



mX Shagpile

Women aren't the only ones who seek relationship advice.



Hello lovelies, thank you for writing in. Receiving your emails gave me greater satisfaction than receiving my last orgasm – well almost. I was duly impressed by men's responses to my lament over men who reject good love for no good reason.

Hi there Bella (if that's your first name) Just wanna say if that's a pic of you in mX, then may I say you look hot. I would like to ask you a couple of questions if I may: 1) are you a qualified relationship expert? and 2) how old are you?
Chau

Dr Bella.
I have been reading your column since it came out and it's good, but I believe that you, like many other women around the world, have become jaded. It's a sorry state of affairs and I think you judge the majority of men on the ones that you have met/gone out with. People such as yourself who reach a wide array of people can mould people's views on subjects, in this case male/female relations, and can lead to the alienation of females from males. If men and women took the time to understand each other, and focus on the positives, we would be more understanding of each other and create a better world. What you preach is only pushing us further apart.
Benny Boy x

Thanks Chau, I'm touched. Answers to your questions: 1) I am a cultural anthropologist (PhD), specialising in sexuality, romance, young people and technology. 2) As for my age, the camera never lies. Your email is the first fan boy-mail I've received (looking forward to more). And yes, there is definitely something wrong out there, Chau – that's why I get to write this article each week. As Homer Simpson said, "It started off like Romeo and Juliet and then it ended in tragedy." Let's face it, if looking hot were all there was to having a successful relationship then Jen and Brad would still be together wouldn't they? And yes, my real name is Bella.

Right you are Benny Boy. Perhaps I can redeem the situation by dedicating a column to the ultimate spiritual union of sexual equals: Tantric sex – stay tuned.

Dr Bella.
I've been in a relationship with a guy who I met on the net. At first he was honest to me and he even asked me to marry him before we met. We talked about all sorts of things on MSN, and talked over the phone for a few times. It's like we had sex on the net. I considered him my future man. After that I got hurt by him because he insulted me and used me. Now I talk to him, but not like before. And I really loved him. I don't know what to do. What's your suggestion? Do you think a relationship on the net would come true or just be a net relationship?
Nada

Dr Bella.
No words of mine could shield you from the hurt and anger that you have endured last week. I can only hope you will grow stronger and not be disheartened by your unrequited feelings for this man. The central message in your article has left me wondering all evening – is it true that some men throw away good love for no particular reason? I think this foible is more prevalent in women than men. For most of my adult life I have seen countless men hurt by women. What makes it even more depressing is that it is the genuinely nice dudes who get pushed away. You say rejecting good love for no good reason is a worldwide male phenomenon. Let me tell you the worldwide female phenomenon: Girls don't dig nice guys, they prefer guys who tease and emotionally hurt them. One time I asked three female colleagues about whether they would go out with a chivalrous guy or a complete arsehole. All three went for the arsehole because he was more challenging and "edgy". Edgy? What the hell does that mean? Rather than tackling their problems directly with their boyfriends they come to me for a shoulder to cry on (no, I'm not gay).
CNJ

Dearest Nada, my advice to you comes directly from Madonna: Don't go for second best baby, Put your love to the test, You know, you've got to, Make him express how he feels, And maybe then you'll, know your love is real. Nada, the world of love and romance is full of illusion. Guard your heart until the person you're seeing earns your trust. This process will be greatly facilitated if you spend time with him in coffee shops rather than cyberspace. Net relationships do work, but more so if you've gained "lived experience" in the world.

Addressing this topic would require a psychologist from Harvard, a psychic healer and the brainpower of Stephen Hawking. Nevertheless, I'll humbly take it to task in a future column. Promise.

These next two emails really impressed me. Thanks for the deep thoughts, guys.

Dr Bella.
I was most impressed with your article on lost love last week. It delivered the poignancy in a way I cannot remember seeing previously. Your question as to why someone would willingly discard a loving relationship supposes several things, not least that your appraisal of the relationship was accurate. Of course, you can't force someone to feel anything, with the possible exception of pain, and any attempt to do so is manipulative. I will miss being in a relationship more than the person who was the other half of it, and I don't think I am alone in this.
Chris (also suddenly single)

Dear Bella.
I took up the challenge and decided to contact the love that I thought I had lost, only to realise that I had not been in love with the person but in the concept. I concluded that my misguided love was due to the deep-seated human requirement to feel connected. This woman had reminded me in many ways of the family that I had lost when I decided to make Australia my home many years ago. I have since moved on, but have learnt that the ability to love comes with an ability to give and receive.
Cougar

Love, Sam
PS: Could I be the one who got away?

Sam: I do believe any woman lucky enough to have encountered you will damn herself for the rest of her life about letting someone like you go.

BOYS DO CRY

We've been inundated with so many emails for sex columnist Bella – particularly from blokes with strong views on love – that today's Shagpile will be devoted to replying to some of your letters.



HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?
DR BELLA

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