

DATING ASIANS

Tania Wang

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INTRODUCTION

I'VE RECENTLY BECOME INTERESTED in this topic of dating Asians because I've seen more and more Asian people going out with non-Asian folks, at least in America. It didn't used to be this way.

Traditionally, Asian immigrants tend to socialize with people within their own communities; They won't even say "Hello" when they pick up the phone as they are not expecting phone calls from any English speaking people; Some Japanese, Korean and Chinese authority figures such as fathers, uncles, or elder brothers would even pressure the women to not date or marry men of other races.

I am using the term 'Asian' loosely here. It encompasses Chinese, Taiwanese, Japanese, Korean, Hong Kong Chinese, Singaporean and Vietnamese emigrants. I won't go into details to analyze these countries individually, rather, I am using them as a group of Asians that have had stronger influences from ancient Chinese philosophies such as Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism with Chinese/Japanese flavor, such as Zen.

Nowadays, whether it's increased media coverage, higher attendance at colleges and other public gatherings, such as shopping malls and book stores, or simply because people

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have become more open-minded in general, dating Asians has definitely become popular. Today, an Asian person is less likely to have to worry about not being accepted by his/her Caucasian in-laws; a person who dates Asians is not necessarily a hippy now. I will explain why in later chapters.

When I first mentioned to my friends that I was going to write a book about dating Asians, the first question they asked was “Do you mean white males dating Asian females?” My answers were “yeah, sort of...” until recently I came across a few Caucasian women who are crazy about Asian men. So I have decided to include ‘White females seeking Asian men.’ But don’t feel cast out if you are not Caucasian or if your Asian lover is not from the countries listed above; because Asians who would go out with Caucasians are somewhat open to date ‘non-Asian’ to begin with, and besides, Asian emigrants are all over the world!

My guess is if you are reading this book, you are sincere about dating Asians and would like to learn more about this phenomenon. So read on, you will be armed with the information and knowledge you need to better understand Asians. This will give you a better chance of succeeding. Be mindful as you read this book; there will be a quiz at the end!

CHAPTER 1

WHO ARE THEY?

TYPES OF ASIANS IN MODERN DAYS

THERE ARE AT LEAST the following six categories of Asians based upon the amount of attachments to their original home countries. Generally speaking, the ones that were born and raised in Asia have more traditional Asian traits to bring to the table.

Type 1.....Some Asians will not leave their home countries.

You might have met your Asian lover when you were on an overseas trip. Or, perhaps your lover was here in the U.S. for a temporary stay. Either way, be prepared to move to that country if you want to keep this relationship. Most Asians have very strong family ties and are very loyal to their friends. If they find themselves not being able to be apart from that circle, they are probably going to want to return to their homeland. If you moved there, your Asian lover's circle of friends would definitely use their contacts to help you with your career, so that you could live there without financial pressures, even in the worse case, you could always teach English there! But be prepared to get along with their friends and families, especially parents; it's not uncommon for them to move

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in with younger family members. Generally when you marry an Asian, you marry the whole family.

Type 2.....Some Asians want to leave their home countries.

There are many Asian women living in Asia that ‘desperately want to be saved.’ (There are lots of them here in this country too, but the situations are different.) Women’s rights in Asian countries still do not measure up to the ones in the U.S. When Asian women realize that the majority of American men are willing to share the responsibilities of cooking, cleaning and babysitting, and at the same time are more romantic and know how to enjoy life more than some Asian men do, dating Asian men becomes far less desirable. For some, it can’t even be considered. These kinds of women desperately want to be saved. They can be very loyal to you because you ‘save their lives.’

Type 3.....Some Asians have already moved and settled in the U.S.

These Asians have already had the taste of freedom and lifestyles of this country. They live in this land of freedom and they like living here. They appreciate American culture even more than many Americans do and they are more likely to try to assimilate and strive for a better life here. These Asian immigrants are hard working people. They are here seeking their ‘American dreams.’ This is a very fun type of Asian. They are so determined to succeed that they have already moved out of their countries permanently in search of such a dramatic life change. They can be very inspiring and you can definitely grow with them.

