

Blog Post #5

Pros and Cons of Dating a Caribbean Man

Let's talk about dating. Better yet, let's talk about dating Caribbean men because why the hell not? As a Caribbean woman, I have had my fair share of interacting and dating Caribbean men and boy I tell you, Caribbean man is a different kettle of fish.

What makes a man from this side of the world different from other parts of the world? First of all, they can't see a pretty woman pass and not say call out something like "Aye sweetness, Aye lover" whether or not they are wearing a construction uniform or sitting down with the other fellas at the entrance to the beach with a rum bottle in hand. Different cultures have different dating and relationship norms, men and women react slightly differently towards each other depending on where you are in the world. Cultural background and history do affect how people behave and ultimately their dating practices. I take this time to say that these pros and cons are generalizations, so don't attempt to virtually beat me up in the comment section because you don't agree-these are just my opinions on the matter.

1. Accent

Pro

Everyone loves a sexy accent. Don't lie to yourself, you do too. The Caribbean is not short of sexy accents and hearing those smooth words slide off a man's tongue and into your ears makes you melt into a puddle of buttermilk, true talk no lie. From a Jamaican accent to a Bajan (Barbados) accent to the sing-song Trini accent, no foreigner can resist the delicious melodies of sweet talk when a Caribbean man begins to whisper in your ear.

While we are on that note, Caribbean men are known for lyrics. They will tell you things like "Girl you sweet like honey" or "I need you like flour" or "Me love you more than cook food", the list goes on and on. Caribbean men always have something to say and they always say it in beautiful accents, who can resist?

Con

The challenge comes with not understanding what they are saying. Accents are wonderful and all but some Caribbean people don't know how to speak in such a way those others from outside of their native island can understand them. Each island has a different slang, various words that have different meanings, on top of that we as Caribbean people tend to slur our words, emphasize on certain vowels that makes our language sound strange. That being said, someone from the outside might have a hard time dating someone they struggle to understand, especially if that person doesn't know how to adapt their language to meet yours. I remember going to a Caribbean island (I shall not name), a man spoke to me and I nodded at a few sentences, but truth be told, up to this

day I still don't have a clue about what he was talking about and we were both apparently speaking English.

2. Extremely Romantic/Extremely obsessive

Pro

Simply put, Caribbean men are the romantic type. Of course this is a generalization but bear with me for a minute. Men from the Caribbean enjoy making their love interest feel special, they like saying things to make them smile and surprising them with spontaneous dates and even gifts. When a Caribbean man is in love he is passionate about his lover and he goes out of his way to make them happy. Long drives through to the countryside, watching the sunset at the beach and don't forget the irresistible sweet talk that I mentioned earlier. They are old school romantics, who will still open the door for you and express his need to be your protector. It's always nice to feel appreciated and when you date a Caribbean man appreciation and more you will surely get.

Con

Being extremely romantic is one thing but Caribbean men also tend to be extremely obsessive. Not only when it comes to romance but other things as well. Sometimes he is obsessed over cricket or fitness or playing video games or 'liming' with the boys and drinking alcohol. Other sometimes you might meet a man who is very romantic but obsessed with keeping you all to himself. He may want to pry your phone, look at your text messages and be suspicious of your male companions. Whether they are obsessed with you or something else either way, dating an obsessive Caribbean man is a bit of a headache.

3. Close to family

Pro

One advantage (or disadvantage depending on how you see it) of living in the Caribbean is that your family isn't too far away. Assuming that your family members have decided not to migrate out of the island, they are usually only a taxi drive away. Therefore Caribbean men tend to maintain very close relationships with their family members, even long after moving out of the house they grew up in. They regard their blood relations as sacred bonds and wouldn't allow anyone to come in between them and their family. This high esteem for family life, translates well into their own lives when they eventually have children of their own, making certain to host regular house parties to ensure that every cousin remains close.

Con

Then there are the mommy's boys, which is extremely prevalent in the Caribbean because everyone remains so geographically close. Caribbean men who are mommy's boys tell their mother's everything, down to the last detail of your relationship. And Caribbean mothers are bold enough to let you know what they know and try to give you 'advice' on how to deal with their sons. It doesn't

stop there, trust that every 1st, 2nd and 3rd cousin knows about your relationship and is possibly bad talking you behind your back at his family's Christmas party. Having his family members as shareholders in your relationship is a bit annoying at times, but don't ever try to cross a Caribbean man and his family, because he'll be quick to let you know that blood is stronger than water and there are many other fish swimming around in island seas.

4. Humorous

Pro

You will laugh your belly full when dating a Caribbean man. Men from this side of the world are joyous creatures. They love laughing and they enjoy making others laugh as well. Especially when gathered together, Caribbean men can be found with beers in hand chuckling at each other's jokes and having a grand time. In a relationship these men have the ability to cheer up their significant other jokes, bringing brilliant smiles to weary faces and thereby making the dating experience a delightful one. Everybody likes to have their funny bone tickled and Caribbean men will ensure that you not only enjoy being in their presence but you will also find yourself laughing later on at something stupid they said.

Con

Everyone likes a good laugh but not every moment is deserving of laughter. This is a common problem when dating Caribbean men. Some of them don't know when to be serious; they can be found taking everything for a joke and not taking the relationship serious as a result of their juvenile antics. It's very difficult to be serious with someone who think's everything is a game, who is just living life for the moment, for the joke or for the party and the lime. This common thread can be found amongst a great deal of Caribbean men because of their somewhat laid back nature. A good laugh is wonderful but dating isn't something to be taken for a joke. There is a time and place for everything.

All in all dating Caribbean men is a wonderful experience; they are usually sweet, caring and protective men who if given an opportunity will treat you well. However, as in everything there will be anomalies and no two individuals are the same. No one is perfect and therefore by extension no dating experience will be perfect, I supposed it is up to you to discover the pros and cons, so you can decide for yourself what you like and also what you're willing to put up with.