

IN SEARCH OF THE PATERNAL

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after Sarah Hanner's "WANTED: Biological Father"

ISO: Paternal Grandfather (part-time)*

Woman, 20-something searches for a father for her own father. Requirements include: AARP status. Bill Nye's enthusiasm. Thick, salt and pepper hair slicked back with stiff gel that has a distinct smell lingers in a room. 6'0 exactly. Must want to play catch with the said son who is in his late 30s. May enjoy the occasional backyard-pond fishing. Must want grandchildren; specifically, grand-girls. Enjoys reading the daily comics. Bonus: clips the exceptionally funny ones and saves them for the eldest granddaughter—me—when she comes to visit for frequent breakfast dates. Extra bonus: saves comic in an envelope with a hand-written note. Can be married, but the wife should want a son and grandchildren. She can knit and is willing to teach me. Wife/step-mom/grandma must bake fresh cookies. Important: must not have any other children—my father doesn't like to share. All of your attention should be on him now. Acceptable reasons for being an absentee father and grandfather: was on Mars helping build a sustainable home for when Earth dies. Got lost in an airport for 37 years. Fell down a well.

ISO: Father (full-time)*

Same 20-something searches for her own father. Must be: dirty blonde, average build, and shorter than 5'8 (I am insecure about my 5'5 height and need someone to take the blame for it). Blue eyes are a plus, but not required. Should be: funny like Robin Williams and wholesome like

Tom Hanks. Talents may include: singing (quality optional) and celebrity impersonations. Enjoys trivia night, and, although competitive, never gets angry about losses. Bonus: enjoys reading classic literature. First because I enjoy it then as a guilty pleasure. Extra bonus: When not reading, you watch *The Office* while cooking replica Kevin's chili. Will always support and cherish me. Important: no wife or kids. I come with two extra of your biological children: one half, one whole. Though co-parenting with our mother(s) is a must, a romantic relationship isn't. No drugs or alcohol. No school, work, or family functions should be missed. Non-acceptable excuses for being absent for most of my life: you didn't have a father of your own. Other excuses will be put up for review and my sisters and I will get back to you.

ISO: Future Father of My Children (full-time, no exceptions)*

Still the same 20-something, now also a hopeless romantic searches for a man who wants a wife and children. Marriage is negotiable as it is a social construct. Height, weight, and other features are negotiable. Bonus: your eyes are blue. Must want three children, no less and no more. Must also: have quirky dad-jokes, wear a pun-inspired apron while cooking, and pretend to be a princess during tea parties. Extra bonus: you recognize parenting as a partnership. In our own relationship, you don't roll your eyes when I blame sleeping with older men as a teenager on yet-to-be diagnosed daddy issues. You won't judge me for doing it when I wasn't a teenager, either. You'll be patient with my abandonment issues. You won't become frustrated or feel neglected when I answer unknown calls during important conversations because even though we both know it isn't, I still think it might be my long, lost father. You will comfort me when I cry because it's a telemarketer. Most importantly, you will be the type of father to our children that my sisters and I always wanted for ourselves: present, stable, and supportive.

If any of these are you, please send headshot, bio, and resume to my provided email.