

# mXShagpile



## HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?



mX readers write in to Dr Bella for advice, but as you will see, some relationships can be oh so tricky ...

## SEX ADDICT

Hey, I have issues finding a relationship. Most of them last for a night. I was hurt when coming out of my last relationship because the break-up came out of left field. Now I have real problems connecting without just jumping in their pants. Do you know of any support groups that could help?

— Jim

hence would attract male attention fairly often. To gain an insight into this, I just want to ask how you were dressed that day, how sexually suggestive may it have been?

Rest assured, from my studies, guys like that are just compensating for their own lack of masculinity.

— Sincerely, Brett

often cool and aloof. She's available and says she'll call me on weekends, but doesn't, or we'll make arrangements and then she doesn't turn up. No apologies, no excuses. I helped her move house and she just said hi and bye — no engaging conversation or thanks. I've helped her with other things, but get no thanks — yet she'll ring for no apparent reason to see how I am, or query me as to why I'm ignoring her emails.

— Edward

Oh Edward, you're being played. She's just not that into you. What she is into is power: getting off on being desired by manipulating your affections.

## DOES HE LIKE ME?

Dear Bella,  
He is an arts teacher, exposed to many beautiful young women. We have been

proposed, and I accepted. But then one night Tim came to my work (a pub) with his entire family (7 siblings and mum) to wish me well on my nuptials and move to Australia. The entire time I talked to his family, he just sat there, watching me with these huge cow eyes, but said nothing. That made me mad. What a coward. I'd had enough. So, I married the Aussie and moved to Australia.

Needless to say, the Aussie marriage didn't work out and I'm stuck on the other side of the world as a single mum.

Then one day, after 10 years, I decided to write to Tim. We started writing to each other. As the years went by, all was revealed. He'd never married, but had a child. He was in a defacto relationship, but wasn't happy. Below is the letter he wrote last year. Keep in mind 30 years have gone by.

— Claudia

you slip away because of my foolish pride. I still listen to *Homemade Wine* when I want to think of you. Do you still listen to it as well?

Dear Claudia: Then what happened? Please email me your address. We at mX will send you flowers. Forget-me-nots, obviously.

## A GRAND ROMANCE

Dear Bella,  
In a previous column you asked: how do you meet decent men? I wish it was in museums, libraries, and parks on beautiful days and that conversation flowed easily without the aid of masses of lager and a dreadful cover band, but unfortunately that has not been my experience. I've wandered around cultural institutions/parks etc trying to look ethereally beautiful

I want to propose but there are complications. There are a lot we accept in each others crazy lives. One thing I've accepted is her wacky nature, and the fact she lives and takes care of her elderly parents and teenage son. One thing I won't accept is being kicked out of her house. This happens when she is even moderately upset. Causes can be as little as her having a bad day, and as bad as an argument.

It happens almost daily. I told her I just don't feel comfortable in her home with that threat constantly hanging over my head. I told her that, as long as she won't kick me out, I will propose. It's conditional, but I believe I am doing the right thing here. She broke up with me over it. She insists on the right to kick me out. She told me I must propose anyway. I want to know your thoughts on this.

# SEX, SEDUCTION & REGRET

Dear Jimmy: I hear your pain. You've been operating along the lines of that Seinfeld saying: The best way to get over someone is to get under someone else. Sexaholics Anonymous is an international organisation based on the principles of AA. According to the literature "the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop lusting and becoming sexually sober." To find meetings in your city check out the website ([www.sa.org/top/Australia/](http://www.sa.org/top/Australia/)) or for counselling and referral, head to your local sexual health clinic. Good luck, let me know what happens.

## CASE STUDY

Hi Bella,  
I attend university and am interested in using your column in a case study for my gender studies course. So far we have covered the idea of 'sexual visibility' and how violence or potential harm can come to women, particularly based on how they present themselves to the public, and how what you wear can be misinterpreted.

In reference to the man who yelled at you "show us your c—t, you whore" when you're walking down the street, I feel for you after such an experience and I hope you do not see all men as such despicable creatures. But it led me to ask why would a person say such a thing to an innocent passer-by?

It is clear you are an attractive woman, and

Thanks for your comments Brett. I was wearing dress pants, a tank top and an oversized cardigan and carrying a laptop. Hardly the cover of Ralph. Had I been more dolled up, I expect I would have received a number of "show us your tits" proclamations from passing cars, almost as ubiquitous to the Australian woman as Aussie Aussie Aussie! Oi oi oi! to sporting events. Alas.

