



It's really not hard for an over 40-something to get a date these days. Getting a good date, well now, fellow singletons, that's a whole 'nother thing.



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I don't know how many women I commiserate with who tell me they haven't had a "date" in three, six...ten months for crying out loud. I ask what the problem is and the answer generally has the following two components:

- 1) "There just aren't any good men out there who want a woman my age who aren't married," and...
- 2) "I guess I'm just too picky."

I remember sitting in a bar in Rocky Point literally jam-packed with buff American volleyball players a few years ago. My gal pal went through the afore-said routine and then I started picking out guys:

"How about that one, guy with long blond hair?"

"No."

"Guy in the blue shirt looking at us?"

"No."

"Okay, buff guy in the tight jeans, starboard side of bar."

"Heck no!"

I opined that in a bar with more than 75 reasonably eligible guys, many of them without girlfriends or spouses, there must be someone she could imagine herself with. She said that she kind of fancied "bad boys." From what I knew of her I seriously doubted that, but gave it a go. I picked out a handsome guy with a bandanna wrapped around his head, a chain link tattoo on his bicep and a couple days' stubble on his chiseled jaw line.

"What about this guy?"

"No."

"Come one now, you have to admit he's a bad boy."

"No way."

"Why?"

"Too bad!"

So what it comes down to is the gals want a guy who has the appearance of being a bad boy but will put up with her dog and her Feng Shui and loves to snuggle.

I know this because I've been on

a few dates myself these past couple years and have some stories to tell. You guys out there will recognize some of the types I've encountered. You women may find it instructive to hear things from the guy's perspective. Or not.

I'm going to take you through a few dates I've had – dates from the Internet, dates from set-ups, dates from activities clubs I hang out with. Not all are dates from the netherworld.

So what it comes down to is the gals want a guy who has the appearance of being a bad boy but will put up with her dog and her Feng Shui and loves to snuggle.

But, based on my experiences, I think my next hunting ground for female companionship is going to be Sheriff Joe's corral.

I've been thinking about this for a while and can imagine quite a few advantages to dating an incarcerated woman:

- Always know where she is on a Saturday night
- Always know where she is every night
- Doesn't call up at odd hours wondering where I am
- No need to deal with her dog
- Low expectations for commitment
- "Bad girl"
- Wears cute pink underwear
- Always grateful to see me on the other side of the security window

Guess there are some downsides as far as actually getting down to snuggling but, more and more, I'm liking this concept a lot.

*James Robert is an over 40-something Phoenix-based writer, author of *On Being Eight Again* and *The Tao of Coyote*. Divorced with no children, he has been exploring the dating scene and collecting tales of woe for many years. Need a guy's perspective? Jot a note to Male Call at jrobertpenn@aol.com.*