

THE 4TH ANNUAL DR. FUN'S STUPID CUPID AWARDS
(February 2006)

**are conferred on 2005 mass media portrayals
that exemplify 1 or more of the unhealthy 12 Myths & Stereotypes of
Dr. FUN's Mass Media Love Quiz®.**

These mass media portrayals that appeared in 2005 illustrate the 12 media myths and stereotypes of *Dr. FUN's Mass Media Love Quiz*. It's OK to enjoy them, but make sure you're aware of the unhealthy models they promote. For each myth, see the "antidote" -- the comparable *Dr. Galician Prescription* in the listing of the 12 *Realistic Romance*® Awards. The portrayal with the most myths and stereotypes gets *Dr. FUN's Stupidest Cupid Award*.

Dr. FUN's Stupidest Cupid Award

Awardee: "The Wedding Crashers" (New Line Cinema)

This blockbuster movie promotes a majority of *Dr. FUN's Mass Media Love Quiz* myths and stereotypes -- from the notion that your perfect partner is pre-destined (#1) and you'll know it immediately (#2), to the formulaic beauty who attracts the man (#5) with easy and wonderful sex (#4) and the dangerous belief that the love of a good woman can change beastly male behavior (#7), and culminating in the unhealthy concept that you're incomplete (and, in this film, unable to function) without a romantic partner (#10).

Myth No. 1: Your perfect partner is cosmically predestined, so nothing/nobody can ultimately separate you.

Awardee: "A Lot Like Love" (Touchstone Pictures)

Over 7 years, nothing can ultimately keep these two "fated" lovers apart -- even though they themselves admit they're poorly suited for each other.

Myth No. 2: There's such a thing as "love at first sight."

Awardee: "Love at First Sight" (Michael Bubl )

The title says it all -- but the lyrics add to the clich : "The first time I saw you, I knew love at first sight must be true, so true, oh so true."

Dis-honorable mention: "Elizabethtown" (Paramount Pictures)

Myth No. 3: Your true soul mate should know what you're thinking or feeling (without your having to tell).

Awardee: "Grey's Anatomy" (ABC-TV)

Title character Dr. Meredith Grey needs an internship in physician-physician communication: She always expects Dr. Derek Shepherd to understand her needs and wants simply by reading her mind as easily as if he's reading a patient's chart.

Myth No. 4: If your partner is truly meant for you, sex is easy and wonderful.

Awardees (tie): "The Wedding Crashers" (New Line Cinema) and Men's and Women's Magazines (such as *Maxim* and *Cosmo*)

"The Wedding Crashers" -- In addition to the leading ladies' beauty and goodness, it's the perfectly scintillating sex (even for a neophyte and a playboy) that seals the deals!

Men's and Women's Magazines: In today's climate, women's magazines have become as explicit as those targeted to men, with countless cover-lines screaming that sex is the most important and affirming aspect of a relationship rather than just one component.

Myth No. 5: To attract and keep a man, a woman should look like a model or a centerfold.

Awardee: "Nip/Tuck" (FX Networks)

From the plastic surgeons' "Tell me what you don't like about yourself" (as in "You're never hot enough!") to the mutilating transformation of already attractive women into Barbie-doll perfection, this series promotes unrealistic expectations in both sexes, along with inadequacy issues and a slasher-like surgical solution to relationship problems.

Dis-honorable mention: "Don't Cha" (Pussycat Dolls) and CBS-TV sitcoms "King of Queens" "Still Standing," and "Yes, Dear" (with slobby guy/hot-babe couples)

Myth No. 6: The man should not be shorter, weaker, younger, poorer, or less successful than the woman.

Awardee: "Boston Legal" (ABC-TV)

"Boston Legal" – In yet another witty but hegemonic series from David E. Kelley, women (even the firm's attorneys) are merely objectified eye- and arm-candy or side-kicks to the unworthy alpha males, who are portrayed as superior and admirable (despite their stupendous stupidity and boorishness).

Dis-honorable mention: "Gold Digger" (Kanye West)

Myth No. 7: The love of a good and faithful true woman can change a man from a "beast" into a "prince."

Awardee: "King Kong" (Universal Studios)

Not only does the beautiful (Do we even need to add "blonde"?) "heroine" "fix" the beast in this archetypal adventure tale (Yes: The unhealthy drug allusions are intentional in this citation!), but also she makes all the men around her better for having known her.

Dis-honorable mention: "The OC" (FOX Broadcasting)

Myth No. 8: Bickering and fighting a lot mean that a man and a woman really love each other passionately.

Awardee: "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" (20th Century Fox)

It's "no contest" in the awarding of this *Stupid Cupid*: Violent physical fighting (to the death – well, almost) and mental abuse lead this dysfunctional couple invariably and repeatedly to passionate lovemaking to spice up their otherwise boring marriage.

Dis-honorable mention: TV sitcoms

Myth No. 9: All you really need is love, so it doesn't matter if you and your lover have very different values.

Awardee: "The Family Stone" (20th Century Fox)

Both couples in this relationally challenged family wind up depending solely on baseless "love" (at first sight) to keep them together.

Myth No. 10: The right mate "completes you" -- filling your needs and making your dreams come true.

Awardees (tie): "We Belong Together" (Mariah Carey) and "Just Like Heaven" (DreamWorks)

"We Belong Together" -- This Grammy winner glorifies the dysfunctional desire to avoid becoming complete, whole, and healthy in oneself and instead fosters unhealthy enmeshment and pathetic dependence: "When you left I lost a part of me," and "Who else am I gonna lean on?"

"Just Like Heaven" – Like "Sleeping Beauty" and "Snow White," this movie's comatose co-star needs the right mate to literally bring her out of dreamland and into "reality."

Dis-honorable mention: "You Complete Me" (Kelly Price)

Myth No. 11: In real life, actors and actresses are often very much like the romantic characters they portray.

Awardee: Irrational fans of Not-So-Weds Jessica Simpson & Nick Lachey and Brangelina-gate's Jennifer Aniston & Brad Pitt who confused these stars' reel lives with their real lives (and irrational news editors who confused "The Breakups" with Real Breaking News)

Many fans become disappointed when their superstar idols resemble fallible human beings. And, reinforcing the mythology, news editors eagerly seeking these readers and viewers covered the couple's breakup not only with entertainment features but also alongside serious national news.

Myth No. 12: Since mass media portrayals of romance aren't "real," they don't really affect you.

Awardee: Media critics who describe mythic and stereotypic portrayals as "completely harmless."

Although we can still enjoy mythic portrayals of sex, love, and romance in the mass media, research shows they can lead to harmful unrealistic expectations. It's irresponsible to label all these portrayals as completely harmless simply because they're fluffy and vacuous.

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The 4th Annual *Dr. FUN's Realistic Romance*® Awards

are detailed in the companion document on this site.