

Wanted: A deep + meaningful friendship in Northeast Los Angeles

I'm looking for a deep + meaningful friendship in Northeast Los Angeles.

Yes, I recognize that this is a kind of intense thing to be looking for, and a kind of wild way to look for it.

But I've decided to believe that my future friend is out there, and they're going to be *thrilled* when they read this.

Maybe that's you :)

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What's in this document?

This document includes:

- What's a "deep + meaningful friendship"?
- Why I'm looking for a "deep and meaningful friendship" — and why I'm doing it in this way!
- About me!
- What I'm looking for from a friendship
- Next steps if you're interested!
- One last thing

What's a "deep + meaningful friendship"?

To me, a deep + meaningful friendship is one that's, well, deep. Part of that is because *you're* deep. You know yourself deeply, and are committed to always learning more about who you are, what matters most to you, and why you act the way you do in the world.

A deep + meaningful friendship is one where we *go* deep. We share vulnerably and intimately with each other, holding space for the other person + listening deeply. Sometimes you will see me more clearly than I see myself — opportunities, fears, and longings — and you'll call that out. I'll do the same for you.

A deep + meaningful friendship is an *intentional* friendship. That doesn't mean that we hang out every day (I don't have time for that!), but our friendship is something that matters to us, and we prioritize spending time together, especially in-person.

But also, despite the kind-of-serious name, a deep + meaningful friendship is also *fun*. I'd love to have you over to watch a rom-com on my couch while we eat chips. Or check out a fancy cocktails place with you + drink overpriced cocktails while we wear our going-out-tops. I'd love to go to the mall with you because you need a new pair of jeans, and it's very important to get a second opinion.

Why I'm looking for a "deep and meaningful friendship" — and why I'm doing it in this way!

I feel pretty happy + fulfilled by many parts of my life — my work, my marriage, as a mom...but I think there's something really important that friendships provide.

Truthfully, I don't have enough deep + meaningful friendships in Los Angeles. Part of that is logistical (I only moved back to LA a few years ago, and then I got married/worked on my business/had kids/ COVID).

But also, I don't think I've been honest enough with myself about what I most want from a friendship. I'm a pretty warm, friendly person — so it's possible for me to make a variety of more surface-level, or only moderately-deep, friendships. But that's not what I most yearn for.

I kind of stumbled upon my relationship with my husband, who is such a deep, kind, funny, incredibly interesting person. Deeply knowing him, and helping each other grow, has been such an incredible gift in my life.

I want the same depth, caring, and high quality of relationship, in 1-2 more friendships. So instead of bemoaning that they don't exist, I'm going looking for them!

About me!

Here's the surface-level description: I'm a 33-year-old woman, and I live in Glendale with my lovely husband, and lovely 12-month-old fraternal twin boys.

Some things that I love include:

- **Romantic stories of all kinds.** from Jane Austen to rom-coms to just hearing how any new acquaintance met his or her partner (this is my favorite question to ask people I am getting to know). I'm kinda-maybe writing a romance novel, myself.
- **Comedy, especially sketch + improv comedy.** Favorite ways to waste time include watching YouTube videos of SNL or old Amy Schumer/Key + Peele sketches.
- **High-quality baked goods.** I have lots of strong opinions about the best bakeries/baked goods around. And I have a kind-of-photographic memory for food in general, and baked goods in particular.
- **Walking.** Like, I'm always happy to walk. It doesn't have to be a fancy "hike" — though, I like those, too — neighborhood walks are just fine. And if I can walk rather than drive, I'm *always game*.
- **Self-development + deep questions.** Are you surprised? :) I read a lot of books with titles like *Swampland of the Soul* and *Difficult Conversations*. I am constantly exploring how to be more intentional about technology + my eating, how to cultivate more creativity or reduce anxiety or be more courageous, and more.
- **A bunch of other random things:** Onion rings with ranch, interior design magazines, musical theater, and the kitten calendar that I have in my kitchen.

What I'm looking for from a friendship

This category has two sections: (1) big things + (2) small things

(1) The big things I'm looking for

There are really three Big Things that I'm looking for, in a Soul Friend:

- **You live in Northeast Los Angeles-ish**
I believe in the importance of in-person friends — there's a particular kind of sharing

and connection that's only possible when you spend time together in-person. I live in Glendale, and, in honesty, I probably don't want to drive more than ~25 minutes to meet up with a friend.

