in the west, where no means "NO!", a Russian "No" can mean "Yes, just ask me a few more time."

**Sexual protection is also the man's responsibility in Russian culture.** It is you the man, which must take care that she does not become pregnant. In Russia, most unmarried women do not use birth control pills. But even if she does, she may have missed a day, so do not rely on the woman for this. Besides, there are such things as sexually transmitted diseases. You don't want to gamble with your life. Even if she is the most decent woman, she could've been with a philandering lover in the past, who knows. So before you even think about sex, make sure you have a pack of condoms with you (tip: bring some from home).

You will need to explain your reasons for using a condom with her. She might think you are using the condom because you think she might have a disease, and this will offend her. It will be better to tell her that you are using the condom for birth control. You could say, "I will use a condom, darling, so you don't get pregnant". She will be relieved that you thought of her.

For many women, their erogenous zones are on the back of their neck, their ears, the top part of their back, and the inner part of her arms. Contrary to popular belief, some women don't like when men kiss their breasts, and they only allow men to do it because they think men enjoy it.

**During the kissing session, open the buttons of her blouse and kiss her ears and the back of her neck, her shoulders and the top part of her back.** You will probably drive her completely wild with it, and it will also allow you to undress her further.
What can help you convince her to proceed further than kissing? Take her hand in yours and place it on top of your pants over your hardened penis. Tell her that this is what she is doing to you, and you want her so very much. Russian women consider it a compliment to want them.

They don't have all the same inhibitions about sexual manipulation and exploitation, as women in the west. Russian women believe that they should not lead a man on, and then dump him. If she lets the man get to this aroused stage, she should take care of him. **If you show her where she brought you, she will feel that she has to fulfill your expectations.**

Nearly all Russian women will refuse you sex during their menstruation. Since women have their periods for 1/4 of the time, or 1 week in 4, there is quite a big chance that you will get into such a situation. This could be the reason for her refusal, if she wants kisses and hugs, but does not allow sex. She will feel awkward telling you about it. If you think this may be the case, ask her directly if she is having her period. She will be relieved to tell you if it's true, because she is worried that her refusal may offend you, but her cultural barrier of not talking about intimate things with a man who is not her lover prohibits her from telling you about it. If she confirms it is her period, you should assure her you will wait and ask her how soon it would be over. In the mean time, you should only kiss and hug her. Don't even try to touch her lower parts. It's an awkward situation for her. Here she likes the guy, and only has a limited time she can spend with him, but she cannot fulfill his expectations.

Be understanding and patient. You may ask her to help you with her hands, but do not give a long explanation, just take her hand and put it on your penis. Start first through the pants, then after a few minutes when she is OK with it (at first she may feel embarrassed), put her hand inside the pants. Don't expect her to do it herself. You must show her what you want, and more than likely she will be happy to give you the pleasure. Try showing her with your hand over her hand what you want her to do and how you want it. If she has ventured this far with you, she really likes you and wants to make you happy. Having non-penetrating sex will also move you closer to the full act, when she is ready.

When she eventually allows you to have sex, don't expect her to display herself naked for you to enjoy. Usually, you won't even start the act fully undressed, but if you do, she will quickly dive under the blankets and won't allow you to look at her
body without clothes. Don't persuade her to striptease for you. She will be willing to do it after you have had sex a few times, but not now, not yet.

To make her show herself to you, try to catch her when she is naked and walking to or from the shower after sex, and tell her how much you enjoy looking at her. She might say, "Oh, my body is not perfect...", but just tell her that her body is perfect to you, and you like it just the way it is. This will allow her to relax and let you look at her. It is the same type of thing as with her self-image that we discussed earlier; she compares herself to top-models and their perfect bodies, and not against other women that are less attractive than she is.

A woman will strip for you only when she feels secure and confident about your feelings for her. If she is afraid that you may dump her if she is not perfect, she will hide any and all defects, imaginary or real, and will never allow you to look at her naked. She is hiding herself because of her insecurities and not because of any other reason.

Now about men's nudity, most women don't enjoy the sight of a naked man - not even if he has a perfect body! They would prefer the sight of a man's perfect body in a tiny piece of underwear. They don't enjoy looking at any penis. To a woman, an erect penis appears as a threat, and non-erect penis looks absolutely miserable. So, wrap yourself in towel when you walk around after sex.

During sex, in Russian culture it is not acceptable to tell your lover how you want it, etc. If you ask a woman how she wants it or what she wants you to do, she will think something's wrong with you. You are supposed to notice that yourself, what she enjoys the most. She probably doesn't even know exactly what a man should do to please her. She will associate pleasant or unpleasant sensations with the man, not a particular technique!