## BRUNETTE SEX COLUMNISTS

Dear Bella,  
At this point in my life I fantasise about frequent mutually incredible whole body and soul merges (and the odd animalistic coupling) with perfectly proportioned brunette giveaway newspaper sex columnists. That, and giving beautiful young virgins a first experience to set the standard for all to follow ...

Can you help me with either of these?

— Love, Larry

Flattered, but uninterested. As for the virgins, goodness knows!

## FIRST BASE

Hi Dr Bella,  
How can I get to first base with a woman I'm friendly with and with whom I briefly worked? I know she likes me because we laugh and engage in conversation easily (especially emails) — yet she's

sort of close. I cook for him once a week (just so I can have him over for a few hours). Once I took the cooked food to his place and ate there. I worry others may go there late after lessons. He is extremely good at hypnotising and wooing. I often feel I am being played with my head and he accuses me of the same. But, I don't know how to play head games. I am sincere and wish he was open and closer to me as I am with him. What does this sound like to you please?

— Kind Regards, J

Honey he may like you, but my hunch is he likes every woman he brainwashes to cook for him once a week. He sounds like a cult leader. And the perfect adversary for Edward's black widow (above). Perhaps you and Ed should hook up... angels unite.

## PRIZE LETTER

Dr Bella,  
Have I got a story for you. About 30 years ago, when I was 17, I met the love of my life: Tim. We got along wonderfully. Then one night, out of the blue, he wanted to have a talk. I thought he was going to propose, but no, I got dumped. The reason? We got along too well. What? He had a large group of mates and was the only one with a girlfriend. If you ask me, That was the problem. (BTW this took place in America.) Anyway, I was devastated and missed him terribly for a few years.

Then I met someone new. An Aussie. We dated, he

Hey girl, how are you. Sorry it's been so long. Lately I've been thinking back to the days when we were young. I wish I had known what an angel I had in my arms back then. I loved the pictures. You haven't changed. You're still beautiful and look like a 20 year old. I don't think time has been as kind to me. I've read the letter you sent me over and over. The guilt I feel for not being honest all those years ago has caused me years of misery and the loss of you.

The night I brought my family to your work I wanted to tell you how I felt, but I was terrified. I thought it was too late and I was afraid of what you'd say. What a coward I was. I can't believe I've waited 20 years to confess I was wrong in letting you go. Before mum died, she told me to contact you and be honest with you. She understood the power of regret and how it controls us.

I wonder sometimes what our life would have been like together. Why did you have to move so far away? I need to see you again. I'm sorry Australia hasn't brought you the happiness you deserve, but in a way I'm selfishly hoping it's the very thing that brings you home. No one deserves happiness more than you. You are the kindest, most compassionate and thoughtful person I've ever known. I miss how you used to make me laugh. Please find it in your heart to forgive me. When we are young, we are fools. You were the best thing that ever happened to me and I let

(I'm really not skinny enough to pull that off), intellectual (tends to end up looking "worried") and available for a grand romance, but I can't say I've had any takers. — N

Dear N, you sound like the perfect candidate for Operation Good Man: a new girl-coup to source out lovely men. Interested?

## SICK OF BEING KICKED OUT

Dear Dr Bella,  
I'm in an interesting situation where my (ex) girlfriend wanted to marry me, and I refuse to propose.

The break-up has only been a week. It may still be salvaged. What do you think?

— Regards, Doug

Doug, darling, you're acting like a dog. Pant, pant, pant. Kick me again, I'll still love you. I'll propose if you promise not to boot me out any more. Come on. This is not good enough. I know there are many sides to a story, and the woman you love must indeed be under enormous stress in caring for both her parents and son. But, what about her care towards you?

That your fights are elevated to such a level so frequently does not bode well. Reflect on what you want in love, in your partner, and how you deserve to be treated. We have a habit of holding on to relationships out of dependency. A mistake I've not been immune to myself.

If dogs are a man's best friend, it's time for you to become your own.

BTW

Email me at [dearbella@mxnet.com.au](mailto:dearbella@mxnet.com.au) and check out my new website [www.drbella.com.au](http://www.drbella.com.au)

