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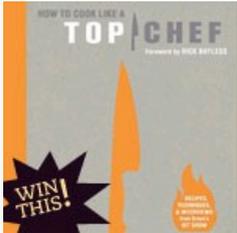
## relationships



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# relationships

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## Girl Talk: I Love—And Prefer—Going Out By Myself

Posted by: [Tamara Lynch](#) Filed In: [Relationships](#)  
1:00PM, Thursday July 22nd 2010

Comments (25)  21



As a divorced woman in my 30s, meeting a man wasn't always a top priority, but when I gradually started dating again, I called in my two wingwomen who were also on the prowl, Dana and Mary, for support. Both of these beautiful 30-somethings have had my back for years. They've been my wingwomen in everything from moving into a new apartment to keeping me sane throughout my divorce. I couldn't have adjusted to single life again without them.

So when Friday night came and I was raring to go out, I called my girls. We put on our heels, stepped up our makeup, and headed to our favorite lounge hoping to meet the men of our dreams.

With my dark curls, Mary's flowing blond locks, and Dana's sleek red ponytail, we were like the "Witches of Eastwick" trying to conjure up the perfect guy. Sitting at the end of the bar, the three of us were four drinks in and cackling too loud when Dana noticed two cute guys buying drinks not far from us. One was the blue-eyed, dark-haired spitting image of Superman, and with the grace of an elephant, he sloshed his drink on his shirt cuff. I gathered my liquid courage and said to him, "Damn, I can't take you anywhere." I got a smile and they came over to stand with us. Dana took the lead in making conversation, focusing most of her attention on Superman, a.k.a. James. We got on the subject of travel.

"I'm planning a trip back to Greece; Patmos and Santorini," said James. Score! Both Dana and I had been to Greece at separate times and we all agreed Santorini was stunning.

"I loved Patmos," I said just as Dana said, "You should go to los." Dana hadn't been to Patmos.

He nodded as if considering it and said to me, "I really liked Patmos too, less touristy."

"You're right," I said. "You need a boat to get there, so it's a trek for tourists."

Dana leaned in and said in a raised, drunk voice, "los was great though. It had better clubs than the other islands. It is kind of known as the party island."

James turned to me, "So where else did you go?" I tried to pronounce Kusadasi, but after four whiskey and sodas, it was a little difficult. Embarrassed, I explained it

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was an island off the coast of Turkey when Dana gave me a rundown of all the places she had traveled. James listened politely to Dana, but continued to glance at me.

As the night went on, it was obvious James was into me, but Dana was into James and in her drunken state, she was not giving up.

I didn't want to be in competition with my friend over a guy we barely knew. So I downed my fourth drink and said my goodbyes. Turning, I did my best not to stumble out the door.

The next afternoon I needed some time to think about our club fail the night before. I headed over to my local pub alone, settled into an open corner, flipped open my laptop, ordered a sandwich, and started typing when I heard, "You ever been to Coney Island?" Startled, my head snapped to the left and there was a cute guy with both elbows and a cold beer on the table in front of him. When I answered I had been to Coney Island years ago, he whipped out his phone and showed me a picture he took of his terrier in front of Nathan's. In return, I showed him a picture of my French bulldog.

Talking about our dogs led to a conversation about the best beaches to hit over the summer, what I was writing on my laptop, and what he did for a living. All of this was casually done in between my web-browsing and his watching the baseball game on the flat screen. After a few hours, I packed up my laptop and we acknowledged the possibility of running into each other again.

I had stumbled upon something big.

The next Saturday afternoon I slouched in the corner of a different pub pretending to work on my laptop while I scanned the room when I caught the guy at the next table eyeing my tattoo that was peeking out of my boy beater. "Nice tattoo," he said. After inspecting the ink that was swirling down his arm, I said, "Yours too." His name was Matt, he had a sexy goatee, and he lived in the neighborhood.

We didn't stop chatting ... and he asked me out.

Going out by myself was a revelation when it came to meeting guys. I didn't have to worry about drunken fights with my friends over a guy none of us would ever see again. It was just me, being witty and smart ... not to mention sober. All I needed was my laptop and a corner table.

Matt and I weren't a match in the end, but I discovered that going out alone is a goldmine. My wingwomen and I still hang out, but mostly we keep to brunches and movie dates. If I'm cruising to meet a man, I prefer the lazy afternoon chat to a late-night, alcohol-infused exchange any day. I'm more attractive when I can relax and be myself. So until I meet the guy of my dreams, I'm going to continue to go out by myself.

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**Shasta**

Score: 4

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 1:14 PM

Were JUST discussing this.

