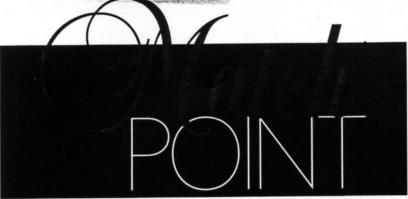




NAME Lisa Ronis PROFESSION Matchmaker

STATS Ronis is in the business of finding mostly upwardly mobile women a chance at lasting love. (They pay between US\$5,000 and US\$10,000 for a year's worth of dates.) She has only been in the biz for six years, but Ronis says she's been playing Cupid all her life. Now, as host of *Manhattan Matchmaker*, the native New Yorker is bringing her in-your-face method of matchmaking to the small screen. Based in Vancouver, the show premieres on April 19 on the W Network. "People in Vancouver are more laid-back," says Ronis. "I dress differently, I speak much faster, I go 100 miles an hour." Her philosophy on men: "Hold the bar high, honey. If you don't ask for it, you ain't gonna get it."



evolved

CANDIDATE
Stefanie Polsinelli,
26, ELLE editorial
assistant
DATING CHALLENGE
Where have all the
good men gone?
Who are these video-

game-playing, un-

evolved neanderthals who frequent my dating world? It has been months since I've had an honest-to-goodness relationship. Some friends have suggested that I overwhelm guys because I have such a busy life. Others say that my expectations are too high. I want an attractive guy who is intelligent, funny and able to hold a conversation. Is that asking too much? I'm a natural flirt and get along great with guys. My problem is meeting them. Besides being busy, most of my friends are either

married or engaged and, obviously,

not interested in chatting up men! I

love spending time with my friends,

but if I don't put myself out there,

how can I meet anyone new?

Lisa Ronis has nine hours to work her matchmaking magic on two young single gals.

TEXT: STEFANIE POLSINELLI AND SIOBHAN DIXON



CANDIDATE Siobhan Dixon, 23, ELLE intern/university student

DATING CHALLENGE Essentially, I don't date because school is my top priority. I don't have many male friends. I know that's a bit extreme! I'm also quite introverted and reclusive, which makes it hard to meet guys. My views on men are completely paradoxical: I want to be courted by a modern-day Renaissance man, but, realistically

speaking, I am attracted to bad boys. I won't budge on height requirements—he has got to be six feet and up! Deep down I really do hope to find true love, but is it possible that I'm too picky?

LISA'S TOP 10 DATING TIPS

• Do go to male-friendly haunts, such as sports bars and steak houses. Get together with a couple of girffriends and be the centre of attention among a gaggle of good-looking men.

DON'T get too tipsy. On the first

few dates; one mojito too many can be a real deal breaker for a man. • 0.00 be warm and engaging but also a little mysterious. He'll want a second date, but he shouldn't be certain you'll say ves. • 0.00 r'talk about your recent

messy breakup or your leg-waxing schedule. A man needs to earn your trust and the right to enter your private life. • 10 expect to be courted! The age of chivalry isn't over! • 10 NAT swear. If you want to be treated like

ELLECANADA.COM



Checking out the spring collection at Diesel's Toronto showroom

Stefanie's challenge I'm super-petite, so it's hard to find clothes that are stylish and sexy. Shopping at Gap Kids isn't an option! Ronis' solution "Stefanie has gorgeous arms and shoulders! She should show them off. And nothing says 'I am woman' like a sexy pair of stilettos. Finding size 2 is difficult, so her task is to find a shoemaker whose muse is Jimmy Choo."

TO YOUR DATE. IF HE'S A
MANAGER IN THE MUSIC
INDUSTRY, HE'S NOT
GOING TO SHOW UP IN
A PINSTRIPE SUIT—NOR
SHOULD YOU. 99 - Lisa Ronis

- •STEFANIE'S MUST-HAVES 1. Height! I'm four foot nine. (No, that's not a typo.) The last thing I need is to be part of an Ewok couple. 2. Intellect. He has to be able to match my wits! THE DEAL BREAKER Uncultured—wrestling had better not be his idea of highbrow entertainment.
- ●SIOBHAN'S MUST-HAVES 1. He has to be 100-percent straight. I love gay men, but I don't want to date one.

 2. A beautiful mouth—white teeth, great lips. THE DEAL BREAKER Lack of respect. If his momma didn't teach him, I'm not taking him on as a project. ▷



Siobhan's challenge I'm curvy, so I have to choose clothes that complement my figure and personal style. It's tough: I want to look classic—but not hide my va-va-voom. Ronis' solution "Thin fabrics are slimming—avoid ruffles and be sure to blend different shades of one colour." Decked out in Diesel: Stefanie is wearing a black tank top (\$60) and Keate denim jeans (\$350); Siobhan is wearing a green tank top (\$60), a green blazer (\$225) and Hipper denim jeans (\$235). For details, see Shopping Guide.

a lady, act like one by be open to different guys. If you are approached by someone who isn't your usual type, give him a chance anyway. If nothing else, practise being a flirt! ***ONITE** have sex on the first data; or second

date...or third date. If you're looking for love and a relationship, having sex too early might send him the wrong message. • • • package your femininity. If you want to attract guys, look like you want their attention. No guy says

he's looking for a woman who is a slob with facial hair. • OON's even think about calling him after the date—unless you're returning his call. If he doesn't call, face it he's just not that into you! Move on.







