

The “Optimistic” Ideas Man



The Dreamer

The Dreamer



The Start-Up Guy

The Start-Up Guy



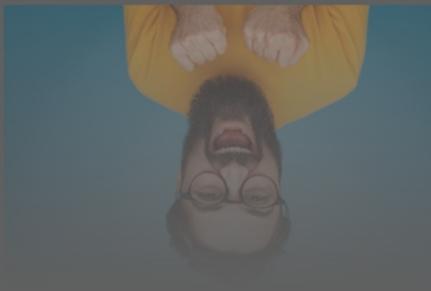
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Disclaimer

THE MAN MATRIX is an attempt to create a different set of axes on which to evaluate and assess men’s behaviour. It accepts the validity of individual men’s neurological and psychological makeup as something that does not need to be changed. It aims to generate a set of distinctions between men based on personality styles, along with a broader understanding of men’s psychospiritual development process—both for men themselves, and for women seeking to understand men.

The language and pronoun use focuses on cis-heterosexual men and assumes the interest of cis-heterosexual women, for reasons explained elsewhere. It may equally be used by parents, friends or colleagues of those men, and by people of any gender who find it useful and relevant.

The information in this report is intended as a reference, or map, that offers a particular way of assessing the landscape. No statement purports to be the absolute truth. It should be viewed holistically and as a means for supporting individual growth, not as “evidence against” nor as a means to “alter him”. You are invited to treat it in that way and to use it with intelligence and compassion.

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PERCEPTION

How people see you

YOU'RE HARD to miss. Your enthusiasm announces you when you walk into the room, and you naturally attract a lot of attention. Others might watch with envy as you sparkle and bristle with restless energy and exciting ideas. You'll be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed at all hours, and a fast talker. People will watch and wonder how you can be so eternally optimistic and energetic. They'll feel that they can get a booster shot of both, just from being close to you.

However, if anyone can't keep up—and most people can't—they'll soon see the back of you. You won't hang around. You don't like to be around “boring”, “negative” or “heavy” situations for long—and “long” is a very short time for you. As soon as you sense any of those conditions brewing, you'll start looking for something more exciting, whether it's the next party, the next business idea or job, and sometimes even the next relationship partner.

Some people—let's say women, or potential partners of any gender—may want to be part of the excitement and go along for the ride. Some may want that just for the thrill of it, while others may relish the challenge of being the one to tame you. Guess which one you'll prefer to be with?!

Especially while you're young, your friends will see you as having a devil-may-care attitude and being the one among them



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who is least likely to commit—to a job, a career, a steady relationship, even to plans that extend beyond today. To be sure, this is not uncommon for younger men, so people should not be too quick to judge you. If you're still behaving like this once you're well into your thirties, then yes, they're more entitled to assess you as being this type of man.

Your willingness to commit should evolve as you grow older, and will be an important indicator of your level of maturity. However, until that happens, you're likely to arrive with a new date on your arm every few weeks—or months at the most. You're a strong candidate for bachelorhood, although you could equally surprise everybody by suddenly settling down, perhaps even getting married—especially if one of those determined “tamers” ensnares you!

In business, you'll be much the same: always arriving with a new idea, a new lead, a new prospect. Whatever your qualification or specialisation, you'll gravitate towards a forward-looking strategic or sales-oriented role, where you'll harness your natural talent for seeing opportunities and inspiring the “suits” to buy into them. Once again, your colleagues will see the back of you quite often as you leave to pursue the next deal, and the next one. In your wake, they might find that the paperwork has been rushed, if it's been done at all.

BLIND SPOT

Why you drive people crazy

The “Optimistic” Ideas Man You never sit still for long. You embody the restless spirit and are always looking for the next adventure, the next exciting thrill. Even if some people like that from time to time, it can become exhausting. You won’t know when you’re tired—*Sleep when you’re dead*, will be your favourite saying—let alone know when other people are tired of you! Therefore, you’ll be vulnerable to sudden, stress-related illnesses that take you by surprise and knock you really hard. It’s the only way your body can get you to listen.

Your habit of always seeing the bright side and avoiding negativity means you’ll tend to rationalise problem situations in the hope of making them go away, instead of dealing with them. “Ah, everything will be fine,” will be the gist of your response. “It’s not as bad as you’re making out.” As a result, you’ll frustrate people when, despite their advice, you end up staying in a bad relationship—business or personal—for much longer than is good for you. Or you might refuse to ask for money that you’re owed, because you insist that you’ll make it back some other way. These could also be seen as irresponsible behaviours, especially when your failure to act starts to impact your own family or business.

In addition, people may struggle to have a long, serious, or deep conversation with you about these matters. You’ll want



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to escape those at all costs! Likewise, any paperwork, admin, filing, sorting, cleaning, or general chores. Things can fall through the cracks, like your insurance, or your tax filings. They’re likely to catch up with you when you have that accident that you never thought you’d have, or when you need to move quickly to take advantage of a property deal, but you can’t get your paperwork up to date in time.

There are versions of this type of man who can be extremely ungrounded. In such cases, he might be quite reckless and unrealistic with his ideas and schemes. We’re talking about the kind of man whose strategy for dealing with a financial problem could be to buy a lottery ticket with the total conviction that he’s going to win the jackpot. An example of this is Travers Goff, the father of P.L. Travers, author of *Mary Poppins*. His tragic real-life story is told in the movie *Saving Mr Banks*, with Colin Farrell in the role. It’s most educative in this context.

