

Learn About Your Mate...

Here's the situation:

It's a Thursday night, and you're curled up in your favorite chair reading a book. Dinner is in the oven and your kids are upstairs working on their homework. Your husband should be home within the hour.

Your silent solitude is interrupted when the phone begins ringing in the kitchen. You overcome your fears of phone solicitors and (against your better judgment) you answer it.

It's a reporter, and she wants to ask you a few "insider" questions about your spouse. She says it's for a feature article in a glossy business magazine. Knowing that your husband will be thrilled, you agree to answer a few questions. She assures you that she'll be emailing you a list of questions this even, and will need the responses within 48 hours.

But when the questions arrive in your in-box, you panic!

- *What is your husband's greatest accomplishment in life?*
- *What key issues is your husband concerned about in his business?*
- *When it comes to ethics, what is your husband's policy?*
- *What drives your husband to success?*
- *What are his ultimate goals in business and in life?*

The list goes on and on, and you find yourself floundering for the answers.

While you have no trouble answering some of the more basic questions, there are plenty of them you've left unanswered. And you feel miserable...

If this had happened to you, how would you have fared?

How much do you really know about your mate? Not just vital statistics, like his age, birthday, height, weight or hair color. What are his favorite colors? Where is his favorite getaway? What is his greatest shining accomplishment? What was his most devastating failure? What are his plans for the next ten years? Fifteen years? Twenty years? What political

issues concern him? How does he find comfort? Where does he go in search of peace and quiet?

While you may not ever have a reporter calling you in search of these questions, you'd better believe that knowing the answers is important! Your spouse is your life-mate, the man you chose to share everything with: your hopes, dreams, fears and joys. He wants to share those same things with you!

If you've begun to fear that you don't really know your husband, it's never too late to learn. Pretend like you're the reporter! Ask him those questions that you don't have answers to. Listen to his responses. Show interest in his hopes and dreams, and even his fears.

Not only does learning more about your mate help you to be a better wife, it also helps your spouse to be a better husband. Just the knowledge that you really care, that you really want to know more about him will help him open himself up to you. It can help you bridge gaps that may have grown. It can help you overcome challenges that you are facing, or have yet to identify.

It could prove to be a turning point, not only in your marriage, but in the rest of the life you share too!

Kathy Stafford, Relationship Coach

"I show singles how to get married and couples how to STAY married"

Do you want more from your relationship? Go to <http://www.dearkathy.com> for relationship articles, advice, and programs.

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