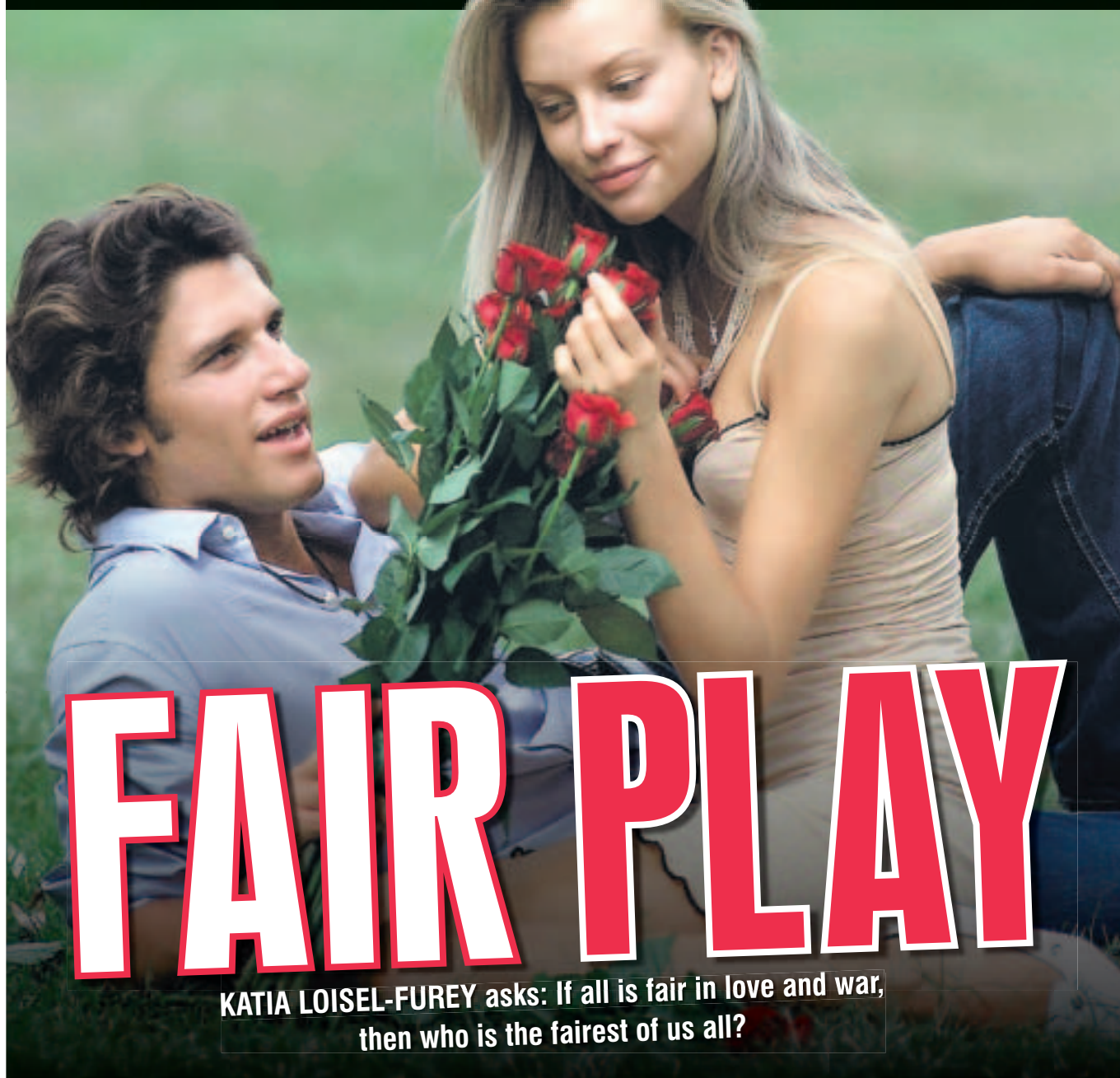


mxFlirt



FAIR PLAY

KATIA LOISEL-FUREY asks: If all is fair in love and war, then who is the fairest of us all?

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU?



“Should women still expect men to play out old-school courting norms?”

Gift giving is a courtship ritual that spans across many eras, cultures, and indeed, species.

Among animals and humans, it is usually the male who woos his desire by offering attractive gifts. To impress, gazelles, for example, permit their prospective girlfriends grazing time on prime territory. Nice. (In my opinion the misunderstood sexual predator, praying mantis, does it best though.)

In human mating, men too, have traditionally been given the task of gift giving. Homo sapien male gifts are often used to signify long-term commitment. Yes we are talking about luscious flowers, sweet little chocolates and diamond rings. Bling, bling baby.

