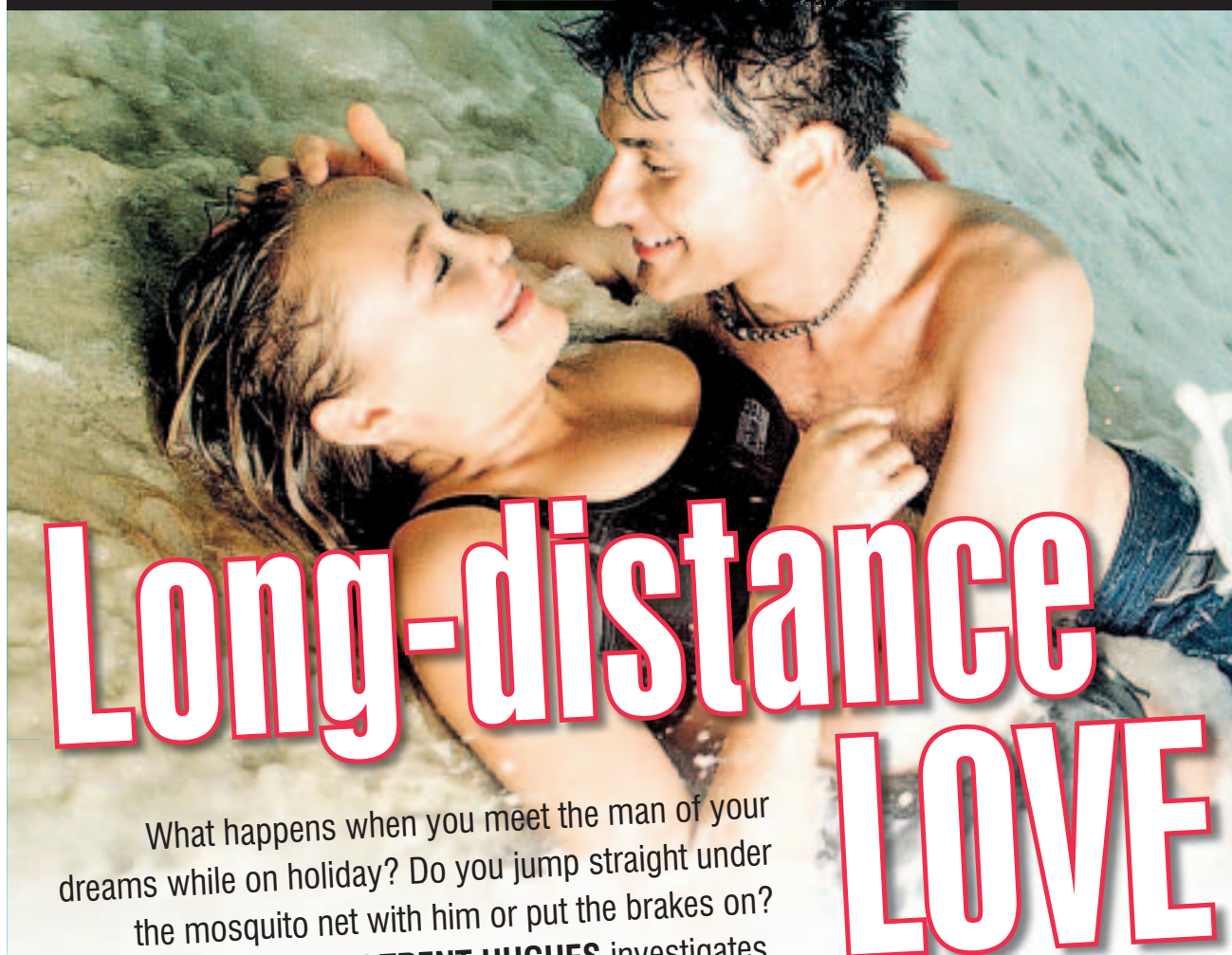


mxFlirt



Long-distance LOVE

What happens when you meet the man of your dreams while on holiday? Do you jump straight under the mosquito net with him or put the brakes on? JENNI TRENT HUGHES investigates.

