

Alexis turns 23: a systematic overview of his birthday presents

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Alexis, a well-regarded person, and overall amazing boyfriend, is turning 23. Since past research has described him as someone with a big and generous heart, it is generally accepted that he deserves to be shown appreciation with adequate and suitable birthday gifts. It is crucial, nevertheless, to discuss the nature of these birthday presents, how they might be used, as well as the intentions of the gifter. Inspired by Alexis's taste and preferences, I present a review of his birthday presents. Specifically, I present his (1) musical present, and (2) his basic bitch present. These presents are meant to show Alexis how very much he is loved, as well as foster the creation of some nice new memories.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In most Western cultures, giving birthday presents to family members, friends, and loved ones is generally considered to be, if not mandatory, strongly required. The level of requirement, as well as the expected quality and thought behind the presents, are normally associated with the depth and strength of the connection between the giftee and the gifter. Although the expectations of what a good gift might be can vary across class, gender, sexual orientation, and type of relationship, most individuals agree that regardless of its value a gift is an acceptable way of showing love and esteem to others.

Focusing on the specific topic at hand, Alexis is turning 23. Although 23 is not a particularly special year in most societies, one could argue that he still deserves for other people to make him feel special and loved during his birthday. A few arguments can be made to justify this. First, there is a purely superficial but objective reason why Alexis deserves a nice gift that shows him how much he is appreciated: using any available standard of beauty, Alexis's attractiveness is at least three standard deviations above the mean. This can be seen in Figure 1, which shows where Alexis's attractiveness sits within a representative sample of the population.

Second, it is well known that Alexis makes everyone around him happy, clearly improving the quality of life of his family, friends, and partner. Although many have defended that we do not live in a fair and just society, when possible people should

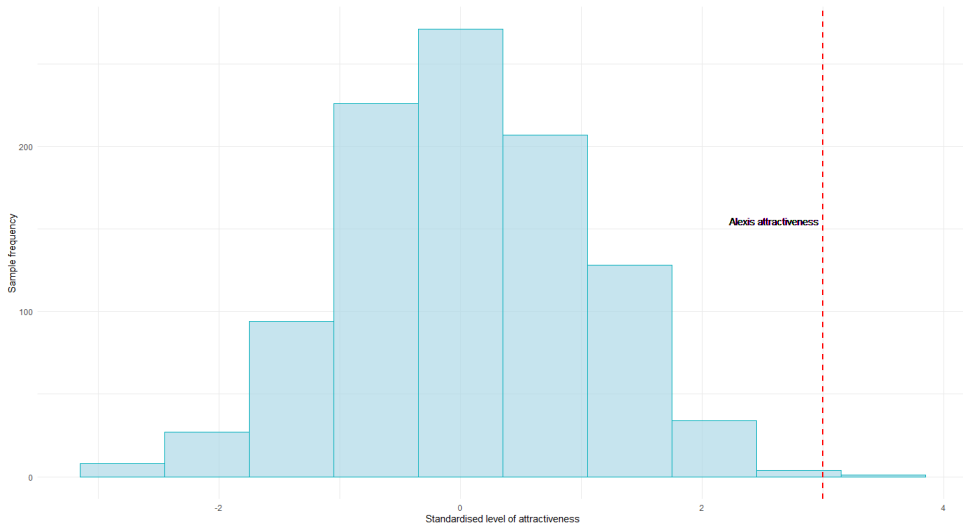


FIGURE 1 Alexis's attractiveness level.

receive what they deserve. In this case, although the marginal happiness that someone causes to other people is hard to measure, it is still possible to approximate in relative terms how much someone should be shown love during their birthday. Using a regression in discontinuity, we can show a quasi-causal effect of Alexis entering Oriol's life, and Oriol's level of happiness. As Figure 2 shows, the moment that Alexis formally entered Oriol's life, his level of happiness jumped drastically, moving his state from what could be described as "content" to "absurdly happy".

Third, from the perspective of the author (i.e., Oriol), Alexis is a very special person. While arguably it is unrealistic, and maybe a bit mean, to quantify love and compare it with the one felt for others, I argue that what I feel for Alexis is unlike anything I have ever felt for anyone (Figure 3 shows a visual representation of this feeling). Even if very recent, I have never felt so safe, secure, and at ease in a relationship. Alexis has proven to be a sweet, loving, generous, and caring partner, one that gets the best out of me. For the first time, I can say, without any doubt, that I admire my partner, and that I want to be the best version of myself for him. It feels so easy to imagine a future of happiness and growth with someone like him.

All in all, it seems clear from these arguments that Alexis does deserve nice gifts. In the section below, hence, I describe my gifts for Alexis, as well as technical questions to consider when using them.

2. BIRTHDAY PRESENTS

2.1. Birthday present one: stop missing electronic parties!

It has been noted that Alexis sometimes misses going to concerts and electronic parties. As he has stated several times, he used to enjoy these very much when he was in Paris, something that is lacking in his current London life. Therefore, given that it seems obvious that this should be remedied, I propose gifting Alexis tickets to what some might call "a fucking amazing party."