Who Are They?

Depending on how long they have been in the U.S., they can become more Americanized and more patriotic than native Americans. Some Americans have experienced harder times dating some of the 'too Americanized Asians.' I think that might have something to do with their expectation of stereotypical Asian personalities, such as being shy, submissive, and polite.

Type 4.Some Asians are here only temporarily

These Asians are sort of patriotic or homesick or perhaps they just don't fit in here. Like type 1 Asians, they are very well connected in their own social circle in their homeland. You may do well over there in both practical and exotic ways! Contrary to type 1, the type 4 Asians have lived in the U.S. for quite some time; coupled with the benefit of having grown up in their native countries, they have the best of both worlds. If you are young and adventurous, moving to your lover's country might be fun, and if you get old or homesick, it's possible that you might be able to convince them to move back to the U.S.

Type 5.....Some Asians are native-born U.S. citizens.

These are really Americans with Asian faces. They have the least amount of traditional Asian traits. They fit in to the American society the best among the 5 types. With type 5 Asian you will have no communication problems, as far as language goes. However, their parents can still possess strong cultural values and traditions that they would like to preserve and they have a tremendous amount of influence on their children's choice of career and marriage partner.

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There are two extremes that come out of these type of families. One is obeying their parents all the way and having the constant blessings and support from the families. This can mean strong, positive energy and financial support if you are willing to go along with their parents' decisions at all times.

The other extreme is the 'rebels.' They can't stand the way their parents live and they certainly won't let their parents dictate what they do with their lives. They move out of their parents' home a lot earlier than most other Asians; (With strong family values and financial strategies, it is common for Asian families to live under one roof. Kids don't usually move out until they get married; some of them even live with the parents after they get married.) These 'rebels' tend to shun traditional career choices. A lot of them work in the entertainment industry (as opposed to being doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants, bankers...); some even become standup comedians. This type of Asian, with or without the intention of being a 'rebel,' makes his or her own dating choices. They are fully aware of their dating options. Some say they have more attitude than other types of Asians, or they seem 'too Americanized' if you will. Personally, I think they really are Americans, and whether or not they appear to have more attitude is based on your expectation of their traditional Asian traits.

Type 6. *Some Asians are 'mixed.'*

Physically, they look like Asians, but may seem more attractive in the American mainstream sense. Culturally, they may or may not be Asian at all depending on where they grew up and even whether or not their fathers are Asians.

Who Are They?

Let's start with childhood experiences: In America, most of us have a hard time telling whether a particular Asian person is Chinese, Japanese or Korean and so on, and if you asked, he or she might just tell you "I am an American!" In Asian countries, the same rule doesn't apply. Most Asian people have a system for differentiating themselves from other Asian people, in a good or a bad way. Asian kids would most likely disassociate themselves from Asian kids of another country – especially if this kid is only half Asian.

Aside from certain parts of the country that are more conservative, the 'mixed' Asian kids are more accepted here in America than in Asia.

The 'mixed' Asians who had identity issues growing up are more likely to appreciate American lovers who are, in comparison, more open-minded. In a sense, they feel 'accepted.'

Next, let's talk about their parents. The majority of Japanese and Korean parents have strict rules against their daughters marrying 'foreigners.' The majority of the 'mixed' Asians have Asian moms and Caucasian dads. The majority of Asian moms fall into type 2 and type 3, who are very American- friendly to begin with.

Type 2 and type 3 Asian moms usually don't have a problem 'approving' their kids marrying 'foreigners'; Asian dads usually have to maintain their authority over their kids' major decisions in life, such as choosing marriage partners. In this situation, you can't physically become Asian, but sometimes they bend the rules if you are very Asian savvy, such as being able to speak Asian languages, being a Buddhist, practicing martial arts and so

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on. Chapter 6 lists 30 different ways to impress Asians.
Be sure to study that one!