Another issue is that men don't necessarily want to approach a "pack" of women. who may be in the mood to simply shoot them down and make them look stupid.

It takes courage to go out alone. This has helped give us some!

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**chelles\_bells**

Score: 2

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 1:15 PM

I have no luck getting approached by guys alone... so I will just say that I love that you called it a "boy beater." Fantastic.

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1 reply



**awendybird**

Score: 1

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 1:48 PM

I like "boy beater" too! Never heard it before, but it's great!

Report Abuse



**ootie**

Score: 0

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 1:24 PM

I hate it when that happens with friends. I'm never in the mood to battle with friends for a cute guy's attention like a pack of hungry wolves. A similar situation happened a couple of weeks ago, where a guy was clearly into me, and my friend, who thought he was cute, responded by throwing herself at him full force all night. It was embarrassing to watch and I just left because I didn't want to be a part of it.

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**TheFabulousMzM**

Score: 3

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 1:31 PM

Going out on your own is awesome. I discovered this by accident because I HATE riding in the same car as other people (for various reasons, most having to do with being annoyed). So one year when I was to meet friends at a club, i was running a bit behind and got there after them. I couldn't find them for ages and loved the freedom of not having to stick by their side until alcohol made them comfy enough for me to strike out on my own (which I'd much rather do). By the time I found them they were ready to go and I stayed. And had the BEST time.

From then on I made a point of going out by myself from time to time. i could get there when i wanted, leave when I wanted and go places my friends would definitely not be down to go to. And best of all, no competition. Not that my friends and actively compete, but I hang with a gorgeous group of girls so if I were to like someone (which is actually pretty rare) I'd run the risk that he may prefer one of them instead. Plus I can be kinda quiet and slightly dorky so it's hard to get heard over my more gregarious friends. Going out alone eliminates that problem.

And 'boy beater'? A term I'm totally stealing!!

Report Abuse

1 reply



**Vivster**

Score: 1

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 6:08 PM

"for various reasons, most having to do with being annoyed"

Is it bad that this was the phrase that not only totally caught my attention, but amused the heck out of me?



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[rewers](#)

Score: 0

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 1:48 PM

I always go out by myself! I love it - and definitely have been hit on more when hanging at the bar or enjoying a drink by myself rather than with my girls!



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[YellowArrow](#)

Score: 3

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 1:50 PM

I'd never go out to a bar at night on my own, but I think it's a lot safer if there's just one other friend, and you guys have different tastes in men. I'm not single any more, but when I was I had two friends who were perfect go out with, one is after jewish men (not that I discriminate against them, but I gave her auto dibs on them), and the other loves only preppy, which I'm not really attracted to. It worked out well and prevented any competition.

Either that, or go out with a single gal who is outgoing and willing to entertain some guys while you get the one you want!



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 [3 replies](#)



[YellowArrow](#)

Score: 1

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 1:51 PM

Whoops, go out with a coupled-up gal is what I meant in that last paragraph.



Report Abuse



[msliz506](#)

Score: 1

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 4:32 PM

Agreed. Friends with boyfriends are the best wingwomen!



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[Solstice444](#)

Score: 0

wrote on July 24, 2010 @ 10:38 AM

I spent a couple of summers staying on campus during my college years. During that time, when bars weren't as crowded, I found that going out with one other girl friend was a no fail way to meet guys. And it would be usually just one guy, who would approach the two of us. Unfortunately now in the working world, nearly all of my girl friends are in serious relationships and aren't quite as into going out. I think I need to try the alone approach! I've only done it once, and guys did talk to me, but unfortunately they were not my type at all...gotta give it another shot!



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[silvii](#)

Score: 1

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 1:51 PM

In my single days, going out on my own involved the cinema and it was nice deciding on my own choice of movie to watch and not worrying if someone wanted skittles or maltasers (I'm more of a pick n' mix girl).

Traveling on my own has its similarities to going out alone. You choose your own itinerary without necessarily having to stick to the plan, you avoid falling out with a friend or having disagreements, and you force yourself to go out and make friends because you don't really want to spend the whole trip without any social interaction.



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 [1 reply](#)



**TheFabulousMzM**  
 wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 2:14 PM  
 I LOVE traveling on my own!

Score: 1



Report Abuse



**H. Blue**

Score: 0

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 2:03 PM  
 I'm not brave enough to go out on my own, though I have tried a few times. I just feel awkward and weird, and no one approached me, not even the bartender. Sigh.



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1 reply



**impoddity**

Score: 1

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 4:31 PM  
 Aww. Well if you ever give it another try, I wish you luck!



