

## Maureen

You gotta have a plan. When I was twenty-eight, I knew that it was time for me to find a man who was serious, who wanted marriage and children. My clock was ticking. At the time, I was dating a guy I had been with for four years. He was twenty-four, and we were living together. One evening, while we hung out on the couch, I asked him two qualifying questions.

**My question:** What would you do if I got pregnant?

**His answer:** It would ruin my life!

**My question:** Do you ever want to get married?

**His answer:** You don’t make enough money for me to marry you. Besides, I don’t want to get married for another seven years.

These were very wrong answers. Clearly this man was not “ready.”

Around the same time, I met Will. At first glance, I thought, I can procreate with this man. He had the genetics that I found desirable: blue eyes, great height, super build, and a great smile. We got along well, and he made me laugh. He was nine years older than me, had lived a full life, and was “ready.” How could I go wrong?

To protect my future, I left the not-ready boyfriend and hooked up with Will. Two years later we married. The following year, our son joined us.