

“I’d like a girl who reads” – a poem by Mark Grist

“So – what do you go for in a girl?”
He crows, lifting the lager to his lips
He gestures where his mate sits
Then downs his glass
“He prefers tits, I prefer ass
What do you go for in a girl?”

Well, I feel quite uncomfortable
The air left the room a long time ago
All eyes are on me
“Um, if you must know,
I’d like a girl who ... reads”



Yeah, reads.
I’m not trying to call you a chauvinist
Because I know that you’re not alone in this
but I’d like a girl who reads

Who needs the written word
And who uses the added vocabulary
She gleans from novels and poetry
To hold lively conversation
In a range of social situations
I wanna girl who reads

Whose heart bleeds at the words of Graham Greene
Or even Heat magazine
Who ties back her hair while she’s reading Jane Eyre
And who goes cover to cover
With each Waterstone’s “3 for 2” offer
But I wanna girl who doesn’t stop there
I wanna girl who reads

A girl who feeds her addiction for fiction
With unusual poems and plays
That she hunts out in crooked bookshops for days and days and days
She’ll sit addicted at breakfast
Soaking up the back of the Cornflakes box
And the info she gets from what she reads
Makes her a total fox
Because she’s interesting and she’s unique
And her theories make me go weak at the knees
I wanna girl who reads

A girl whose eyes will analyse
The menu over dinner
Who'll use what she learns to kick my ass in arguments
So she always ends the winner
But she'd still be sweet and she'd still be flirty
'Cause she loves the classics
And they're pretty dirty
And that means late at night she'll always have me in a stupor
As we re-enact the raunchy bits from the works of Jilly Cooper

See, some guys prefer asses, some prefer tits
And I'm not saying that I don't like those bits
But what's more important - what supersedes
Is a girl with passion, wit and dreams
So, I'd like a girl who reads.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImEbF2uhsZk>