Report Abuse



**LV\_Badger**

Score: 0

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 2:08 PM  
 Easiest way for a woman to meet a guy going out at night is for her to play pool or darts or something along those lines. It makes it really easy for a guy to ask if they want to play a game and bingo you have something in common and conversation flows pretty easily. That's just my opinion, but I've met more women at bars while I'm playing pool on my own than any other way I've tried. Even if I'm at the place with friends and they are at the bar and I'm at the table it has been easier than randomly walking up to either a single female or a group.



Report Abuse



**bethb**

Score: 1

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 2:10 PM  
 For those of you who said you are reluctant to go to a bar or club alone--in my single days, I used to grab a good book and head out to dinner or brunch. As an avid reader and a big "foodie" I really didn't care if I met someone or not, but I often did, especially in restaurants where there is banquet seating along a wall, so you have "neighbors". I would always take the opportunity to order up--soup to nuts--sometimes even a bottle of wine. Just make sure you tip well if the server is not going to turn the table anytime soon. I was "in the business", so I always let the server know I'd take care of them.

Sometimes it wasn't even a guy I met--just a really interesting couple or a woman--I remember these as very enjoyable, satisfying evenings.



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**Dawn Incognito**

Score: 0

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 2:19 PM  
 Even when out with friends, there's more success to be had when the group splits to meet guys. That is, if we are single. Of course, when my best friend and I both had boyfriends that stayed home at the club, it was much better to stick together.



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**BoKnows**

Score: 4

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 2:48 PM  
 Both work, with friends or out on your own, if you're giving off good, friendly energy. BUT, if you have a "wing woman" who doesn't let you get a word in edgewise and is immediately interested in whoever you're interested in, she's not such a good friend. I was once talking to a guy in a bar, and my "friend" leaned over and started making out with him -- while I was still talking. She's like "Oh, his friend dared me to! Besides, he was really into me right from the beginning" Really? We're not 16 anymore. Needless to say, I walked out and never spoke to her again (I even canceled a plane ticket we had for a trip to Cali). She thought I was jealous. Um no, you looked like a whore and I don't want to be associated with you.

1 reply



delilahgem

Score: 0

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 3:32 PM

I have a friend who used to be like that. She's used to being the 'pretty one' (I wouldn't say either one of us was prettier than the other, we just look different). Last summer, we were out with friends of hers and there was a new guy who just moved to the area that she was just falling all over, who as it turns out, seemed more interested in me. I didn't care either way, as I just gotten together with my current bf so was giving off the 'I don't care' vibe. The harder she tried, the more he paid attention to me...and so it went. She even went so far as to tell him to not pay attention to me because I had a boyfriend. Hmmpf. It is memories like this that remind me why we don't socialize more often haha.

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AtlantaGirl10

Score: 1

wrote on July 22, 2010 @ 3:38 PM

I have found this also. If I stop for lunch or dinner somewhere while out shopping and sit at the bar area, almost always someone will come over. Now, not always is it a guy I want to date (sometimes it is!), but hardly ever do I end up alone the entire time. When I travel solo, too, I have found it is THE best way to meet people and absolutely so much more enjoyable to go and do exactly what you want.

A lovely, "lonely" lady seems to be irresistable to the opposite sex.

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Terpgirl31

Score: 0

wrote on July 23, 2010 @ 12:49 AM

I go out alone alllll the time. My friends and sisters think its really weird, but I mean whenever I go out I see tons of other people walking around alone so I don't think its THAT unusual. I mostly prefer shopping (grocery, clothes, etc) alone so I don't have to worry about another person getting bored. I also hate working out with other people because everyone has different work out routines and its stupid (and maybe even dangerous) to try to synchronize your routine with some one else's (or vice versa).

Report Abuse



urchinstar

Score: 0

wrote on July 23, 2010 @ 6:08 AM

the best times of my life have been when I went out alone, spontaneously and without a "plan" to meet anybody. in fact, once I 'met' anybody it spoiled whatever I was enjoying on my own, and felt awkward. makes me wonder if it seems 'strange' that a woman is out by herself, making herself happy! sure, i meet guys, but since I didn't plan it it feels like i am not in control of that happening to me and that's a real turnoff. i wouldn't approach a man with an agenda like that...and i do mean agenda, not a coincidental situation like a party or other "social stomping ground".

Report Abuse



silvergurl

Score: 2

wrote on July 23, 2010 @ 5:06 PM

i'm going out alone tonight...THIS ARTICLE AND THE COMMENTS MAKE ME STOKED :)

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1 reply



AtlantaGirl10

Score: 0

wrote on July 27, 2010 @ 1:22 PM

how did it go?

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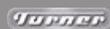
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