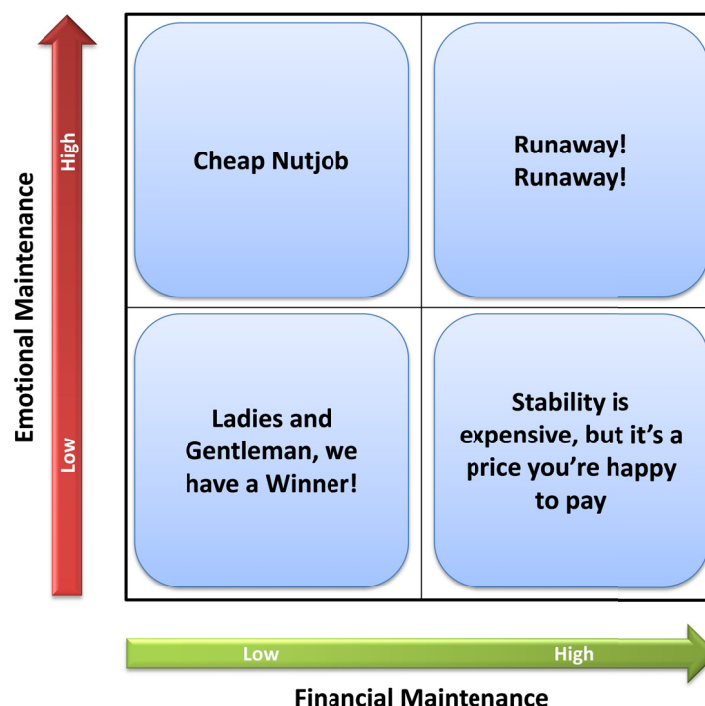


The Girlfriend Selection Matrix

For years you've been lost, constantly wondering if your girlfriend was **the one** for you. But now there is hope, because the Reluctant Management Consultant is on the case. You see, many men have chosen their girlfriends without **any** application of the knowledge, skill and experience of my profession. As a management consultant I have been trained to solve problems, to analyse the unknown, to apply my mind and ultimately to develop practical, implementable solutions. It's time to turn your choice of girlfriend from random event to science.

Thus, let me introduce you to the Reluctant Management Consultant's Two By Two Girlfriend Selection Matrix!

Please follow using the diagram below as your guide. We'll start with X axis, which I will label **Financial Maintenance**. Financial Maintenance can be defined as the proportion of your discretionary income that you are now re-allocating to your girlfriend. I say re-allocating because prior to you being in a relationship, this money would have been spent on DVDs, power tools and beer, but now a form of economic re-distribution is taking place to items such as curtains, candles and Woolworth's Slimmer's Choice Probiotic Yoghurt. I've applied a simple categorisation of Low and High to Financial Maintenance. Now, some of you might be wondering "How do I know if my girlfriend is Low Financial Maintenance or High Financial Maintenance" Guys, if your significant other tells you there's a sale on... at Mr. Price, she's low maintenance. If she walks past the Gucci shop and is greeted by name, you've got problems – she's high maintenance.



The Y Axis is critical to our analysis as it measures **Emotional Maintenance**. Again, divided into two simple sections: Low and High. The easiest analogy I've found to elaborate the difference between Low and High Emotional Maintenance is to say that... like inert gases such as neon, nitrogen and argon, a Low Emotional Maintenance girlfriend is stable at room temperature, passive and non-reactive... particularly if you've just burped the National Anthem. This is contrasted with girlfriends in the High Emotional Maintenance category which can be compared to throwing magnesium into water – a large violent, explosive reaction will ensue such as that experienced when you tell an ex her friend Stacey from work is quite hot. Sometimes honesty is **not** the best policy...

Sectioning off our Low and High classifications on each axis leaves us with four categories of choice. This brings us to the important question: which is the ideal category for your girlfriend to be in? Clearly, every man wants a girlfriend that's even-tempered and likes collecting coupons, but we live and dream. The category you want to avoid at all costs is... that's right "High High" – crazy and expensive!

And now for the final, vexing question, which of the two remaining categories do you choose? Do you go with someone who's Low Emotional and High Financial (calm but spends your cash like a Hilton sister) or High Emotional and Low Financial (a cheap nutter). Which is it to be? And the answer is? The answer is **always**, and I really do mean **always**, Low Emotional and High Financial! Because, let's face it, you'd rather have a maxed out gold credit card than go out with the local equivalent of Courtney Love. Just remember dear readers, crazy costs extra!