But what happens when your sweetheart won't dish out romantic goods? Are Australian men immune to such evolutionary dating tactics? Should women still expect men to play out old-school courting norms? What should women do if their "hints" for romantic booty aren't getting across?

I met the most fascinating couple at the pub last week. Newly married, they crisscrossed insults at one another, while at the same time beaming with love.

"Isn't it adorable the way his bald head reflects light?" she asked me gaily.

Upon learning my profession, she began complaining loudly to me that her new hubby never bought her flowers and hadn't through the entirety of their two-year courtship.

"I was getting so fed up," she said. "I always asked him, How come you don't buy me flowers? Why can't you just get me some roses? Then one day I had an idea. I went to work -

I work at a blood bank - and I wrote a petition. I had 50 women sign saying that he..." here she raises her voice and catches hubby's eye ... "that he should buy me flowers."

"Let me get this right," I spluttered, "You petitioned for romance? What happened next?"

"Went to work, didn't he? And the next day came home with his own bloody petition about why he had the right not to buy his girlfriend flowers. Had five blokes' signatures on it."

"So, until this day, you've been flowerless?"

"I got you flowers," husband injects, taking a seat beside me and smiling broadly. "There I was about to cash out for the red dozen and wife calls, 'Where are you? It's 20 past five.' I explained that I'd stopped on Albert St. 'Why are you on Albert St?' she asked. I said I'd stopped at the ATM. 'But there's no ATM on Albert,' she screamed and didn't stop nattering on. When I got home, I threw the flowers on the table and said, 'Thanks for ruining my surprise.'"

Here the two laugh uproariously, and I join in.

Another Machiavellian example? A friend was tired of being deprived of love gifts. And so after hinting and hinting and having her honey ignore every friendly suggestion, she concocted a plan. Saturday afternoon, when she knew he would be home, the doorbell rang. A delivery man stood at the door holding a bundle of flowers. Said friend turned to her honey, and cried out, "Oh thank you so much sweetheart!"

The next week the man delivering flowers on her doorstep, was her husband.

*Best of luck in love,
Dr Bella xx*

We all have our standards. But when it comes to finding love new research suggests that women might be developing unrealistic expectations.

Picture this: She's on a night out with the girls when she catches him watching her with his piercing blue eyes.

He's absolutely delicious, and the mere thought of his strong body under his expensive suit leaves her weak at the knees.

Her heart skips a beat and she's already started to fantasise about their first kiss. But then the music dies - she's caught sight of his mismatched socks and it's the end of that affair long before it even started.

Are women really too picky? When it comes to looking for a man most women have a mental list as long as their

arm of "must haves" and even longer list of "mustn't haves".

He has to be:

- ✓ **Successful**
- ✓ **Financially secure**
- ✓ **Good looking**
- ✓ **Well dressed (with matching socks, please)**
- ✓ **Well groomed**
- ✓ **Intelligent**
- ✓ **A great listener**
- ✓ **Outgoing and popular**
- ✓ **A fantastic lover**

Having a New York penthouse doesn't hurt either.

The Real People, Real Answers study evaluated the match data from 1000 speed daters, made up of 504 men and 498 women, to determine just how picky women are compared to men.

The study showed that women are almost twice as picky as men giving,

on average, only 3.9 ticks compared to an average of 6.6 ticks for men.

When it comes to world of dating it seems that women are not being fair. In fact women were four times more likely than men to reject all of their dates.

IS BEING TOO PICKY STOPPING YOU FROM FINDING LOVE?

There's no point lusting after a gorgeous, successful guy if you spend Saturday nights in your PJs watching *Sex and The City* DVDs and don't have a cent to your name.

Being too picky might just stop a girl from meeting the man of her dreams, so a new attitude may be in order.

Treat shopping for a man like shopping for a fabulous dress. Your list shouldn't be set in concrete and always be

open to that gem that catches your eye, even if it wasn't exactly what you were looking for.

THE GOOD NEWS FOR GUYS

Women might be picky but they're not as hung up on looks or money as you might think with 90 per cent of women rating attitude as more important than appearance, and 100 per cent rating a man's character as more important than his job. So stand tall (don't fret about your socks), give her your sexiest grin and go over and say hi. It might just be your lucky day.

■ **Katia Loisel-Furey is from Perfectdates.com - for more flirting tips or details on the Real People, Real Answers study visit: www.top-flirting-tips.com**

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

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BTW Please write in by emailing me at dearbella@mxnet.com.au or visiting www.drbella.com.au Mwah.