

A Modern Girl's Guide to Love

1. Introduction

The world can be tough on a modern girl. Do *you* lie awake at night pondering the burning questions of dating etiquette? Is your best friend getting married, leaving you alone and desperate? Did your boyfriend forget your birthday and you're just not sure how to punish him? Maybe you dream of the day you lose your man and know he *won't* be coming back or - in a world where the women with hair and teeth outnumber the men twenty to one - you wonder where on earth you'll find the next one. Relax. I'm here to help. It's time to turn your life around!

2. Everyone Loves A Wedding

Yes, it's wedding season again. Think weddings are the ideal place to mix it up with eligible bachelors while wishing your closest friends the best for the future? You haven't been to a wedding in a while, have you? If you're feeling lucky to have been invited to a wedding you're a fool. Not only does this so-called friend of yours expect you to waste an *entire day* pretending to be happy for her, but you are also expected to make speeches and ply the happy couple with expensive gifts at engagement parties, baby showers and anything else they can come up with. Worse, you are doomed to spend the entire, interminable evening marooned at the Singles Table (eleven Amazons, one scared rabbit of a man). But hold on, there *is* a way you can shine...

The Bouquet

Think it's all a lot of superstitious mumbo-jumbo? Well you're wrong. In fact catching that bouquet is a time-honoured tradition in which single women can display their athletic prowess to potential mates, thus showing that their bodies are ripe for childbearing. And if you're quick you can inflict a black eye or broken nose on a rival, substantially increasing your chances of snagging a man by the end of the night.

Heels of Steel

The question of whether or not to wear heels to the wedding of course depends greatly on how comfortable you are in them. But if you are serious about finding your Soul Mate I suggest you purchase a pair of needle point stilettos and start practicing. If not, don't clutter the floor; stay home in your slippers.

Once you have your new shoes give yourself time to get used to standing, and then walking in them. After you overcome the vertigo, your nose stops bleeding and the blisters have healed over like battle scars, you'll be ready. When the time comes to catch that bouquet you'll not only be six inches taller than the competition but you will also be capable of inflicting searing pain on *all* of the girls around you in just a few graceful leaps.

Your Homework

(Just do it.)

What you will need:

A teddy bear.

A full-length mirror,

A permanent marker,

A packet of Band-Aids,

A handful of balloons,

One tube of Vaseline,

Your wonderful shoes, of course,

And a little gaffa tape.

Time needed:

About twenty minutes a day for two to three weeks.

Directions:

Find a quiet place, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, in which to set up your mirror. Stand far enough away from the mirror to see your face when you are

air-borne, but close enough to see the whites, or yellows, of your eyes as the case may be.

Place your bear on the ground in front of the mirror. With your permanent marker place a neat cross on the belly of the animal. Apply Band-Aids to the backs of your heels and around each toe. Step into those shoes. Now, using the Gaff, strap your legs together from knees to hips to simulate the feeling of the dress you'll be wearing on the Big Day. Smear a liberal coat of Vaseline across your teeth and *smile*.

When you are ready:

Throw the balloon into the air and *jump*! Catch that balloon! As you land, imagine the vulnerable toes of beautiful girls, and really flatten that bear! Pay strict attention to your body language and facial expressions. Aim for a picture of serene, athletic grace. And try to look sweet. At the wedding, amidst the carnage, they won't suspect a thing.

With a little practice you'll soon be landing crushing blows to the feet of two opponents while delivering a nice elbow to the prettiest girl's face. And don't be afraid to ram your finger quite hard up the anus of the most athletic girl there. It will really put her off her game.

A Tip... Don't let your face give you away. A little Vaseline on the teeth will you're your smile stay in place.

When The Bride Is Your Best Friend...

When you are single at your best friend's wedding you are bound to feel a range of

emotions. You might feel sad, ugly, or even a little pathetic, but this is nothing compared to what everyone will be saying about you. This one afternoon could quite easily sentence you to a life of singledom forever. Just as in everyday life it is of the utmost importance that you show your best friend up in every way. *At her wedding?* You ask. Oh yes.