During sex you should just push or turn her the way you want, without words, and she will follow your lead. If she does not like the pose, she may tell you "No" and turn the way she prefers. Russians don't talk during sex, they just make sounds. If you suspect, by her reaction that you are making her sore, ask her about...
it, and she will usually tell you if you did, but if she says she is OK, then she simply enjoyed it and was only making a groan of pleasure.

So, don't hope she will help you out with what she wants in your sexual encounter. Even if she has some certain preferences, she will not feel comfortable telling you about them, you will have to find it out yourself.

**About oral sex:** In Russia's past, oral sex was considered an act that only prostitutes performed. Nowadays, Russian women know about oral sex and most of them practice it. But many still have the inhibition that it is not something that a decent woman should do. So, she may be worried about what you will think of her if she offers it. Even if you perform oral sex on her, the woman will hesitate to perform it on you. Just remember, like many other things, all you need to do is to ask.

If you want oral sex, you should just ask her for it without words, just put your penis to her lips after you performed oral sex on her. If she wants to understand you, she will. If she does not seem to understand your request, then she does not want to do it. Try again next time. When your relationship grows stronger, and you have had sex many more times, you may ask her about it verbally. But do it subtly, "Please do it for me, I like it very much", not like, "I do it for you, why don't you do it for me", and you should be fine. If she is young and inexperienced, you might have to teach her how to do it. The best way would be to buy a movie where oral sex is displayed in detail, and watch it together, then ask her for that. Again, this may only be done after you have had sex many times. And don't forget to find out her opinion about pornography first, better still buy the video together.

After sex, show her that you care, and see to her needs. Don't ask if she needs anything, just do something, for example: get her a glass of wine or water, a towel or toilet paper to clean herself, etc. **It is not what you do for her, it is the attention you show to her that counts.**
Now, don’t be shocked if during or after sex a woman asks, "Have you finished?" In Russian, the word that is used for "cum" translates to "finish, end, or complete." So, if a woman asks you something like, "Did you end?", she is just asking if you had your orgasm.

**Don’t ask the woman if she enjoyed sex!** She will of course say that she did, even if she did not enjoy it and decided to never see you again. It is the same custom of being polite, and not saying anything that might offend the other person. Russians don’t ask each other such questions after sex, if the other one enjoyed it, it should be quite clear by one's behavior and body language. So, there should be no need to ask! If you do ask, she will assume that you are thick-skinned, insensitive, and are unable to really understand her.

Here’s how to figure it out: if she kisses you and holds herself close to you after sex, she enjoyed it. If she immediately jumps up and starts dressing... Then she is either in a hurry, or she did not enjoy her time with you! So, try kissing her and see if she responds happily. If she does, she did enjoy it. If she does not respond to your kiss and tries to cut you off, then she probably hated it.

The one big point about women's sexuality that you should know about is that **women are not as satisfied by the sexual technique, as they are by the lover.** This means that as long as she adores you, she will be happy with your lovemaking. Similarly, if she does not like you, even if you are a very skillful lover, she will be unhappy with the experience.

**For women under 30**, their sexuality is mostly receptive. This means that they enjoy having sex, but a lot of their own sexual pleasure will depend on how much you enjoyed the sex with them. **They can enjoy sex even without an orgasm.** They will be disappointed if you don't have an orgasm, but they usually won’t have a problem with not having one themselves. Some women actually need the man to ejaculate in order to be able to have an orgasm themselves.

**Women over 30**, for them having an orgasm is more important and more in women that have had children than in the women that are childless.

**Touching** is very important for a women's sexual pleasure. It raises her oxytocin level, which helps her to relax and reach orgasm. A lack of enough touching will lead to problems for her to climax. This is why hugging and kissing are extremely important to women.
The truth is, some men become so preoccupied with following all the steps they think they should go through that they fail to notice that the woman stopped enjoying herself. Don't be too concentrated on a woman having her orgasm. Keep an eye out to see if your partner is really enjoying herself. If it seems that your technique isn't working, doing it harder or longer won't help. At that point, do yourselves both a favor, and try something different. If on the other hand, you feel everything is going nowhere fast, have your own orgasm quickly. Otherwise, neither of you will get to climax, and the general consensus will be that the sex was a total disaster. She may even start to blame herself. If you, at least had an orgasm, she will be happy that she gave you a pleasurable experience. She won't feel offended if you had a fast one, as long as you explain to her that she was the one that drove you crazy. You are able to start over again, and take it slower. Even if you are unable to start a second round this first time, she will be OK with it, even for the first few times. After a while, you will find your feet, and the sex will get better, guaranteed!