I want to have you on my back patio to drink a La Croix and complain about your work, or meet up at a brunch place that just opened and share way too many forms of sweet, fried carbs. We need to be in person, to do that.

- **You know yourself deeply, are deep, and are a great listener.**

I want all of those things because, to be honest, I *am* all of those things. Many of my oldest friends tell me that they feel comfortable telling me vulnerable things they wouldn't tell other people, because I show up with my own authenticity. They tell me that the way I examine my life and myself is quite deep.

(A note: it's tricky to describe yourself in a document like this without sounding totally conceited. So let it be known: I also have *plenty* of flaws. *Plenty!*)

But in a friendship: I don't want to be the deep one, the self-aware one, the good listener in the relationship. I want you to already be that way, too. I want you to lovingly point out blind spots that I don't even see about myself — and I want to do the same for you. I want you to share what is most important to your heart and yourself — and I want to do the same.

- **I want to be intentional, and maybe eventually *committed*, about our friendship.**

Many of us are busy. I get it. I'm quite busy, too. But cultivating 1-2 deep + meaningful friendships are important to me, and I'm the kind of person who is intentional — who follows up, and follows through.

Ultimately, I'm looking for a long-term friend — who I can show up for, and who will show up for me — across the span of years. This is not to say that we're going to hang out every single week — to be honest, I probably don't have time for that. Maybe every other week? Or every three or four weeks, depending?

Of course, to be clear — it's not like if we hang out once, we're going to be friends for the next decade! Commitment comes with time, of course; it'll be a process of figuring out if this is a friendship that matters to us.

But a lot of people, either by temperament or busy-ness, are unable or unwilling to be committed in a friendship. They make vague suggestions of plans. They don't follow through. They don't have time or interest in connecting regularly. If that's you, it probably wouldn't be a good fit.

(2) *Some small things that might make a difference*

Hey, might as well put it all out there so we don't waste either of our time, right?

- **I'm not a texter.** This isn't to say that you won't get a text checking in when I know you've got a big work presentation, or a commiserating GIF on a shitty day. You'll definitely get that!

But I find that being on a daily, constant text chain dilutes my focus for work and my family. (Intentional use of technology is a subject I'm super interested in.) So I'd rather that the core of our friendship be in-person time spent together, or connecting on a phone call.

- **I'm okay if you don't think exactly the same as me, politically or socially.** I've noticed that some people, in today's political environment, seem to feel very critical of the character of people with opposing viewpoints.

I don't believe that. For example: I vote Democrat, but my parents are Republicans. While I don't agree with them on lots of issues, there are also plenty of topics where we can find common ground. And, most of all, I'm very comfortable putting politics to the side and connecting as humans.

But if you're *not* okay with that — if you want friends who 100% agree with you, or if you talk about people who disagree with you as if they're bad people, or people that you absolutely have to convince — maybe it wouldn't be the best fit.

Next steps if you're interested!

If you're reading this and thinking *hell yeah I want a deep and meaningful friendship in Northeast Los Angeles!!*, write to me at friendwantedla@gmail.com

Tell me about you, what you're looking for, and what your week has been like. Tell me anything you want me to know about you! Tell me what you think of this Friend Wanted ad!

I'm not sharing my personal email, name, or photo on this Friend Wanted Ad because, well, I'm not sure how widely this might get circulated. But I'm not trying to be mysterious. We can share our names or have a Zoom call if it feels like a good initial fit :)

Oh and one more thing:

I'd love it if we could both be as honest as we could in this process. Even if we do email, chat or hang out...you might decide, at any point, like you're no longer interested in cultivating the friendship. Or I might feel that way.

I think the kindest thing would be to name that. Yes, it would sting. But also: both of us are busy. Both of us want a friendship where the other person would cherish us.

So let's be kind, by being honest. Let's allow the other person to move onto a friendship where they *can* be cherished.

(And yes, "cherish" is kind of a cheesy word. But also, isn't it the *right* word?)

A final note

If it seems weird that I did this, you're probably not the friend for me. No hard feelings!

But, if you think it's kinda awesome or intriguing...email me! I'm waiting to hear from you!!