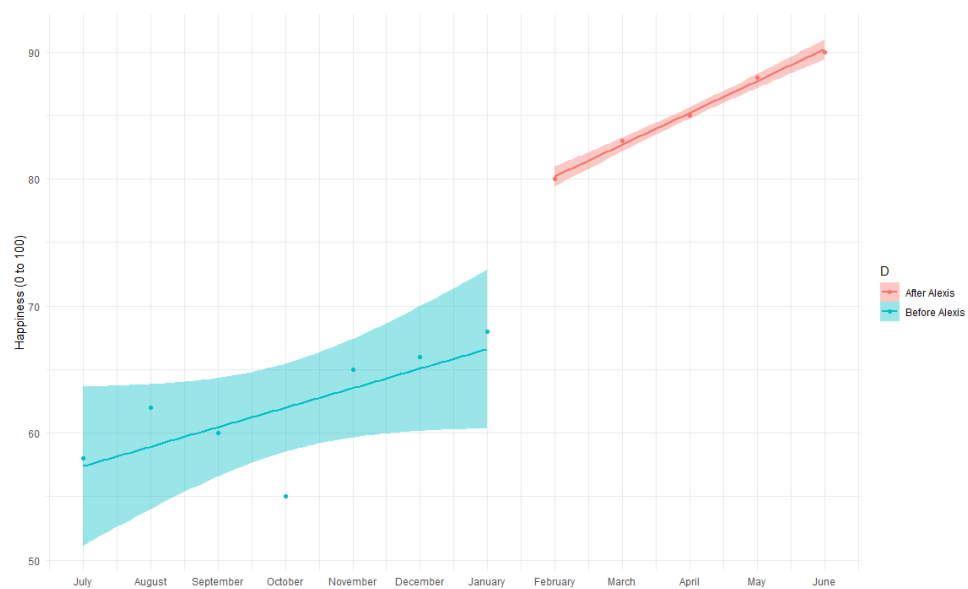


FIGURE 2 Regression discontinuity: Oriol's happiness across time.

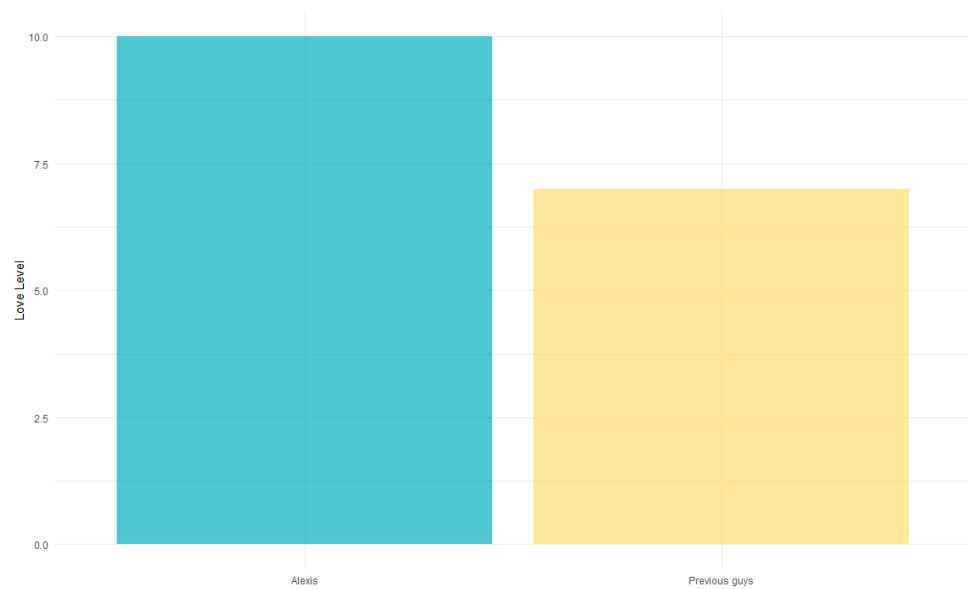


FIGURE 3 Love felt for Alexis vs. average love felt for previous people I have met

Nonetheless, given the nature of this gift, Alexis's hectic life, and my moderate level of knowledge when it comes to the electronic/techno scene, I propose various gift options, which he can then freely choose:

1. **Peacock Society: Open Air Festival** (Paris, 8th of July).
2. **Madam Loyal Paris** (Paris, 29th of July)
3. **Peggy Gou presents: Pleasure Gardens** (London, 6th of August).

