



by Nigel Bowen
04 Jun 05:55am

An open letter to Sex and the City creator Darren Star

FILED UNDER: ENTERTAINMENT, MOVIES, SEX AND THE CITY, SOCIETY, WOMEN

40 COMMENTS

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We're the first to admit we heterosexual blokes haven't always treated you, our fabulous homosexual brothers, with the respect and affection you so richly deserve.



Not even this chick is enough to get us to watch your movie

We can only guess at the number of times some knuckle-dragger inserted your head in an S-bend at high school after being driven into a homophobic rage by your fashion-forward outfit, Truman Capotesque lacerating wit, or Elton John pencil case.

We can picture you now, pacing up and down your tastefully decorated bedroom thinking, "One day I shall I blow this tragic town, join Hollywood's gay mafia, and create a zeitgeist-reflecting TV show revolving around four gay men cunningly disguised as self-obsessed single women.

"Then those Neanderthals shall pay, and pay dearly, for the outrageous indignities they have visited upon me and my kind."

Well, mission accomplished. Well played, sir. It's testament to your evil genius that you've managed to craft an R-rated TV show stuffed full of material we'll happily spend hours searching for on the internet - bizarre fetishes, hot girl-on-girl action, well-known actresses getting their tits out - which no straight man in the world has ever, of his own free will, watched.

A pop-cultural phenomenon that disingenuously appears to have encouraged a whole generation of women to slut it up but that has, in fact, inflated their expectations to the point where the typical man has about as much chance of convincing them to sleep with him as he does of determining whether they're wearing Manolo Blahnik or Jimmy Choo.

Let's be honest here, Daz, you knew the chicks would never actually identify with, let alone start putting out like, that old boiler nympho played by Kim Cattrall.

No, as all your female viewers will readily confess after one Cosmo too many, they're "soooo Carrie Bradshaw". And who's Bradshaw into? Mr Big.

Now, granted, it's not like the ladies' expectations were exactly anchored in reality to start with, but



gabs on, imming up port for the dgy Bongo - this a caption

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Unfunny I know many women that consciously or subconsciously aspire to be like SATC. I see them everywhere. At work. On the street. When I was at uni. All these women with overpriced handbags, overpriced shoes, overpriced clothes, looking like street workers. Women who refuse to go out with men because they are balding, slightly overweight, not possessing the wit of Stephen Fry, not having the attitude and demeanor from a Jane Austen novel (say, Mr Darcy). And it's not like they are confined to a specific age range. I've known overweight 40 year old unemployed women that reject a man simply because he only earns \$50,000 per year. Just as much as I have known 18 year old girls to reject a guy because he isn't 6' tall.

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Our great power is not to capitulate though. I earn 6 figures and have a very fit and toned body. I set the rules for what I will do for, and accept from, a woman.

That is our power. We don't have use-by dates like they do. We have time and patience.

Reply

Y says:

02:02pm | 04/06/10

i make six figures and have a fit and toned body; i'm a woman in my twenties and have tried dating those balding, older, younger, fatter, poorer, dumber, not as educated types you talk about. what's your point? that women need to give guys that are not like you a chance? they do, but unfortunately (some) men can be very sensitive and egotistical; anything that potentially demonstrates their laziness to loose weight, get a better job or improve something (anything) about themselves turns them into A holes.

"used-by-dates like they do" "overweight 40 year old unemployed women"?? so at a certain point some women are expired in your eyes and are no longer worthy of you ? isn't that a slight double standard? what will happen when you eventually go bald and your member is passed its used by date and resembles a root vegetable passed its hey day? will you buy affection with your six figures? i'm sure you'll find a 40 yr old unemployed women who will be happy with you because you make more than 50k.

SATC was a cultural phenomenon because for the first time women on tv started to talk about men the way you do. Get over it boys; get a sense of humor, be a good person, find and hold on to a good job, look after your selves and i'm sure there a lady out there who'll have you....

Greek Snake says:

02:18pm | 04/06/10

That's great Y. I mean, you've sold yourself quite well. In essence you get more then the girls on SATC. You have on thing going for you. You aren't 50 something acting 20 something. You really are 20 something.

I too earn six figures, but is that important in your assessment of my potential to be a partner? Studies show, that when a female is faced with evaluating a partner, their income enters the equation every time. Where as a male would rather do the earning and let their partner have other qualities.

When I eventually have children, I don't expect my partner to be working. I hope that my income would suffice and if she has to work, it will be part time. Either way, her income is not important, I know I can support us both.

Women have always talked about men the same way men do women. SATC just had the balls to leave it unedited. Fact of the matter is, if you brought out a show of 4 blokes doing the same, and left it as realistic as possible, you'd have feminists hanging from rafters in protest of it.

BTW I hope that when I'm passed my use-by date I'm earning far more than 6 figures and can easily buy as many 20 somethings as I like.

