

## **Would You Like to Go Out With Me?**

**Ladi Shehu**

When I read the essay, "Will You Go Out with Me?" by Laura Ullman, I thought about myself. I grew up in Albania, a country in Europe. In Albania, a man usually asks the woman out.

In Albania, when I would ask a woman out, I preferred to take her to a fancy restaurant, in the European style. But since I left Albania, my lifestyle has changed a lot. I have become more practical and more open with women.

I like the American style. American women are much more practical and much more independent than European women, and so I feel more comfortable dating an American girl than a European girl. I feel more comfortable getting to know a girl through a friendship. However, as a foreigner, my English is not good enough to communicate well. I don't feel relaxed when I first introduce myself to an American girl. However, I'm getting used to it.

When I date a woman and I am having dinner with her for the first time, I never let her pay. I would rather pay for both of us than 'go dutch'. If my date insists on paying, I usually won't ask her out a second time. However, what happens after the first date depends on my relationship with her and on my feelings about her.

Here in New York, I have a girlfriend. She is nice and we have gotten to know each other through our friendship. We believe in equality and we also respect each other. By this I mean that sometimes I pay and sometimes she does.

In general, a man should treat his date with respect. Any man who doesn't should feel embarrassed.

\* \* \*

\*(to) go dutch – on a date, for each one to pay his own expenses