These different festivals vary in many aspects. The first potential festival to go to is the **Peacock Society** (<https://peackocksociety.fr/>). According to them, this is "one of France's best-loved electronic music events, a festival that regularly welcomes the finest names in underground house and techno to the French capital for an unforgettable weekend." The festival consists of two days (although we can buy tickets only for Saturday) of celebration in the heart of nature at the gates of Paris. 30,000 festival-goers expected and around forty artists will thrill the 4 stages and 6 hectares of plain, clearing, and undergrowth of the Parc de Choisy Paris – Val-de-Marne. The line-up has names such as: Aamourocean / Acid Arab (Live) / Bambounou B2b Bradley Zero / Ben Böhmer (Live) / Cera Khin / Deer Jade / Eris Drew / Hyas B2b Pura Pura / Hunee / Isolée (Live) / Job Jobse / Juliana Huxtable / Lisa More / Paula Temple / Ki/Ki / Richie Hawtin / Soeurs Malsaines / Tdj / Theo Terev B2b Hugo Lxt / Trym / X-Coast.

The second potential festival is **Madam Loyal Paris** (<https://madamloyal.com/>). According to their information, this seems to be a crazy one-day festival, happening outdoors (2 hectares) in a circus (Cirque Micheletty), with a carnival, and plenty of attractions. The festival seems like lots of fun, and Mome is performing there. Beyond Mome, other confirmed artists are: Etienne de Crecy / Red Axes / Irène Dresel / Zimmer / Roland Cristal / Vitess LIVE / Alede / DJ Psychiatre / Saverio / Ange / Occibel / Emma B/ Deborah Aime La Bagarre / Géro OTD.

The third one is **Peggy Gou presents: Pleasure Gardens** (<https://ra.co/events/1650755>). This is defined as "After an incredible sold-out 2022 event, the unstoppable Peggy Gou, one of dance music's undoubted tastemakers, touches down in London for another one-day festival. Taking place on a beautiful tree-lined carriageway within Finsbury Park, Peggy has invited a line-up of artists and friends that best represent her cultural vision to come together in an unmissable multi-layered event. Two stages, two big sound systems - this is the perfect opportunity to see Peggy Gou DJ at an event that she has created herself." Apart from Peggy, the other performers will be: Special Request / Mumdance / Matisa / Hiver / Dukwa / DMX Krew.

So far I have not bought any ticket to allow Alexis (i.e., you) to decide which one he prefers. There are pros and cons to all of them. The two festivals in Paris would serve as a lovely excuse to go to Paris and reconnect with the electronic scene from the French capital. Nonetheless, I am aware that spending a weekend in Paris requires more time and energy than staying in London. Also, there is the assumption that it will be possible to travel to Paris by train and to sleep there, something that I am unsure of since it depends on third actors (i.e., your family). I can cover all the expenses if needed (and especially my travel if yours is covered). Staying in London makes things easier, of course, that is why I selected a festival in London, but: 1) I do not know if you like Peggy Gou, and 2) I do not know if those dates work or not.

Beyond these three selected festivals, I am happy to buy any other ticket for a festival or concert. I have checked Polo and Pan, Parcels, Tame Impala (and others from your playlist), and it seems that they are either not on tour or the dates/places where they perform do not work for us. However, if Alexis would rather go to a different festival and/or concert that has not been proposed here, it can be arranged.

2.2. Birthday present two: take a chill pill

Analytical evidence suggests that Alexis is too busy these days. Beyond his very long working days, evidence suggests that he spends most of his free time in buses and trains, traveling to other countries, or meeting family, friends, and his partner. Although Alexis is a prime young specimen, an excess of activity can take its toll on anyone. In cases like this, it is generally accepted that self-care can be a good option to recharge people's batteries. Although based mostly on mystical, unscientific, and to some extent racist assumptions, Asian cultures are supposed to be very advanced in the art of healing the body and the soul through massages. Some of these findings have been corroborated through qualitative research. For instance, Marc and Laura (London, 11th of June) stated in a semi-structured interview: "That tiny motherfucker broke my back and it felt so good."

Therefore, considering Alexis's hectic life and the less-than-robust evidence at hand, the second gift consists of a couple's Thai Massage. Although this can be considered a "basic bitch present" (i.e., one that any basic bitch could get because it seems cute and easy), I consider that given the circumstances it can be very convenient for Alexis to get some nice rest. Additionally, the couple's component will force us to spend some quality time together, and create some fun memories.

Focusing on the technical details, this massage has not yet been booked. Alexis is advised to find a day that works on his calendar so I can book it. Nonetheless, if Alexis considers that this is not an interesting present, it can be changed for anything else. For instance, two festivals instead of one, a spa day, a weekend away, etc.

3. CONCLUSION

The goal of this paper has been to review Alexis's birthday presents. Overall, the two gifts have two main themes in common. First, they are not physical objects. The decision was conscious: while I am sure Alexis would have loved some cool shoes, for instance, I feel that gifting experiences or utterly unnecessary things can be more fun. Second, they more or less force Alexis to spend some quality time with Oriol. The assumption behind this, hopefully universally accepted, is that going to festivals or getting a massage is more fun when you have your partner with you (caveat: when the partner is not toxic).

Although, as any reader can tell, none of the presents is perfect, their aim is mainly to show Alexis some love and esteem. In the future, with more data points, it will be possible to craft better and more personalized presents. Given the available information available, I have done my best.

All things considered, I hope these gifts make you feel a tiny bit special, and bring you some joy. Happy birthday, I love you.