So, relax, and enjoy. She won't think you're a lousy lover, as long as she thinks you're a great person. What is most important to the Russian women, is not the sex, but the spiritual connection with her lover.

**Summing it up:** The most important things during personal meeting are:

1. Be a Man.
2. Be a Gentleman.
3. Try everything you are offered.
4. Don't talk about money and pay with a smile.
5. Don't talk about sex until you have had sex.
6. If you can't say something nice, say nothing.
Part 11: How To Propose Marriage

You met your woman, the chemistry is right, should you propose marriage?

Not so fast.

First you must check if the woman is really interested in you. I know of cases where men met their girlfriends, proposed, and left Russia thinking they had a fiancée. Later, the women informed them they didn't wish to marry them.

How could this happen?

It can happen because of the Russian hospitality thing. The woman may be looking after you and taking care of you, only because you are her guest, and not because she really likes you. **If you see this early in your visit, you can still correct the situation.** But, if you missed the early warning signs, this will lead to disaster.

**Those early warning signs will be found in her body language.**

I will give you a quick condensed lesson, but I suggest that you read a book about body language. They have dozens of them in bookshops, and on Amazon.

Body language can reveal many things, and since it is not easy to fake, unless you have taken special training, like diplomats do, it is 100% true. Body language comes from our most basic animal instincts. Thus, we don’t normally control body language on the conscious level.

**The most basic lesson about body language in dating is; if a person likes you, she will reciprocate your body language, and if she does not like you, she will do the opposite.**

- If she likes you, she will move closer to you when you move closer. If she does not like you, she will move back. *(She might also just keep her distance - in this case, look for other signs; but still it is rather a positive sign - if the woman does not like you, she will certainly move away, if even in a few minutes.)*
- If she likes you, she will point her crossed leg towards you; if she doesn’t, she will point it away from you.
- If she likes you, she will sit in a relaxed open pose with her arms and legs. If she does not like you, she will cross her arms as if trying to protect herself. *(Unless of course she's simply cold.)*
- If she likes you, she will smile when she catches your sight. If she does not like you, she will look away.
- If she likes you, she will be relaxed and welcoming to your suggestions. If she does not like you, she will be irritated and always have an excuse why she cannot do what you suggest.
• If she likes you, she will be sexually curious, and only her cultural barriers will prevent her from jumping into bed with you. If she doesn't like you, she will avoid any and all body contact, especially your sexual advances.
• If she likes you, she will look for a way to do what you want. If she doesn't like you, she will look for an excuse not to do it.
• If she likes you, she will try to spend as much time as she can with you. If she doesn't like you, she will try to spend as little time with you as possible.

Those are pretty straightforward signs, and you cannot be misled if you look for them. **When a woman tells you one thing and her body language tells another, trust her body language**, regardless of how heartbreaking it may be.

If a woman likes you, she will reciprocate your body language

If you begin to notice warning signs in her body language, analyze what prompted it immediately, because you may be able to rectify the problem. Approach her and apologize for whatever is ailing her. Hold her hand in yours and look into her eyes, and sincerely apologize. If you cannot figure out what is causing the problem, approach her and ask her what's wrong. She will of course say, "Nothing", but be persistent. Try to name everything that might be at issue, and request that she respond. You may discover the problem was something completely different. Either way, she should be touched by your sensitivity, and will more than likely forgive you. You might even score some points in her eyes because of sensitivity and consideration.

OK, so her body language is right, you've had sex, and you now want to continue your relationship further. **If you feel like this is the woman you want to spend the rest of your life with, propose**, even if you may not be 100% positive. You will still have plenty of time to put any small doubts to rest. This is because, as most psychologists insist, people usually decide if someone is the right person for them within the first two weeks of dating, and they seldom change their minds.

After all those letters that you wrote to each other, and everything that you shared with each other, you should know each other well enough to decide if this is the person you want to marry. Besides, there's still time to verify your feelings during the entire visa application and marriage process. After she's got her fiancee visa, it gives you quite a lot of time together before you have to get married (3 months in the USA and 9 months in Australia; check family visa regulations for your country).
During this time, you will be living together under the same roof. Any problems or concerns should come-up long before your wedding.

During my husband's visit with me, he did not propose marriage. He invited me to South Africa, and only after I had seen his country and loved it, did he propose. This was due to the fact that he was worried that I might not like his homeland, not that we were not right for each other.

So I believe that if it feels right, propose.

There are an uncountable number of ways to propose, and you should absolutely make yours special. Check out different ideas in books, magazines, and on the Internet. Think about something that could really make a great beginning to your new family's history. I won't be making suggestions here. This time it's up to your imagination.