Y says:

02:42pm | 04/06/10

in my assessment of a mate, as much as i would like to think income has absolutely nothing to do with it, realistically it does; in so far as equality is concerned. you see, at this point in my life i can't imagine having children or not working, so i can imagine changing as i get older.

personally i don't think SATC is a bible for how a woman should live her life, but it does analyse the possibilities and conundrums that face women today. i totally hope that when i'm in my fifties i outgrow my material tendencies and find greater substance in life (agree with you there).

as to what happens when any one us have kids, men or women, i think depends on the situation. should women have the option of working from home, hiring help, working flexibly, childcare ect would be a factor. as would, i think, the particular

type of people having these kids. it's such a personal choice, everyone should have a say in how they wish to go about it (so there's o shame in men quitting work while women bring home the bacon).

I do hope that when we are all passed our used by dates, which creep up on all of us, we are all the wiser and are surrounded by lifelong friends/partners/ family with whom we can share memories and reflections of a life well lived in substance and only scattered with pointless frivolities.

AdamC says:

03:02pm | 04/06/10

Wow, what with all these fit twenty-something Punch commenters earning the big bucks, maybe the site should have a dating functionality!

PS, Y, yes, women do get 'expired' pretty fast, at least compared to men. You're at the peak of your dating prowess now - make the most of it.

And PPS, Nige, I think your article was too full of stereotypes for me not to find it onboxious. (But then I enjoyed SATC, so maybe I'm the stereotype ...)

Rosie says:

05:50am | 05/06/10

@ AdamC " yes, women do get 'expired' pretty fast, at least compared to men"

Are you serious? Have you seen the hordes of "expired" man around that believe they are not (and act like it)? You must be one of those delusional guys that think that age does not matter in men can't - or won't - believe they get old at the same rate that women do...please... Get a hold of yourself with these biased generalizations. Your commen is fallacious and scornful, to say the least...

And for SATC, Good job Darren, you are truly having the last laugh!

AdamC says:

07:35pm | 05/06/10

Rosie, I am not saying women age more quickly than men chronologically (which would be absurd) or health-wise (women live longer than men), but rather in terms of their dating or marriage appeal.

Incidentally, given the subject of this post, the first episode of SATC was about that very reality.

I am being neither scornful, nor fallacious. And I am 28, and gay, so look at this (hetero) dating malarkey as something of a disinterested observer.

girl says:

02:04pm | 06/06/10

so what, dude. still makes you a wage slave. just like all the other averages in the world. you can have all the time in the world, but you'll still never be a real player

another (proud) Mr. average says:

10:52am | 04/06/10

Excellent article. Totally agree. the only danger that I see here is that you might get Daz more upset with your sarcasm and SATC-like crap will keep on coming. God save us please

Reply

kelly says:

11:33am | 04/06/10

So top bloke, what you're saying is YOU can set your rules about what you'd accept from a woman, but you don't like women doing the same?

I often think sex and the city is self indulgent, and the women sometimes shallow (even though there are heartfelt & sincere moments) I have a wonderful guy that I'm very happy with, and I don't see the need to nitpick things to death.

- However when I read or hear a comment like yours from a guy, it becomes clear that there are still men out there who hate seeing women have the same choice and rights they have.

So for that reason, I'm glad sex and the city exists, if anything to show a woman has as much freedom as a man to do what she chooses. Be with who she chooses, and not to settle because she 'has' to.

By the way, you already sound like you've reached your use by date.

Reply

dazza says:

01:47pm | 04/06/10

Thankyou Kelly, that was exactly my thought upon reading Top Bloke's response!!

Wonder if he's serious and the hypocrisy is legitimate or if he's trolling for an argument?

kelly says:

03:22pm | 04/06/10

I hope for his sake dazza, that it's the latter!

GD says:

11:34am | 04/06/10

The greatest benefit to men from SATC is to watch the impact it has on women. It not only helps them understand that they are different to men and that will always be so. It helps them to dream of what could have been, and then brings them back to earth with a thud that life is real, men are generally very simple and you can get on with things when the show is over.

Reply

Jaki says:

11:42am | 04/06/10

As a woman, I am proud to say that I have never once watched an episode of this pathetic-sounding show and I never will. I don't even like shopping ! Does this make me one of a kind ?

Reply

Robert Smissen , rural SA says:

02:00pm | 04/06/10

Marry me ! ! Oh & do you have a sister like you for my mate?

julia says:

11:42am | 04/06/10

He he. That was quite clever.

Reply

Jason says:

12:17pm | 04/06/10

Um... don't be stereotypical about what gay people are like or anything. Plenty of gay guys who go to the pub and watch footy and never watch sex and the city or care about fashion.

Reply

Sam says:

12:37pm | 04/06/10

"I the moniker is anything to go by - an awe-inspiringly enormous penis. "

Errr, no, that's not the motivation behind the Mr Big moniker at all. Don't look now, but your male insecurity is showing. Not that any woman would expect anything else after reading such an ignorant, humourless open letter

Reply

john says:

01:15pm | 04/06/10

Having unfortunately watched a few episodes of this show with my wife, I do seem to remember the size of his genitals being part of the motivation for his nickname, although not the main reason.

