

Five things you should know about dating a funny woman, according to

## Cecily Strong



**GUYS NEVER HIT ON CECILY STRONG.** “They don’t know what to say to me,” says the actress as she prepares for her second season on *Saturday Night Live*. And that’s a common complaint from funny women, says psychotherapist Vinita Mehta, Ph.D. “From an evolutionary perspective, humor is a way for men to court women,” she says. So when a woman puts her own comedic chops on display, men often become intimidated. “Plus, there’s this misconception that funny women don’t appreciate courtship,” Mehta says. “But just because she’s confident doesn’t mean she’s not feminine.” So what’s the problem, guys? You should jump at the opportunity to date a woman who can make you laugh. Quick wit signals creativity and intelligence, and studies show that a shared sense of humor can predict long-term relationship satisfaction. Are you ready to win over a woman who can bring down a house? Turn the page to let Strong show you how. —LILA BATTIS

**“I DON’T THINK I’VE EVER DATED A GUY WHO COULDN’T LAUGH—EVEN IN BED, DURING INTIMATE TIMES.”**

**She needs your reassurance**

“I don’t have the most confidence in the world, and I’d venture to say most women in comedy don’t come from a place of, ‘Oh, I’m fabulous!’ She’s just as nervous as you are. So if you’re trying to score with a funny girl, laugh at her jokes and tell her how hilarious she is.”

**She doesn’t want you to be a clown**

“If you’re a nerd, just be a nerd. That’s way better than a nerd who’s trying to be a hipster. And if you are going to tell jokes, don’t direct them at other people. Not only is it not funny, but it’s also mean.”

**She expects you to lighten up**

“If something awkward happens, laugh. I don’t think I’ve ever dated a guy who couldn’t laugh—even in bed, during intimate times.”

**She prefers substance over style**

“I’m not high maintenance, and I’m not into a highly manicured man. I don’t want to see a lot of hair product. If he’s too showy, that’s embarrassing to me—I wear makeup and take showers, but that’s basically it. I’m not trying to stand out too much.”

**She wants you to keep it fresh**

“The best date would be something unexpected, like a road trip. Or, hey, there’s a dog show happening right next door? Should we go? Yes. Let’s do that. That’s the ideal—something spontaneous and interesting. You have to put work into relationships to keep them fun.”

**HOW TO ESCAPE THE GIRL YOU WISH YOU HADN’T STARTED A CONVERSATION WITH AT A PARTY**

*On SNL, Strong does a solid send-up of a clueless party chick: heavy makeup, high-minded politics, tenuous grasp on reality. As promotions manager at Vegas nightclub XS, Adam Farer knows the type. He provides three ways to ditch a clingy woman.*

**Call over a bud and give him a grand introduction:** “This is my handsome and successful friend Rick. Rick, tell Sarah what you do.” Once Rick has fallen into your trap, go refresh your drink... and never come back.

**Play the nice guy by saying this:** “Tell me your favorite song and I’ll go ask the DJ to play it.” Then bail—with or without stopping at the DJ table.

**Find a woman you don’t know and greet her with enthusiasm.** “Jennifer! I’ve been looking for you all night!” Bid farewell to the girl you’re ditching, and fill “Jennifer” in as you two walk away. Then ask for her real name and buy her a drink for her trouble.



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