One question that men ask often is if they should give her a ring?

In Russia, they don't use engagement rings. But, they do watch Hollywood movies, and know very well the tradition that is used in the west. So, if you are planning to propose, you can certainly give her an engagement ring. Any Russian woman would love to be proposed to in the western way. A proposal for marriage with an engagement ring is very romantic indeed!

And of course you should bring it from home. No, it is not a good idea to ask her about her size. Again, make a judgment based on her height, weight, and build. Bring all the information you have of her, along with photos of her and her fingers to a good jewelry store. Any shop assistance worth their weight will be able to help size her.

As an aid, keep in mind that: if she is really slim and shorter than 165 cm (5'5"), the USA size for her ring finger is likely to be 5½ (UK "L"); if she is slim but not thin, the USA size is likely to be 6 (UK: "M"); if she is of average size or she is taller than 165 cm (5'5"), then her USA size will be closer to 6½ (UK: "N"); and if she is bigger than that, it may be USA size 7 (UK: "O"). Women usually don't have fingers bigger than that, unless they are really large.
It is much safer if the ring is a little too large than too small. This is because it is easier and cheaper for a jeweler to size a ring down (shrink it) than up. Now keep in mind that in Russia women wear their wedding rings on their right ring finger (next to the pinky finger). In America, it is traditionally worn on the left ring finger. In truth, it doesn't make a blind bit of difference. As long as you both love each other and are happy together, you can wear your rings on any finger that you want. Your true love will be in your hearts, not on your fingers. Your wedding rings are just physical symbols of your love.

Why it is not a good idea to ask a woman about her ring size? Because the biggest part of a romantic and memorable proposal is the surprise! Even though a woman might expect it coming, she is still unsure about it until the moment actually happens. She wants the surprise!

So, it is far better to give her a ring of a slightly larger size and knock her socks off, than to ask her exact ring size and throw the romance away.

And if you utilized my idea about the gift extravaganza and were giving her a new gift each day, you may and should give her the engagement ring as the final gift of your visit. This will be very romantic!

**Summing it up:** Proposing to a Russian woman is very similar to proposing to a woman from your country, it's the beginning of your future family history!
Part 12: How To Bring Your Fiancée Into Your Country: Visas, Relocation And Adaptation

Your proposal was accepted; now you need to bring your fiancée into your country.

Most countries have special marriage visas. In the USA it is called a "fiancée visa" or K-1 visa (K-3 if you are already married). In Australia - a "prospective marriage visa". Most countries have similar requirements: you must have previously met your fiancée in person before applying for her visa; and you will need to marry within a specified time frame (within 3 months in the USA and 9 months in Australia, as of this printing), or else she will be deported.

Make sure you contact your country's department of immigration or a qualified immigration lawyer for all necessary requirements. The advice given here is for informational purposes only; you must verify it with a competent professional.

I strongly suggest using a fiancée visa to bring your lady into your country because it will give you more time to feel out your compatibility. The time that you will spend apart while waiting for her visa to be approved is also additional time for you to confirm your decision. Usually, less than 10-15% of all fiancée visa applications are refused. Of the ones that have been refused, it is usually due to a lack of supporting documentation.

However, it is proven that if you are already married, your visa application will go smoother and faster than if you intend to marry in your own country. It used to be different 5 years ago when fiancées were in a privileged position - not anymore. So if you are not concerned about compatibility issues, you may want to marry abroad, and then bring your bride into your country.

Tip for the USA: if you marry abroad, your application will be processed in the country where you married. Russia currently has quite a long queue for fiancée visa applications (currently 3-6 months). And as an example if you marry in Poland, your visa application could be processed in as little as a couple of weeks. There are always legal requirements as to how long you must stay in a country before you can legally marry there. You need to know every requirement before you actually get married.

Many people use immigration lawyers to ensure their visa applications go smoothly.
In the USA, I recommend Holmes and Lolly, who have been working in this field for many years, and have a **100% success rate** (phone them at **858-483-0300**). Holmes & Lolly will be able to advise you both on both the K-1 fiancée visa and K-3 spouse visa. They are prompt and efficient with their service.

**Tip for Australia:** your relationship should be at least 1 year old when you apply for the prospective marriage (fiancée) visa, and you must be able to prove it. They are very strict about it these days. This is where all your files and printouts of your letters will find their final use. If your relationship is less than a year old, your application might be delayed until it passes the one-year limit. Also, for the wife-migrant, English courses at TAFE (510 hours) are offered for free, while a fiancée must pay.