To complete our mini-makeover, we spend the afternoon with Vidal Sassoon's editorial director, Fritz LaBoucane, and Shiseido Canada Inc.'s western trainer, Neil Assenheimer.

STEFANIE Fritz says that I should blend the highlights into my cut. (Lisa agrees; apparently men don't like bold highlights.) I also have to master flatironing. "Don't rush it!" he explains. "The key to smooth, straight hair is to iron slowly and in many layers."

Neil says that I have small facial features (who knew?) and that highlighting will bring them out. He uses a highlighting powder on my forehead, chin and jawline and finishes with a shell-pink shadow on the inner corners of my eyes. "This creates the illusion of wider-set eyes," he says.

SIOBHAN Fritz agrees with my friends: they say my "slick Rick" bun, which I usually wear, makes me look unapproachable. He suggests a faux-hawk peak and a sexy pony, a look that will give me "instant rock-star glam."

Neil says that keeping my facial features in balance is a must when I'm applying my makeup. "If you play up one feature, it will tip the balance," he explains. "You don't want your eyes or your lips to enter a room before you do!"

BEAUTY TIPS FROM LISA

Lip service Lip gloss, lip gloss, lip gloss, lip gloss! Don't leave home without it. It's a girl's secret weapon.

Hair aware Men are hard-wired to notice you if you run your fingers through your hair. It's code for "I want to make myself attractive to you."

Nail man Sometimes

men see long nails as claws. Keep them short, clean and ladylike.



STEFANIE

GET THE LOOK ... "I went for soft, smoky eyes that are sultry and lips that are glossy and kissable," says Neil. "The look was inspired by Stefanie's eyes; they capture you and pull you in." Shiseido The Makeup Primer Brightening Veil (\$43); foundation 040 Lifting Foundation (\$48); powder L4 Luminizing Color Powder (\$41); brows BL2 Brow Shaper (\$37); eyeliner #1 Black Sharp Defined Lash Line (\$19); eveshadow S12 Violet Glitz (\$32), S10 Granite Stone (\$32) and S3 Shell Pink (\$32); mascara LL1 Black Lasting Lift Mascara (\$27); blush S4 Rouge Flush Accentuating Color Stick (\$38); lipliner #5 Mauve Brown (\$19); lip gloss G5 Chianti Pink (\$26); highlighter S3 Glistening Flush Accentuating Color Stick (\$38).



SIOBHAN

GET THE LOOK ... "Siobhan is beautiful, so creating an exotic feel was easy," says Neil. "Her eyes are her strongest featurealluring and sensual. Wisping the eyeshadow upward accentuates her naturally lifted eyes." Shiseido The Makeup Primer Matifying Veil (\$43); foundation L4 Luminizing Color Powder (\$41); brows BL2 Brow Shaper (\$37); eyeliner #1 Black Sharp Defined Lash Line, D3 Electric Iris (\$19 each); eyeshadow S15 Pearl Green (\$32); eyelashes Eyelash Curler (\$16); mascara LL1 Black Lasting Lift Mascara (\$27); blush S1 Bronze Flush Accentuating Color Stick (\$38); lipliner #4 Cocoa (\$19); lip gloss G1 Champagne Sparkle (\$26); highlighter S3 Glistening Flush Accentuating Color Stick (\$38). For details, see Shopping Guide.



We arrive at Bymark, a popular Bay Street haunt, and it's a sea of men. "Don't stay in the corner," says Lisa. "If you want to be the main attraction, stake out the centre of the room and own it!" It's time to glance, gaze, tousle, tilt and touch-five techniques a flirt relies on to catch a man's eye. Martinis in hand, we're ready to make a splash.

THE VERDICT: STEFANIE I struck up a couple of conversations but didn't "click" with anyone. I later met up with some male friends at a nearby lounge. My new look sparked unexpected-but welcomeattention from a friend I'd always had a crush on! HOMEWORK Lisa told me I should make new friendships with single girls so that I have company when I want to get my flirt on. I'm taking names! SIOBHAN I may have set a new record for Lisa when a senior analyst from an investment firm asked me to elope to St. Barts! (I didn't take him up on the offer, but if he calls me for a date I might go.) HOMEWORK Lisa said my idea of the perfect guy is too specific, which might be preventing me from making a connection. Also, I've got to practise flirting and be open to meeting different kinds of guys.

LISA'S MAN SCAN

On a first date, a man should...

- Go easy on the cologi
- Wear nice clothes and clean shoes.
- Immediately order you a drink and let you order
- Ask you questions about yourself.
- See you home safely.

LISA'S RED FLAGS

- If a guy is miserable about his career, run for the hills; he's a guy who hasn't found himself.
- If he talks about his ex for more than five minutes,
- If a guy doesn't buy you a drink, he's either really cheap or totally clueless.
- If he has never been in a relationship, 's probably not ready for one.

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