

# Hunt Like A Man!

*New research says women can't communicate desire, whereas men cut straight to the chase – and end up scoring way more often. Here, the 'guy moves' to steal to become a dating dynamo*

**P**icture the scene: a guy who's not your type appears at the bar and confidently offers to buy you a cocktail like he's Ryan Gosling. Intrigued by his swagger, you accept and despite yourself, you're soon chuckling at his jokes, reassessing your initial impulse to write him off, and you might even agree to hand over your number.

According to a new study by the University of Texas, this is a familiar scenario, as men routinely overestimate women's desire for them, resulting in a higher dating success rate. "Men have greater success if they misperceive a woman's interest because it gives them the confidence to approach a woman and cause her to become more interested in him," explains psychologist Carin Perilloux, author of the study. Read on for dating moves we can nab from the guys.

## **He Assumes You're Hot For Him**

The study involved putting 200 students through a three-minute speed dating exercise, rating each partner for attractiveness and physical interest. The results showed that men are far more likely to misread the signals, assuming a woman is into him when she isn't. And the more attractive a man finds a woman, the more he overestimates her interest.

Conversely, the research also found that women underestimate men's desire for them. "We found that women simply don't notice that men are interested in them," says Carin. And when it comes to

pulling, it's a trait that lets us down.

Sure, his cocky attitude comes with the risk of being knocked back, but there's also a pretty high chance he'll pull. "Our study found that the kind of guy who went for it, even at the risk of being rebuffed, scored more often," says Carin.

So take a leaf out of the guys' book and assume that every cutie in the room is hot for you. Chances are, by the end of the night, some of them just might be.

## **He Takes A Gamble**

So, guys work on the premise that we're into them until we give them the brush-off. Arrogant? Maybe, but Carin explains that the reason for his self-assuredness may have less to do with his ego, and more to do with a caveman instinct for human survival.

He's wired to seek out the most fertile mates, and he won't let anything – including potentially being burned – stand in his way. It's known as the Error Management Theory: he weighs up the risk of striking out against the risk of missing out on a hook up opportunity. Deciding the latter is the greater risk, he goes for it, despite the fact that he could be setting himself up for embarrassment.

And since previous studies suggest that women rarely respond badly to a man she doesn't fancy hitting on her (think about it: you're more likely to respond with a polite 'no thanks' than a face slap, right?), the risks are relatively low.

The next time you see a hot guy you're too afraid to talk to, think about

which situation would be worse: making a move and getting a polite blow off, or doing nothing and missing out on what could be the hottest hook up of your life?

## **He Turns His Swag On**

Whereas a man is wired to assume women dig him, studies suggest women are programmed to assume the opposite: that guys just aren't into us. Carin says it's something we inherited from our cavewoman ancestors, who adopted this strategy so men would have to work harder for their attention. And squillions of years on, women are still playing the long game. "Our study found women would under-perceive how interested men are in them because this may cause interested men to have to invest more time, money, and energy into courting her – benefits she'd receive less of if she just assumed men were already interested in her," says Carin.

But transfer that pulling strategy to 2012 and you're less likely to be lavished with gifts, and more likely to be stuck in the corner at a party waiting to be noticed.

A guy, however, will blossom in a crowd situation. Confronted with a room full of potential mates, he calculates that the chances of being spurned are at an all-time low – given that if he crashes and burns, there are a room full of replacement chicks (and they're all hot for him, remember?) – and that the biggest risk is leaving the party stag, so he mingles fast.

So if you quit the wallflower act and work the room like you're Megan Fox, you won't be leaving the party alone. Result! ■

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Turn your swag on and make every guy in the room hot for you!