Time To Face Facts

If this so-called best friend is getting married while you remain on the shelf she is probably cleverer, better looking and far more cunning than you (and *that's* just for starters). Couple that with the fact that the traitorous bride will be the natural centre of attention *all day* and you'll see that she alone has the power to make you look utterly ridiculous. No Brazilian will save you now. You have to take her down.

But How?

There are a number of ways to take down a bride before her wedding and the easiest of these is to let Mother Nature lend a hand. And by this I don't mean wait ten years until she is covered in wrinkles and everyone sees how much better you've aged because research shows that married women wrinkle less, turn grey later and are less likely to develop incontinence than singles.

You've got to use her body against her. Does she have a peanut allergy? Does a certain type of flower make her sneeze? Would a bee sting land her in hospital? Would a packet of laxatives play havoc with her bowels? There are many natural remedies available to a creative girl like you. But if your best friend is some kind of superwoman of immunity don't be above putting superglue in her lip-gloss, bonking

her fiancé on video or shaving off half of her hair before the Big Day.

And remember... You can always make another (uglier) best friend but you will never reclaim your fading youth.

3. Nice Guys and Freaky Beast Women

Before you let it all hang out spare a thought for the Freaky Beast Woman. Make no mistake, she's in there somewhere, just waiting to come out, gnashing her teeth and wailing for blood. The Freaky Beast Woman wants to *settle down*. She wants to have babies - lots of them - and she's not shy about expressing it. The Freaky Beast Woman wants to get *married*.

She has to die. The Freaky Beast Woman will not hesitate to destroy your relationships, humiliate you in front of your friends, and make you beg for love from *anyone* - and all in public if possible. The next time you find yourself on your knees with his toes between your teeth wailing: 'But I love you!' as he struggles desperately for the door - even if you've only known him a month (*especially* if you've only known him for a month!) spare a thought for the sisterhood. You've been struck down by the Freaky Beast Woman. And it's a long way back to the top. That force that drags you back to your ex? The little thrill you feel when you think you might be pregnant? Those tears that well up when someone gets married *on TV*? She is Patriarchy's Sidekick, the PMS Avenger's Arch Enemy and Lucifer herself! And she is always dressed in pink. She is the Freaky Beast Woman!

Consider a relationship you are in or an encounter you've had lately. Now take

the test to discover...

How Strong Is Your Freaky Beast Woman?

1. You've prepared a lavish dinner for two. At the last minute he casually reneges in favour of watching the footy. You:

- A** Smile sweetly then get very, very drunk.
- B** Tell him you think you need to talk. NOW.
- C** Tell him you hope he starves to death as you calmly slit his throat.
- D** Actually you don't mind at all, you charged the beluga to his MasterCard. You know Hans is free and it *would* be a shame to let it go to waste.

2. He spontaneously brings you flowers at work. You:

- A** Smile to cover your suspicious tears. You'll have to watch him more carefully in future.
- B** Oh God. He's leaving. Scream that you hate him then promise him the moon if he'll stay.
- C** Shove the flowers up his oh-so-allergic nose.
- D** Fake an orgasm. Almost. Just imagine what *diamonds* would do...

3. On your third date he asks you to dress up like the Easter Bunny, and hands you a carrot. You...

- A** Think of England. If you don't do it someone else will.
- B** Demand to know who's been giving him these vile ideas.
- C** Participate gladly, adding a little chili to your vegies to spice things up.
- D** Know you've hit the jackpot! You smile for the camera and add him to the payroll.

4. The private investigator you've hired catches footage of your boyfriend in bed with his squash buddy. You:

- A** Tearfully accept his protestations that it's not what it seems.
- B** Take up squash.
- C** Encourage their friendship. It's taking the spotlight off those tennis lessons of yours...
- D** Sell the footage over the Internet.

5. He asks you to marry him. You:

- A** Burst into tears. Of course you'll marry him!
- B** Demand to know why. You know he'd never want you for *you*.
- C** Tell him you'll think about it if he promises to strip for your mother's hens night.
- D** Accept gladly. And start sourcing poisons.

Results:

Mostly A's: You're pathetic. I can't do a thing with you.

Mostly B's: Take drugs, destroy your liver with drink, do *something*! The Beast is ruining your life.

Mostly C's: You're on the right track. Aim high and, whatever you do, don't look back.

