

**\*\* LIFE-SWAP \*\***

**Who wants to swap their life with mine?!**

*My life is reasonably satisfying at this moment. There is no real need to replace it. This request is being initiated out of a research point of view. I simply want to see why other people and which other people would like to swap their life with mine.*

My name is Sarah van Gameren, I'm a Dutch girl, 25 years old, and this is the second year I live in London. I have good contact with my Dutch parents and my sister; we call each other once every other week. The three of them still live in the house where I grew up. My mother occasionally sends me newspaper clippings from Holland.

People say I have certain elegance and I can confirm that I can be quite attractive. Still I experience my physical reality as confusing, since I was too tall and lanky in childhood. I tend to fall back into a deeply rooted feeling of a too obvious physical presence, clumsiness, unhuggableness and even ugliness if I don't get positive confirmation.

My private life is dominated by male personalities at the moment. This is something I feel comfortable with. One of my housemates is a designer, and my tutor as well. We are still trying to get used to shuffling between professional life and friendship.

My other housemate is an artist who often works in our living room. I feel very protective about him, although he isn't really so much younger. Our shared house can be seen as messy chic.

I also have a couple of friends living elsewhere in London. They are no close friends, we only see each other now and then, but this is not something that makes me sad.

I have two good writing friends. Writing is an easy way for me to get close to others. One of them is an American-Slovenian guy. I met him in my Creative Writing class last year. The other one is a communist in his 60's from Suffolk. He is a friend of a British friend of my parents and teaches or writes novels. We kept in contact after we met during a short summer holiday at the British east coast.

On Fridays I play football in the Hyde Park with the boys of my college. I get along with all of them pretty well, which means that I have many people at college to say 'Hi' to in the staircases.

Sometimes I scare people with my unobvious statements, sudden unrefined remarks or simply by being tall. I apparently also mislead people occasionally with my serious appearance. Where other people can seem really approachable, I have the tendency of seeming closed up at first sight, which benefits me especially in the practice of my profession.

My previous experiences with life-swaps are close to little. In my early years I used the summer holidays for reflection and many times I desired to be better balanced, more peaceful and have a more secure personality with greater authority. Those thoughts never seemed to have any effect. I only discovered recently that those moments of reflection did influence my personality somehow over the years.

A few years ago, when I still lived in Holland I tried to be a boy for a while but because I believed it didn't need a physical transformation, nobody seemed to notice the difference.

If there are still questions, they can be answered during the screening on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2006.

- This life-swap will mean you will have to swap your life with mine over a to be discussed amount of time.
- The person who becomes me, will have access to my email account and phone, wear my clothes, use my beauty products, football on Fridays and try to become me, as much is physically and mentally possible.
- This life-swap will include that I will live the life of the chosen person.
- The screening takes place at the Royal College of Art on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2006. Each person will be screened for 10 minutes. Appointments can be made on the email address below. You will then receive your timeslot and specific directions. You can expect a thorough screening which consists of a series of questions about how you perceive your life and your reasoning for swapping.
- My choice will not be affected by age, gender or nationality.

After screening, I will choose the most suitable candidate and make an appointment with the candidate for further directions. Be aware that the screening will be filmed for documentation and could be exhibited in future.

Kind regards,

**Sarah van Gameren**  
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