

Women Who Set the World on Fire

By Suzanne Takowsky

Female role models are a powerful force in our world. Their words educate and empower us, and their actions motivate and inspire us to a higher level of personal and professional greatness. The women of greatness who are singled out in the world as leaders are not so much elected to the role, as they are born into it.

The women we look to as role models have shown us that it doesn't matter if we get knocked down, pushed aside or start feeling lost on our journeys through life. What is important is that we get up — and move forward fearless and stronger than before. What's important is that we stay focused in our determination to succeed and get back on our feet and back on our path as fast as we can.

Women who pique our interest as role models keep our attention because they demonstrate time and again the appeal of a woman with conviction. It doesn't matter what path they have chosen in life — whether it be politics, business, entertainment, healthcare, environment, animal rights, humanity — each woman has dedicated herself to making a difference in this world. They wisely take advantage of the fact that people listen to what they have to say and, they use that opportunity to communicate their ideas.

Women who sit at the forefront of challenge overcome obstacles with unwavering dedication and perseverance. The difference between those who succeed and those who don't is simple: Those who succeed don't give up until they accomplish what they set out to do.

They lobby in Washington for reform. They educate Hollywood on the appeal of women — not just in their 20s, but 40s, 50s and beyond. Each day, they deliver the message that women are major players on the chessboard of corporate America. They carry on relentless campaigns to clean up our environment, preserve our rain forests and protect our oceans. They pursue healthcare changes by making the public aware of the importance of finding cures for life-threatening diseases. The harder the struggle...the harder that women of influence fight for their cause.

These women also bring the awful truth of world hunger and the savage brutality of war and the need for world peace. They stand together to protect the rights of all living creatures. Adding magnificence to what women of influence bring to our lives is their fearlessness in the pursuit of change. They know that knowledge is power and so they encourage women every where to grow, and that growth brings change.

Women who sit at the forefront of challenge overcome obstacles with unwavering dedication and perseverance. They set a standard for women — for society — to follow. Forging through the inevitable ups, downs, heartbreaks and disappointments is not easier for them than it is for us. The difference between those who succeed and those who don't is simple: Those who succeed don't give up until they have accomplished what they set out to do. ●

WHAT TO DO... WHAT TO DO... WHAT TO DO... About Mr. Wrong

By Suzanne Takowsky

Following a break-up with Mr. Wrong, what is there for a woman to do? Should we suffer in our apartments eating ice-cream and Oreos, or should we immediately start on a quest—searching for the next lucky guy in line? This answer comes in two parts.

Part 1. After a break-up with Mr. Wrong, the only proper thing for a decent woman to do is go out and celebrate — with the girls. Instead, of seeing it as a loss, see it for what it really is — a gain. You are getting your sanity, peace of mind, freedom, and control of the T.V. remote. In other words, you are getting your life back! PARTY ON WOMAN.

Part 2. Why begin frantically searching — then immediately have to start settling for another possible Mr. Wrong? The more stress you put on yourself trying to immediately partner up again in record speed, the more of an old hag you'll look like. Nothing brings on wrinkles faster than worry, stress and unhappiness in a non-stop hunt for Mr. Perfect who doesn't exist on planet earth.

A good mind set to get back into the dating game: Insist on choosing, rather than settling. Be cool and don't panic. This wasn't your last ride on a fast bumping pony. Stop acting like the circus has left town forever. But be glad the clown is no longer around. Take a breather and start learning to enjoy down time ALONE or with your kids or with your girl friends or with male buddies you have ZERO romantic interest in. Just have fun without having an agenda. Go to plays and bookstores and attend incredible seminars. Make a commitment to get in shape, (you'll look and feel like a million bucks). Take an evening extension class. Learn to enjoy your own company and discover a world filled with everything to compliment your dreams. Nothing is more appealing, more inviting, more exciting, than a woman with A LIFE!

Good things happen to your heart, mind and soul when you've reached a plateau of inner peace and self-satisfaction. Value yourself and what you bring to the world and to those who have the privilege of knowing you. Thinking that a man strapped to your arm is a "must" keeps you desperately looking and searching for a conjugal connection. You put yourself at an automatic disadvantage thinking that any man is better than no man. Because we all know that the wrong man sucks, and we would rather be alone. You need a COMPROMISE attached to your arm as much as you need a coffee stain on the lapel of your white linen jacket. Both ruin your entrance.

Men spend their entire lives trying to conquer women. WHY? Because women are drama mamas who rock the world with love, sex, nagging, fighting, nurturing, and complicated, analytical theory, intermixed with unprecedented bliss. SO...if men think women are so great; such special, dynamic creatures, why don't we see it? Isn't it time we started to realize the valuable commodity our femaleness brings to the table?

Why is it that a single man is revered as a "catch," and "eligible," or "hard to land," and society still insists on "fixing-up" single women so they won't be "lonely?" There is a difference between ALONE and LONELY. Did it ever occur to anybody that a single woman could be...might be well...HAPPY? Happy with life, happy with herself, happy alone to do whatever she wants?

The years, months, days and hours each of us has on this earth are too exhausting—too engaging—too measured to waste even a single minute in the company of anyone who isn't worthy of our best. To understand and appreciate the value of being a female is monumental to our every breath. ●