

## THE BIRTHDAY GIFT

By Jane Miller

**SOPHIE:** Thanks for fitting me in. I know you're super busy. And highly recommended. I'm honestly really excited about this. And totally sure. I think this is just the absolute best gift I could give him. I mean, I could've got him an iPad or an Xbox but that's so impersonal and it's his birthday and it's special.

Nothing says "I love you" like this. It's permanent. Immovable. And that's the point because we're forever. It's a gift that says we're forever. Not "I'm yours". I'm certainly not one of those women who walks around like their partner owns them. That's why I love the word "partner". It just says.... "Partnership". Which is the point. We're equals. Partners.

Equals at work. Both on the fast track. He's on the way up. I'm on the way up. It's a race to see who'll get highest up first. He's totally alpha but that's great because so am I. We're both totally alpha. But completely mutually supportive. We run half marathons, watch documentaries, soy lattes and eat paleo. He takes ukulele lessons and I play bongos so what's not to love? It's perfect. We're perfect. And we're both planning MBA's.

In a couple of years we'll be driving BMWs and living in Albert Park with a Thermomix and a Cavoodle.

It's like everything is mapped out perfectly. No surprises. And who needs surprises when you've got a 4-series convertible, SUV and a 1.2 million dollar mortgage? I mean, how far away can that first invoice for school fees be?

Which is great. It's what I've dreamed of. What we've dreamed of. Strived for. We're both alpha. Totally alpha in a really mutually supportive way. Not competitors. Partners. Competitive partners.

Just by the by... How sharp is that needle exactly? Like would you say it's likely to feel like a scratch or a paper cut or something worse? Because the thing is I'm very pain sensitive. Not that that's an issue. Because he's it's his birthday and we're in love and this is the gift that says "forever".

I mean, just on that, how forever is forever? In tattoo years? Like will it fade

Not that I'd want it to fade. I want it there, permanently, forever. I mean this is the most significant relationship of my whole entire life. All there. On my wrist. Permanently.

But say....God forbid....we did break up...Which we won't. Because we're soul mates. But just say...for interest.... In the interests of

education....

Because I am all about constant learning. Constant improvement.

What would my options be? In relation to removal? Are there things I could do? Because it's totally hypothetical but there'd be nothing worse than walking around with "Josh" on my wrist if there's not Josh in my life. It's not like it could be easily changed into something else. Not that I'm worried about that. He's the one.

No doubt. I'm absolutely sure.

Almost totally sure. As sure as you can be. Because let's face it nothing's a hundred per cent, is it? I'm like 99.99 per cent. And that's the best you can be. He's great. We're great. And it's all planned and we're on the way up.

But just apropos of nothing....Is the wrist a particularly painful body part to have tattooed? It's just that there are a lot of veins and the skin seems so thin. Would you say it's more painful than .....the calf or even...the buttock?

How painful would you say the buttock is? Not that it's about pain. It's just due diligence. It would be irresponsible of me not to ask. Josh wouldn't want me to rush in blindly. We're all about due diligence.

And each other. We're all about each other. But not in a ridiculous way. We're still individuals.

Actually...thinking about it...I wonder if it would be better to just get "J"? It still says "I love you" but it doesn't hurt to keep your options open. I know we'll be together forever but just in case we're not... Which we will be.

And it can't hurt that much then, can it? Pain wise. I mean it's still on the wrist but it's just one tiny letter. And he wouldn't want me to suffer unnecessarily just for the sake of an "o" "s" and "h". The 'j' is the most important letter. I mean "J" just says "Josh". The rest of it is redundant.

And maybe then I could also buy him something else. I mean, it is his birthday so it would be nice for him to have an iPad or even...an Xbox.