While your paperwork is being processed, use this time to build a better rapport with your future wife. Many couples meet during this process in another country to spend more time together, which is a good idea if you have enough resources. If not, then you can simply write letters to each other, talk on the phone daily, or do both. It is important you stay in close contact with your fiancée. More than likely, you will be so much in love that you simply won't be able act differently!

During this time, your fiancée may become worried if she is doing the right thing. She might be advised by her family and friends or read some horror stories in media (this may happen to you, too).

I was worried sick before my permanent departure to South Africa; I lost weight and developed acne from being worried. It is not easy to leave your family behind, friends, your country and your whole life - the only life you ever knew.

You might want to touch on this topic in your correspondence or conversations, because **this is a process that every woman will go through**. Don't think it's easy, and that she does not have anything to lose. She is leaving her whole world behind and venturing into the unknown to be with you - remember that! She needs your care, understanding and support very much.

She will feel especially insecure when she finally gets her visa and arrives in your country. For the first few weeks she will still be full of doubts. Good sex is the best relaxation method; use it as much as you can - as long as she is happy with it. :-)

Explain to her everything about your country. Tell her how things operate, even if it is common knowledge, especially about: credit cards, checks, the financial system, transportation, education, etc. She may not know every detail and will therefore make mistakes. Don't try to introduce her to too many people. Let her rest and find her feet. In 4-6 weeks she will be ready for socializing but not right away.
Explain her things about your country and how the things operate: credit cards, checks, financial system, transportation etc

Don't be surprised if she is a bit distant or not what you expected her to be in those first few weeks. Just be understanding, attentive, and caring. If she has children that came with her, care for the children first, because to a woman her children are most important, and she worries about them more than about herself. Play with children and let her relax.

Keep being romantic and charming. Give her flowers. Bring her coffee in bed. She will want to cook for you - eat the food she cooks and don't force her to cook different food even if you don't really like what she is cooking. Tell her when you like the food but keep it for yourself if you don't like it. Take her to a restaurant, order take-away, or cook for her, from time to time. Offer her a glass of wine in the evening or with dinner. If she drinks, you can drink with her too. If she does not drink, don't drink! Take her to a shopping center and give her enough money (at least $300-$400) and time (at least 3-4 hours) to buy what she wants for herself. Women love shopping and it helps them feel fulfilled and relaxed.

Ask her to phone her family and friends - use a discount phone card for that. She may talk incessantly on the phone for those first weeks - it will not always be the case. But in those first few weeks she needs the facility to talk to her family and friends.

It would be wonderful if you can locate a Russian woman-friend for her, preferably somebody who is married to a local man. This friend could explain many things to her, and make her adaptation easier. But you must like this friend. Don't just pick up somebody you don't like only because she is Russian.

After 4-6 weeks you may start introducing your lady to your family and friends. It's great if she starts making friends on her own.

A good idea would be courses in English for foreigners; this will keep her busy and she will be able to make new friends.
You should also ask your family and friends to take her out. **This should be done by them asking for her help, and not in the way of "helping her".** For example: your sister or female friend could ask her to help her to choose a gift for somebody you both know (or even yourself), or new curtains for her bedroom; your brother could ask her to help in organizing a children's party for their daughter's birthday; Or your church could ask her to help to organize a fundraising breakfast. She will not refuse to help others but she might decline when people offer to help her. She may be surprised that people she does not know will want her to help them, but she will not refuse. In Russian culture, people often ask each other for help - communal spirit and helping others is the norm.

You must remember that those first months your lady will be struggling with English. It will become much easier after a few months, but in the beginning she will struggle to understand people and express herself. Be with her and repeat what people said, clearly and slowly. Tell her that her English is great and people understand her. Tell her that people don't have problems with repeating what they just said - all she needs to do is ask. Keep telling her that no one will laugh at her. Teach her phrases on how to ask people to speak slowly or to repeat what she did not understand.

If you go out, before going to a function explain to her what is expected from her in the social situation and what other people will be doing. You may think it is not necessary but she will feel uncomfortable unless she knows for sure what is expected of her.

**And of course, don't forget to tell her each and every day that you love her and are very happy to have her in your life!**

Good luck in your marriage and I am looking forward to receiving your wedding photo!!

Yours,
Elena Petrova
Elena Petrova: "How To Find And Marry A Girl Like Me"

P.S.

I want to know your opinion about my book.

- Did you enjoy the book?
- What do you think about it?

I will be very interested in hearing from you!

Please email me with comments at elena@womenrussia.com and write "COMMENT ABOUT E-BOOK" in the "Subject" line of your message. Thank you in advance!

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