

Man up and ask her out!

[BY SUSAN SEMENIW]

Vancouver men have a reputation for looking at women and appearing interested from a distance—and not doing much more than that. For Pete's sakes! What's stopping you from approaching her and initiating a conversation if you see something you like? This can apply anywhere you go: a bar, the library, a grocery store, on the seawall ... get the picture?

It's time to take the lead and be in control—confidence and showing interest is sexy! **HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR SUCCESSFULLY TAKING THAT FIRST STEP AND APPROACHING GIRLS:**



Read her body language

If she makes eye contact several times or smiles at you, she's interested in talking to you. If she plays with her hair, starts primping or grooming herself, crossing and uncrossing her legs while looking your way, this is a green light to come over—SO GO.

Be yourself and don't use cheesy pick up lines

In most cases the best starting point is "Hi". Don't try too hard, otherwise you may get nervous and come across as someone you're not. Notice something about her beforehand if you can (a genuine compliment goes a long way as long as you avoid commenting on a specific body part). Go with the flow



"AND LADIES, IF SOMEONE HAS THE COURAGE TO COME OVER—BE NICE, ALREADY!"

the conversation and be real. Funny is always good. Feel free to have some topics rehearsed if necessary. LISTEN.

Acknowledge her friends

If you see someone you like and she's out with her friends, she won't want to ditch them to only talk to you, so try to include them in the conversation too. At the same time make sure she knows you are interested in her and not her friends. And don't be that guy who irritates both her and her friends—they'll send you packing.

Be respectful

Don't get too close. Most of us like our personal space. Don't be 'touchy' in the beginning until some rapport is established. Stay away from talking about anything sexual and don't say anything offensive!

DO NOT approach if you've have too much to drink

If you're in a bar you're not going to make a good first impression if you're drunk or sloppy. Having one drink to take the edge off is fine—and no more than two.

Be cool if things don't work out

It's unrealistic to think that every

woman will say 'yes' to you. Many people have a type and you may not be hers, or she may be taken. Prepare yourself for all outcomes and if you get rejected don't take it personally. Be proud of yourself for having the guts to go over—at least you won't have missed out on a possible great opportunity.

Don't expect any action just because you bought her a drink

It's nice to buy someone a drink and not expect anything in return. If you have the expectation of women falling for you just because you bought them a drink, then don't even bother buying it in the first place.

Take her phone number

In the beginning she wants you to take the lead, so don't ask her to call you. After all, you're the man—take her number and follow up if you say you will.

And ladies, if someone has the courage to come over—BE NICE, already! You can still be flattered and respectful even if you're not interested. w

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