DM says:

09:42am | 05/06/10

I'm with Sam, it's based on him being the next Donald trump that he's BIG in real estate

Sanchy says:

01:04pm | 04/06/10

"Please just stop filling women's heads with your cock-blocking concoctions"

Gold.

Well said champ!

Reply

Tawanda says:

08:46pm | 04/06/10

Yeah that line had me chuckling...!

So too some of the preceding comments.

NEFFA says:

01:12pm | 04/06/10

you forget the great spin-off of SATC, "hes just not that into you. "

They gave Men a get out of jail free card, you should be happy

Reply

Paul says:

01:59pm | 04/06/10

So yet again someone implies gay men are always effeminate flamboyant artistic 'fabulous' creatures. Get a life.

Reply

BK says:

03:07pm | 04/06/10

There is so much fantasy being made for women and nothing on TV that discusses relationships from a perspective where men have any power. Maybe when someone makes a show when four blokes sit around, discussing and arrogantly rejecting any woman who goes near them, women will see the problem with SATC. At least the contrast between this show and SATC would clarify just how unrealistic SATC is.

Reply

BackINreality says:

03:26pm | 04/06/10

LOL - thanks for the laugh BK. No fantasy where men have power???hahaha

You poor thing, you must have missed every action movie/lad movie/ entourage/ two and half men (how gross are those guys?) and millions of other forms of entertainment for the last 50 years.
I hope you're just stirring, no one could be that ignorant.

Michellemac says:

02:48pm | 06/06/10

Have you seen Entourage?

For the record, I love both shows, do/did not have 'a list' - nor do I know anyone, single or married, who has/had one either! - beyond the basic get-along-with-can-imagine-growing-old-together and I possess a sense of humour so I can watch each show for what it is and enjoy. I don't get offended that Vinnie Chase is shagging a different dolly bird every night and I nurse a slight crush on Ari Gold precisely because he is an arrogant prick.

So what is this obsession some guys seem to have that women have a 'list'? Seriously, I've lived in the UK and Australia, was in my 20s when SATC started and am in my 30s now, a career-woman with a family...my friends, colleagues and associates are the perfect demographic for this so-called list so why don't I know anyone who has or had a frickin' list????!!!

stephen says:

03:43pm | 04/06/10

Er.. good mag, actually. But a couple of times, some of the clothes you've advertized are not available in Oz.
Please fix.

Reply

Andy says:

03:48pm | 04/06/10

SATC served me well back when I was single as a 'bellwether' of sorts. If I met someone who interested me I would find a way to get SATC into the conversation and if she said that she liked the show I would be gone in a flash!

Anyone who thinks that show or the characters in it are anything but shallow, vacuous, crass, pointlessly materialistic and devoid of any class is not the kind of person I want to have anything to do with.

Sorry if you think that is judgemental but finding a life partner was far too important to risk getting stuck with a Carrie Bradshaw wannabe.

Reply

DM says:

09:45am | 05/06/10

Dude, just because someone watches SATC doesn't mean she aspires to be like that, just the same someone who watched Charmed aspired to be a witch or Buffy fans aspire to kill things with wooden stakes, FFS can we get a clue, if the girl watches it but is in jeans from jeans west, t-shirt and wearing sneakers chances are she just enjoys the escapism of TV and doesn't want to be like them

Infense says:

04:52pm | 04/06/10

Dude - not all homosexuals sing show tunes and if they do it's probably because they like the song and not because they like sex with men. You could have made your article's main point, that women want more than what most men have to offer, without using clichéd homosexual generalisations.

Reply

Woody says:

04:09pm | 06/06/10

so true

6c legs says:

05:58pm | 04/06/10

ohhh, i love a good rant by a spoiled hetro man.

It means that they're not getting everything all their own way. 😊

Reply

Mickey_Maoist says:

06:21pm | 04/06/10

Feeling a bit insecure are we, dearie? Aaaaaaaaaw, poor baby boy.

Reply

ja says:

09:25pm | 04/06/10

"more action than Tiger Woods at Viagra-sponsored golf tournament held in the grounds of the Playboy Mansion"

- thats alot of action

Reply

ja says:

09:27pm | 04/06/10

ps. don't be threatened by the gays nige, they can help you get laid

Reply

Betty Rubble says:

01:29am | 05/06/10

Poor Nigel, the show wasn't for or about you and your straight mates. It was about the lasting friendship of four people who happened to be women. That's all. Maybe you should write about something more to your taste, like the Flintstones

Reply

BK says:

11:11am | 06/06/10

Who happened to be women...very...very arrogant women.

stephen says:

06:16pm | 06/06/10

Fred and Barney,

Wilma and Betty.

First gay family in Bedrock.

Now called the Fagstones.

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