

mXShagpile



HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?

DR BELLA



The femme fatale's power lies in her ability to emotionally enslave her lover, while he remains oblivious

What do Rita Hayworth, Jessica Rabbit and Angelina Jolie have in common?

They're classic femme fatales. Dangerous to all of mankind – and useful role models to women with an way-too-merciful approach to men.

The femme fatale can lure men toward danger, and often to their demise.

A mythic seductress, she was popularised by US cinema's film noir genre during the '40s and '50s.

But inside every woman lurks a secret femme fatale. You'll find your modern femme fatale at the gym, but rarely the library.

Women don't like her. She is not part of the sisterhood.

But men do.

So what does she have that others don't?

She's not necessarily more beautiful, kind or funny. She isn't interested in prams or pudding recipes. She doesn't want to discuss where the relationship is going. She doesn't even want a relationship.

A man is simply her amusement, something to keep her entertained for the night.

Fellas, she won't call you, except when you least expect it. She doesn't seek your love.

And in her indifference lies her appeal.

Her lack of possessiveness makes men want to possess her. She is aloof, smart, and self-controlled. She has what Freud refers to as "jouissance". She loves her own self-image and doesn't require an external love object to feel attractive or significant. She is confident in her own ability to charm.

And gentlemen, she is dangerous. Like the black widow spider who eats her mate after sex, the femme fatale is cunning and

ruthless. She can detect a man's weaknesses. Although she knows the business of love, she doesn't succumb to it.

The femme fatale's power lies in her ability to emotionally enslave her lover, while he remains oblivious.

The femme fatale challenges women's traditional role as subservient lover. She's a rebel who defies the control of men and rejects the institution of family.

Her power lies in her ability to express herself in sexual terms.

She uses her unique sexuality – strong, dangerous and exciting – to define herself and to manipulate men to gain independence and power.

So girls, if you want some eroticism in a relationship gone flat, or to play the seduction game, employ the techniques of this master seductress:

● **Feign indifference. Better yet, be indifferent.**

● Invest in leather knee-high boots. Keep them on in bed.

● **Unless they were made in France, forget wearing underwear – it's for prudes.**

● Give yourself an alter ego. Seductresses aren't named Becky.

● **Don't giggle. If you have to smile, do it knowingly. If you have to laugh, laugh at him, not with him.**

● Love and intimacy are not the goals. Power is.

● **Wear dark colors. Including lipstick shades.**

● Be the first one to end phone calls, dates, and please, no cuddling after sex. Light a cigarette and then leave.

MEETMARKET

mX readers have taken Dr Bella to their hearts. Here's a selection of your emails and responses to Bella's quest to find Melbourne's best and worst places to meet partners.

I find meeting men when shopping to be the best bet. Although a little more difficult, the investment pays dividends as they are much more likely to understand the importance of shopping. Clothing stores are better than supermarkets but in either case I know they're capable of getting into these environments at least once.

– ANDREA

PS is this why my men invariably turn out to be gay?

The best places I have found are:

- the supermarket at 9pm at night (females are too organised for this)
- the bottle shop any time - helps if you ask for help in choosing beer which you don't drink, of course.
- you can get a steady supply enlisting paid assistance for your pad (plumber, handyman). Gardeners are often good value.
- don't do a handyman or car maintenance course - they are full of women.
- your local sailing club offers something for the more ambitious.

– SOPHIE

Here are my hot and not places for ladies to meet (good) men.

- Good places: The Long Room, Cookie
- Bad Places: Crown Casino, any pub over 10kms from the CBD

– MICK

I was introduced to He's Just Not That Into You last year, and it has certainly changed

the way I approach meeting, dating and relating to guys.

Where's the best place in Melbourne to meet men?

Not sure... that's why I'm still looking.

Where's the worst place in Melbourne to meet men?

At work – seems like a good idea initially... always ends badly.

Why should I join your man-hunting quest?

I'm having lots of fun conducting some dating experiments of my own, but finding a good one seems like mission impossible. I'd bring fearlessness, feistiness and fun to your covert operation – sign me up.

– KATE

Last week, you asked people to write in with best places for meeting men. I have to say that, even though I'm probably not the biggest spunk in the world, I have no problems meeting men – but I also know that it depends on the mood I'm in at the time – if I feel flirty or light-hearted, with no effort at all, I meet big spunks, but if I'm a bit introspective, they stay away.

So... the best places to meet men. Guaranteed, my friends and I always meet men at Club Retro. No assurances on the quality but quantity is the name of that game. Instant gratification is also the key strategy (i.e. pashing on the dance floor). Also the pub across the road and down the lane, Pugg Mahones (I think), is all right. In Fitzroy, the Night Cat, Dan O'Connell and Rainbow Hotel are also fun places to get to know some boys, although the blokes

you'll meet at these places are vastly different! One of my friends raves about the Laundry, also in Fitzroy. With a little bit more class, there seem to be many at Transport, and I met a hottie at the Mink Bar in St Kilda too. A very sexy friend of mine never seems to have any problems at the Town Hall hotel in North Melbourne, but I notice men on the street giving her second, third and fourth longing glances, so success there may be to do with her personally (she's VERY sexy!!!!)...

The list could go on, but I really think the biggest factor in meeting men is less about where (although that does have a role) and more about how you feel about your self, your body, and the way you project that out into the world! Keep up the wonderful work.

– NARELLE

Being a woman who at 25 has already been in a six-year relationship, and hit the single scene for the first time as an adult at the age of 22, I quickly threw myself at the best looking men, bedded them promising to call and catch up, with the intention of never seeing or speaking to any of them again. I would walk into a bar, see my target and hunt them down. I had no remorse, I would juggle up five men for dates. I felt as if finally I wore the pants, that it was all about me and my needs. None of these men had anything else to offer me except their finely chiselled bodies and a night of passion. After a few years of chewing through these men, I

decided that now my sexual appetite had been satisfied it was time to settle down and find a man who could actually hold a conversation beyond an introduction. I thought this would be easy as there were so many attractive single men out there that were worthy of my bed. However I quickly discovered that none were worthy of my heart.

I realised that it didn't matter what bar, what nightclub or what coffee shop I was in, none could satisfy my emotional appetite, as the places that I regularly attended were ripe and overflowing with men that weren't seeking relationships. So if you're looking to pick up a one-night stand your best bets in Melbourne are as follows; Metropol, The Saint, The George, Cushion and St Kilda Bath house in the afternoon on a summer's day. The Gunn Island Hotel, The Belgian Beer Garden for those sporty beer-drinking types. Transport, The Long Room, Trader bar, for those professional gentleman with money on a Thursday or Friday night. Boutique, Blue Bar, Cue Bar for those with a habit. Any of these places also have the potential for a diamond in the rough, the designated driver on a boyz night out.

All I can say is good luck girls, I am thankfully now with a man that has had rehab and served his time for his past emotional crimes, and who hopefully will not end up on your hit list.

– TANYA

■ Email Dr Bella at dearbella@mxnet.com.au

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