Mostly D's: You are doing so well that you can even afford to exercise your Beast from time to time. But remain vigilant, always.

The Good News...

Scientists have proven that the level of a girl's Freaky Beast Woman is inversely proportionate to her Gold Digger Quotient. This means that if you really focus on defrauding him of everything he owns you won't sink into desperate, toe-chewing

oblivion. Gold digging has the added benefit that your man is far more likely to hang around once he realizes his terrible mistake, in the vain (and rather sweet) hope that one day you might give it all back. In fact, once the value of goods and/or services obtained from your lover tops two hundred thou, you can freely let the Beast out of her cage for occasional cavorting. He isn't going anywhere.

You wouldn't plan a dinner party without giving thought to when to serve each course, would you? It's all in the timing.

And As For Nice Guys...

Do *you* still believe in the Easter Bunny?

4. Fifty Ways To Leave Your Lover

Once you know you can have him you probably won't want him anymore. But whether you're an Airy Aquarian or a Sultry Scorpio dumping him can be hard on *you* too. Today's fragile, modern girl needs to wring the most out of each and every break-up. So let the stars be your guide when it's time to tell him to scram.

Taurus

20 April – 20 May

Taureans are greedy. You are also extremely stubborn. This means when breaking up you can really go the distance. Start by hogging the doona. I know you Taureans like to be comfortable. Take just a little at first, then more each night until your love is routinely shivering and blue. Whatever happens, do not admit to being awake as you execute your evil plot. If your soon-to-be-ex tries to wake you (and, trust me, he will) try murmuring another man's name, this will snuff out any sparks of rebellion. The good news is that Taureans are habit-bound so what starts out as a nasty ploy will become second nature after about three weeks. Soon you really *will* be dismantling that out-of-date relationship in your sleep! Forget his name when introducing him to someone, or in front of his parents. One by one throw away his things. And put the rest in a sad little pile by the front door. If he gets up the gumption to confront you just stare through him distractedly. One day, calmly ask him who he is. As Taurean women generally pair up with feeble men it won't take long before he slinks off into the night, never to darken your door again.

On Yer Horse, Taurus

If you are attempting to leave a Taurean man you're in for a long haul. Ask a friend to rough you up a little, then set Daddy onto him.

5. The Bitchin' Kitchen!

Whether you fear your man may be straying or you just want to ensure his loyalty, there's a recipe here for you. Because remember ladies, revenge is a dish best served cold.

Sticky Date Pudding

(For your stickiest situations!)

Serving Size: 4

Preparation Time: 40 minutes

A first date can be hell on a modern girl. Contrary to popular belief our lives are not one plotting, scheming party. Sometimes, after we've nibbled at the entrée and picked our way through the first course, there really isn't much to say. We just feel shy. Are *you* often stuck for words on a first date? Well you can turn that frown upside down. There *is* a solution! Adding a little something to his sticky date pudding will ensure your beau will spend half the night in the bathroom, leaving you to relax and enjoy your evening.

The Pudding:

1/4 cup	Butter (plus a little extra to butter the pan)
3/4 cup	Chopped, pitted dates
1/2 t	Baking powder, and
1 t	Baking powder
3 T	Granulated sugar
1	Egg
½ cup	Self-raising flour

pinch	Salt
1/2 t	Vanilla

The Sauce:

1/2 cup	Butter
1/4 cup	Cream
1/2 cup	Firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 t	Vanilla
½ packet	Laxatives

To prepare the pudding:

Place the dates in a saucepan and cover with water. Simmer for 3 minutes. Add ½ teaspoon baking powder and set aside.

Cream the butter, sugar and egg. Mix in flour, salt and vanilla. Drain dates. Add 4 tablespoons of date liquid to the mixture, discarding the rest. Stir in the dates. Stir in the remaining baking powder.

Bake 20 to 30 minutes at 180 C, or until cooked in the centre.

To prepare the sauce:

Combine the butter, cream, brown sugar and vanilla. Simmer for 3 minutes. Separate sauce into two equal portions: *his* and *hers*.

Crush laxatives. Add to his portion, simmering until dissolved.

To serve:

Drizzle some of the untainted sauce over the cake as it is cooling. Serve *his* sauce separately.