

# BAD, BAD GIRLS

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**E**very self-respecting male has dated one.

She left you breathless. She left you broken. Then she left you.

A bad girl is always a memorable date. She can swear with ease. She can tell a dirty joke. She laughs too loud and drinks too much. If she didn't look so good in a tight dress, she'd be one of the boys.

Bad girls never wait to be asked out. They flirt and tease in a dangerous playground of parties, nightclubs and restaurants. Bad girls send men drinks. They taunt men onto the dance floor.

They guard their phone numbers. But they'll take yours.

Men with honorable intentions are advised to keep their distance. Bad girls don't hate men. They just don't take them seriously.

Bad girls accept that it's only a phase. While some grow old and become wild women, chances are most bad girls will eventually become devoted wives and loving mothers.

Madonna was a bad girl 'til she met Sean Penn. Examples of bad girls punctuate history and literature. That messy apple incident established Eve as an original. Scarlett O'Hara was wilful in *Gone With The Wind*. Even Goldilocks slept around.

In Toronto, Carole Pope has been the queen of raunch for years. Her stage performances and lyrics run the gamut from sexually suggestive to downright dirty. Off stage, she relies on her "vitriolic sense of humor" to get her message across. Pope hates wimps. "I like to encourage people to behave badly."

## Put the boots to 'em

These days she has competition. Beverly Bratty recently formed an all-bad-girl sextet — The Nancy Sinatras. They have flick-up wigs and fringed vests. They suggest they are the less-than-famous sisters of the famous Nancy Sinatra. Their repertoire honors other bad girls like Cher, (*Bang Bang*) and Petula Clark (*Don't Sleep in the Subway Darling*).

Bratty claims Nancy was a *fille terrible* who just wanted to be treated fairly. In her most famous song she warns, "These boots are made for walking." It's clear she's onto the philanderings of her man. "Nancy isn't the piece of fluff a lot of people think she is," says Bratty. "She's extremely vindictive."

But offstage, when the question is posed, "Who's bad?" — the answer is Ruth Weller.

"Bad girls are always out. We smoke Marlboros. We drink tequila — never one. Everything to excess — 17 doubles. Sometimes we fall down drunk — but we always get back up. We never take our dates back to our houses. And we don't date married men. In fact, we prefer boys to men. Men can't keep up."

Weller confesses, "I make a lousy girlfriend." But she boasts, "I'm a great date."

Weller, who co-owns Weller/Potovsky art gallery on Scollard, says it's hard to be a bad girl in Toronto. "The city's pretty small. Everyone knows what you're up to. That's why we like New York or South America. The men up here are cold. It takes too long to thaw them out."

Anne-Marie Bothwich, 33, is a bad girl who claims she's a miserable date. "I say and do what I want. I've had men leave me half-way through a date."

**B**orthwich tried the picket fence trip but packed it in six years ago. These days she prefers her 23-year-old boyfriend, her original 1952 black Harley-Davidson jacket and the Cameron House — in that order.

In an old book Borthwich read: "Her laugh was like the tinkling of glass chimes." By contrast Bothwich's laugh has been compared to "the bellow of a mountain goat."

"Since kindergarten I've been told to sit down and be quiet. It just never sank in."



● TOMORROW: T.O.'s bad boys

"EVERYTHING TO excess," says smokin', drinkin' bad girl Ruth Weller. Suzie Richter (inset) sings with the sizzling all-bad-girl sextet The Nancy Sinatras.