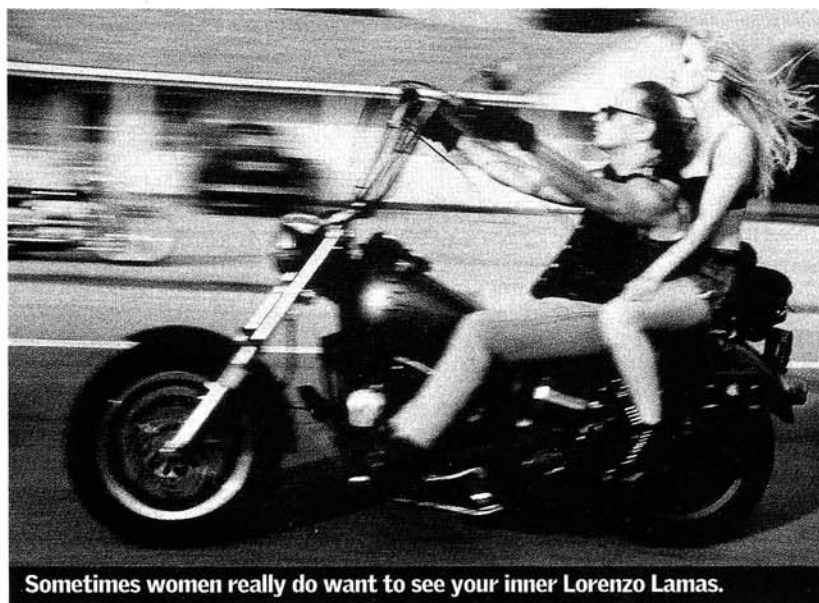


How to get that bad-boy edge without becoming a jerk  
By Jenna McCarthy

# No More Mr. Nice Guy



Sometimes women really do want to see your inner Lorenzo Lamas.

are looking for a little mystery, a slight hint of danger. We are *not* looking for emotional or physical abuse. Healthy women—presumably the kind you'd like to date—don't want a guy with a prison record, just one with an occasional edge. As a public service to men everywhere, here are a few insights about our needs in this arena. Keep them in mind, and you may be able to transform into being (reasonably) bad, which means you'll be better.

## Nothing beats a quickie.

Nice guys have been misled into believing that women only enjoy warm, tender lovemaking. We're talking about *sex*, for crying out loud, not soufflé. Nothing against the romantic rendezvous, but every once in a while, how about something spicy? There are times when throw-me-down-and-take-me is the only item on the menu that's appealing. Why? It makes us feel irresistible, sexy, hot. A bit like the exotic dancer we never really wanted to be but occasionally fantasize we are anyway.

"Sex is one area where women are comfortable being wild," says Parrott. We may not necessarily want to be spanked (not all of us, anyway), but feel free to suggest new props and positions. (Just not new partners.)

## We want to be bad ourselves.

"When you're dating someone who is sexy, fun and exciting, you feel sexy, fun and exciting too,"

**Y**ou've heard it a million times: "Women always go for jerks." Well, guess what. We don't.

See, most of us aren't a bunch of misery-loving martyrs. We really do look for good guys, and we honestly want to be treated well. It's just that we're also human, which means we, like you, crave excitement. And syrupy nice guys who are *chronically* nice are, well, a bit boring. You say you'll call ... and then you do—always! You tell us

over and over that we're beautiful, even when we've just left the gym in sweaty togs, hair curled like concertina wire. That we're smart, even when we know we're uttering foolishness; that we've got the most perfect body you've ever had the pleasure of getting close to, even when we feel water-retentive. Add to that the fact that our parents approve of you, our friends adore you, our cats even prefer your side of the bed. But where's the risk? The hint of the

unknown? The need for a midnight Ben & Jerry's run and tearful 2 a.m. calls to our girlfriends?

"Women have been socialized not to show our dark sides," says Leslie Parrott, Ph.D., co-author of *Relationships: An Open and Honest Guide to Making Bad Relationships Better and Good Relationships Great*. "So we try to connect with men who have the freedom to let their dark sides hang out. That's very intriguing to us."

To clarify: Like you, women