Since the first genteel ladies started touring the Continent, we've been packing our bags to check out the local talent in the hope that a Carlos or one of his mates will capture our hearts, or, erm, something else.

So what happens when you meet this man of your dreams? Do you turn off your calendar and have the time of your life without looking ahead?

Well, that depends on your personality and your life back home. There are some women who can go for it without any thoughts or worries, while some of us just can't crawl under the duvet, or mosquito net, unless we think there's a future in it.

Is there a future in it? Is that possible in the real world? Actually, it is. My marriage is

the result of a holiday romance. My husband found me in America and brought me back with him. I know many successful relationships that have started across a jug of sangria or on a sandy beach.

LOVE BY ANY OTHER NAME

We need to be clear about the two different sorts of holiday romance out there:

■ **Romance with a local** These are usually fraught with difficulty because if the relationship gets serious, someone's going to have to move.

Social differences may also have to be taken into consideration. Sometimes language is an obstacle.

In some cultures a man may feel the necessity to declare love to exercise lust and if

you take his declarations as truth, you may be in for a rude awakening.

■ **Romance with someone from back home** Sometimes it's logistically easier to arrange a future and social differences and language are usually not an issue.

However, boys from back home are just as busy declaring love to exercise their lust as your local blokes.

ROMANCE RULES

How to deal with a holiday romance:

■ Be totally upfront and honest.

■ Try to keep it light.

■ Don't convince yourself that you need to be deeply in love to have a good time. If you honestly feel that way, then don't get involved.

■ Try not to exist in a total blitz of alcohol. This will cloud your judgment and make it more likely that you'll make a fool of yourself.

■ If you really do feel that you're falling for this guy big time, then put on the brakes and see how he reacts. If he feels there's a future, he'll be willing to pace himself too.

Remember, a holiday romance is like a piece of costume jewellery: It'll look lovely until you try to get it insured. Then you'll find out what it's really worth and you'll be disappointed.

Go on holiday to have fun and relax, not to find the love of your life. While it can happen, it doesn't happen often.

■ SOURCE: www.handbag.com

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?

DR BELLA



“Take that giant step from geek-hood to fascinating.”

Today I am dedicating my column to “J” – a reader who is finding it hard to stand out from the crowd. I'm sure he's not alone. Hope this helps.

Dr Bella,
Where we're seen. Who we're seen with. What we're seen in. This seems to be the growing drive behind our lives. The singles scene out there is one of hiding away the odd little bits of individuality that make us interesting so we don't appear too “weird” or “nerdy” or “freaky” or just “uncool”.

If you are not great looking and/or successful or into something considered cool, you are in for a quiet time.

Now I am not saying I am an Adonis, but one look at my normal face with glasses and slim build and: Geek alert! I am out of the running.

Are we so shallow that personal virtues and personality mean nothing against immediate gratifying good looks or monetary success? J

Dear J,
As nice as it would be to blame everything on Paris Hilton, the truth is, one cannot orchestrate attraction. Yes, our society is ridden with compulsive consumerism and body and youth obsession. But that is the way it is. You can either silently revolt, and remain loveless, or jump on board and give yourself a makeover.

Meaning? Take that giant step from geek-hood to fascinating. The line really isn't that hard to cross. Obviously if you keep being labelled a “geek”, you're doing something wrong. Use that smart mind of yours to figure out what it is, and make the changes.

Indeed who you are inside is what matters but, humans have this nasty habit of judging who they want to get to know better in a matter of seconds. Blame biology.

Nevertheless, persevere, and someone will see through the veneer of superficiality, and discover the real you, which is exceptional.

Best of luck in love,
Dr Bella

BTW

Questions, thoughts, sexual tips?
Email me at dearbella@mxnet.com.au
or visit www.drbella.com.au

Who wants a chocolate egg when you can have a “rabbit”



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