As in the aforementioned movie, when things don’t work out for the ungrounded version of this man, he’ll bounce from one opportunity to the next one, and the next, as he searches for the one that offers the easiest escape, or the fastest route to the wealth that he believes will finally set him free. Each time, he’ll be convinced that *this* is the one. This will certainly drive the people around him crazy.

Your journey through the four stages of maturity

The “Optimistic” Ideas Man The journey to maturity for every man involves the establishment of the ego and its inevitable dark side, or shadow, followed—hopefully—by the integration of that shadow. As described in the Man Matrix introduction, a man’s shadow effectively contains the data belonging to that one element of life that he tries to avoid or escape from, and which he tries to deny in himself.

For the “Optimistic” Ideas Man, the thing that you’re trying to escape from is all the rules, constraints and limitations that society and organizations impose on people—and especially on you. In other words, all the stuff that’s seen as “negative” or “boring”, including things like reading the fine print and completing the paperwork.

As a child, you might have found yourself in a home environment that was either extremely restrictive, abusive, chaotic, or perhaps even dull. The only way you could maintain your sanity was to escape, perhaps into fantasy, or by literally getting as far away from the house as you could.

As an adult, you’ll try to avoid any such negativity by striving to break, bend or bypass any rules or conventions, by striving towards the new, the untried, the untested, and by “getting out there” and having fun. This will provide the theme for your



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rebellion during the red stage, and for your criticism of the world during your white stage. For example, in red, you’ll point out the ways in which society is restrictive, rules are ridiculous, and people are boring and conventional. In white, you’ll turn this into a personal crusade on behalf of your children, for example. Of course, you won’t allow yourself to be boring or follow the rules either and, if it ever occurs, you’ll look away or deny it.

As you mature, you’ll subconsciously gather evidence that proves you wrong—yes, wrong. In other words, you’ll accumulate data as a result of contradictory life experiences that the world is different from your childhood universe. At first you won’t pay too much attention to this data, but eventually it will start to break through. You’ll have some undeniable feedback from life in the form of people or experiences. Something in you will recognise that you no longer need to defend yourself in the way that you did back then. In other words, it’ll gradually dawn on you that you don’t have to run away anymore.

If you accept and integrate this shadow data, you’ll progress to the point where you can live with, and possibly even embrace, the restrictions that life places on you, while not losing any of your exciting, visionary nature.

Invite people to support your growth by sharing this information.



“Will you be my unicorn?”



What “I’ll alter him” shifts you can (and shouldn’t) expect from me

The “Optimistic” Ideas Man As my partner, colleague, parent or friend, you’ll probably recognise and hopefully appreciate my optimistic, adventurous and fun-loving approach to life. Yet, you might sometimes wish that I would somehow miraculously transform into a more cautious and responsible, organised and disciplined, or cultured and refined version of myself. These “missing” elements may lead you to compare me negatively with the types of men that do demonstrate those patterns of behaviour.

For example, you might wish that I would be less naïve and more circumspect in my approach to new business ideas, the way the “Cautious” Ideas Man might, instead of just diving in headfirst every time and then getting my fingers burnt. Or you might want me to persevere and push through when the going gets tough, just like the “Winning” Best Man or the Real Man would, instead of giving up and moving onto something new. Perhaps you want me to spend more time reading the fine print of the contracts I sign and pay attention to my own admin, much like the “Strict” Right Man would, so that we don’t find ourselves suddenly without insurance coverage because I didn’t open and read my emails. Then you might wish I was a little more discerning on the social front, which is a mark of the “Winning” Best Man.

The bottom line is, I’m not going to “change” into any of those types of men. In fact, the more you try to “alter” me, or in other words try to get me to “change into” one of those types of men, the more likely I am to dig in my heels and resist.



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That said, you might have a point, and so I might learn to take on one or two of those men’s behaviours from time to time. Yes, I might try being more realistic about my grand schemes. I might persevere more when I find things becoming difficult or boring. I might hire someone to do my admin, and make sure I keep an eye on them! I might be more circumspect on the social front.

While there’s some of this I could start doing right now, it will happen naturally as a result of maturity. It’s what the process of integration is all about. After all, maturing and integrating is about becoming less one-sided. It’s about not treating every situation in the same way, based on how I am, but instead treating each situation on its own merits. So, if you’re supporting me on that journey, you can drop a few hints along the way, and be patient. :)

In the meanwhile, here are some things I’m going to keep doing, as well as things I’ll consider doing more of, and doing less of:

Things I’ll keep doing:

Things I’ll do more of:

Things I’ll do less of:

Get the full report!

Get the full report to learn more about:

1. How you see the world (your dominant worldview);
2. Why people like you (your gifts / offerings);
3. Your core fear (the underlying driver of much of your behaviour);
4. A full 8-page report on your journey through the four stages of maturity;
5. Two more “handouts” containing information you can share with others:
 - a. What you look for in a partner / colleague / friend and what they can do to “win you over”;
 - b. What you can ask of others to support you on your journey to maturity;
6. Plus a set of self-coaching questions.

Yes, take me there!



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