

Sabrina Devonshire's Writing POV of the Opposite Sex Suggestions

"When we don't believe in the characters, we don't believe in the story," says Jackson Dean Chase in *How to Write Realistic Men: The New Psychology of Creating Credible Male Characters*

So for the female authors out there, it is your job to get inside the head of your male character so he **feels real** to your readers. **Please keep in mind these are stereotypes and all these traits might not fight for the male characters you are writing. They are meant to be used as rough guidelines.**

Common Male Traits

- 1) Men fear appearing weak ...For this reason, they will
 - rarely express weaknesses and emotions
 - rarely speak in an ambivalent manner "I'm not sure" or "sort of"
 - want to solve problems quickly to get past feeling weak.
 - rarely ask for advice (or directions)
- 2) Men have a desire to compete, dominate, control and defend family and territory. They like being the alpha. Men don't relinquish power easily. When a man loses power, the shame he feels may lead him to plot revenge or become stubborn. Emotional withdrawal will occur if he feels powerless in a relationship.
- 3) Men are action oriented and prefer direct action to talk. They aren't likely to agonize over whether to kiss a woman, they do it and deal with the consequences later.
- 4) Men don't like to feel forced to respond. He perceives this as a threat (such as "we need to take this relationship to the next level"). When pressured, he may blow up or walk out instead of talking things out. After a period of hours or days of sorting through the situation, he may be ready to talk.
- 5) More logic driven than emotion-driven. When a female character craves comfort, the male will tend to want to fix her situation over offering comfort.
- 6) Rarely share feelings or admit they have emotional needs. To them, they are private things that are no one's business.
- 7) Visual observers. The way a woman dresses may create a visual image that lasts in his mind for hours or even decades.
- 8) Not interested in gossip.
- 9) Tend to only use endearing words such as darling and honey during sex.

Male Communication Style

- Don't use expressive adjectives – “You look gorgeous in that dress.” Instead, might say, “Looks good.”
- Don't say one thing and mean another
- Don't use polite “Could I, Should I, May I”
- Slow to admit they are wrong
- Don't end sentences with questions
- Don't like being spoken to in a direct command except by boss or high-ranking official.
- Usually don't use talking to strengthen emotional ties
- May not punctuate speaker's speech with agreeing noises such as “uh huh”
- Will not make much effort to keep conversation going
- Sex is their language of intimacy
- Colors are red, blue, green...never chartreuse or mauve, etc.

Verbal Communication Under Duress

- bold and aggressive
- sometimes confrontational out of a desire to regain control and not be perceived as weak. “Nobody talks to me that way.” “Try that again and you'll be sorry.”
- Speak directly instead of beating around the bush. Say what they are thinking, not feeling.

Behavior Under Duress

- Men often communicate mood and emotions through grunts, sighs or body language. When confronted with a difficulty, it is common for the man to cycle between confusion, frustration, fear and anger.
- -slumped shoulders
- -rubbing head or chin
- -putting face in hands
- -swearing
- -sighing
- -crossed arms
- -tears only when a loved one dies or after winning an athletic event. If he does cry, he will try to divert attention from this “weakness” by grabbing another beer, looking away or saying he has allergies or dust in his eye. He also might leave the room.

Behavior In Intimate Settings

- minimal talk

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- prefer maintaining control
- want to feel like woman approves of his actions
- excited by visual