

mXShagpile



“ I was proposed to recently on holiday in Hawaii, and even though I was fairly sure it was going to happen at some stage during the trip, I didn't suspect that he would pop the question while we were taking a helicopter ride. He asked the question when we were hovering right in front of a 600m waterfall so the scenery was just magic, but because we were wearing headsets I couldn't hear a word he was saying. I had to lip read. I knew that it was real though when I saw the ring box, but I couldn't figure out why he wouldn't put the ring on my finger, and I couldn't ask him. I opened the box, and inside was a paper cut-out of a ring – one I had pointed out to him months ago. I mouthed a big 'yes', and even though we were in a helicopter with five other strangers, none of them had any idea that we had just got engaged on their joy flight. And now I'm now wearing the real ring.”

– D.H, VIC



MARRIAGE ACT

Here are the winning entries (and an honourable mention we couldn't resist) of mX's best proposal story comp, proving that romance is alive and well.

“ I believe my proposal to be up there with the best of them. I recently proposed to my girlfriend in a hot-air balloon. But unlike your standard everyday proposals in a hot-air balloon, mine had creativity and originality. This is how the proposal unfolded. I know that there are a lot of proposals done in hot-air balloons so I had to make mine different because my girlfriend is very different to other girls and extremely special. So I spray-painted a 5m x 2.5m banner (below) with the words “Beautiful, will you marry me?” I organised with the ballooning company to attach my banner to another hot-air balloon that was going up on the day and then we ascended at the same time as the balloon with the banner. When we were up above the clouds, I gave our pilot a nod and he radioed to the other hot-air balloon that was exactly across from us in the sky and then they unravelled the banner from the balloon right in front of our balloon and this left my girlfriend (now fiancée) speechless. She burst out in tears and said, of course, “Yes.”

– J.K, NSW



HONOURABLE MENTION

“ It was a very dark night and I'd had a bit to drink. At that time I had a couple of serious girlfriends. I actually thought I was proposing to one of them when, in fact, I was proposing to the other. She accepted. There was very little in the difficult choice so I went ahead even after realising my error. The marriage proved successful. What more can I say?”

J.S, QLD



Both winning entries will receive a 1kg box of chocolates worth \$54.95, courtesy of Darrell Lea.

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?



“Put yourself out on a limb. This is what leads to a great shag, a business opportunity – and love”

Men, spring has arrived. Jasmine is in the air. And women with tantalising legs in skimpy dresses are everywhere.

It hurts, I know. All that temptation. Particularly when it's just you and the internet at the end of each Saturday night.

And so, for the single lads out there. The men sick of hearing “I just want to be friends”. For all those who wrote asking why-oh-why their niceness is a turn-off and women chase complete tossers. Here's some guidance.

Successful people make things happen for them, not to them. They are willing to take advantage of unlikely situations. To put themselves out on a limb. This is what leads to a great shag, a business opportunity – and love.

Flirting is about connecting to people, showing your interest and creating a spark. The zing. And zing equates to bedroom action.

If you believe you're hot, interesting and funny, others will too. Probably.

Learn to like women. We can tell. Men who get tonnes of play, understand us: they have a handle on the way we work.

STEP ONE: Look for approachability clues. It helps if the woman is alone, looks relaxed and isn't busy. Smiling at you is a big sign. So is extended eye contact and open body position (arms and legs not crossed). If, however, she's sitting on the lap of a Marat Safin look-a-like, perhaps you should just head to the bar and order a Sex on the Beach.

STEP TWO: Initiate a conversation. I know, I know, it's unfair that this is pretty much still the man's responsibility. You can ask a question, give a sincere compliment or just say G'day. Remember what that blonde said in *Jerry Maguire*: “You had me at ‘hello’.” Spectacular one-liners often come across as spectacularly lame (although this bloke did once approach me and say, “Miss, you have the most startling lips,” which was, well, just lovely).

STEP THREE: Find something to talk about. Although footy is riveting, if you wanna get into the box, think outside of it. Be interesting by being interested. Everyone likes talking about themselves. Listen to the woman (really listen) and ask her questions. Make her feel special.

STEP FOUR: Determine your odds. The book *He's Just Not That Into You* changed women's lives the world over. Aussie men need the Mate, She's Not That Stoked equivalent. Know when to place a bet and when to fold. Often women enjoy the attention, like you as a person or just use you for their amusement, but do not want to, and never will, shag you. Work on wooing people who seem interested.

STEP FIVE: Close the deal. If you want this woman's number, a date or to have her screaming in your bed, you have to imply this. What do you have to lose? Life is short and there are a million pretty women in pretty summer dresses walking the city streets.

BTW

Questions, thoughts, sexual tips? Email me at dearbella@mxnet.com.au