

DECEMBER 1998

marie claire

Horoscope SPECIAL

All the answers—

When will you meet
the love of your life?

Will you be happier
& richer in 1999?

SEX APPEAL

DO YOU KNOW
WHO HE FINDS
ATTRACTIVE?

GET MORE MONEY
(EFFORTLESSLY)

GET BETTER SEX
(INSTANTLY)

GET A BETTER BODY
(BY TONIGHT)

10 BEST BEAUTY BUYS

Salaries

HOW DOES YOURS MEASURE UP?

EXCLUSIVE
COURTENEY
COX MAKES
YOU OVER

CLOTHES THAT GET RESULTS

50

black dresses
under \$100

PLUS FREE PANTYHOSE!

\$2.50



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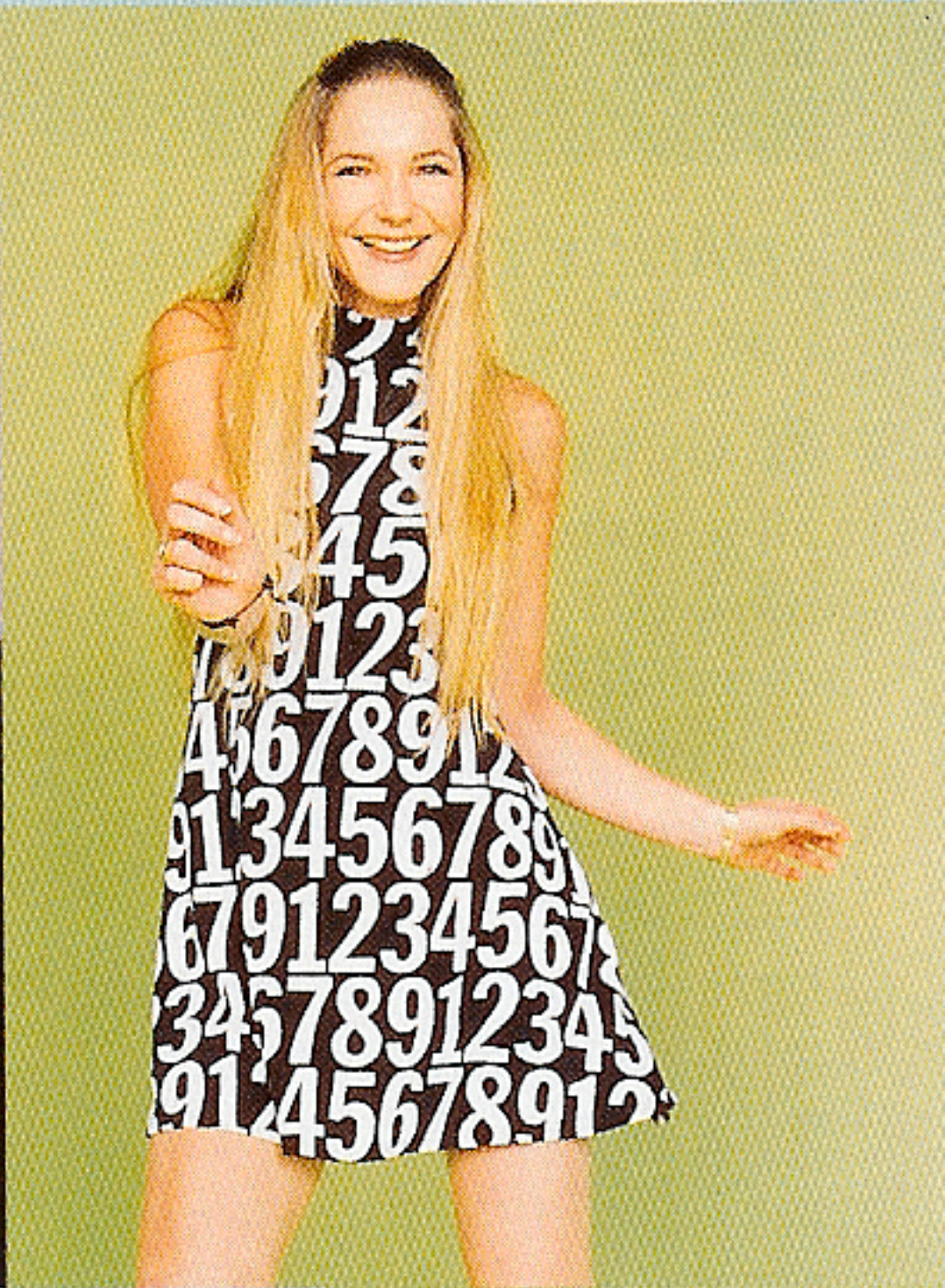
12

what I wear to get attention

From the 'Basic Instinct' dress to librarian-style glasses, eight women reveal what they put on to guarantee results

BY SAMANTHA ALTEA

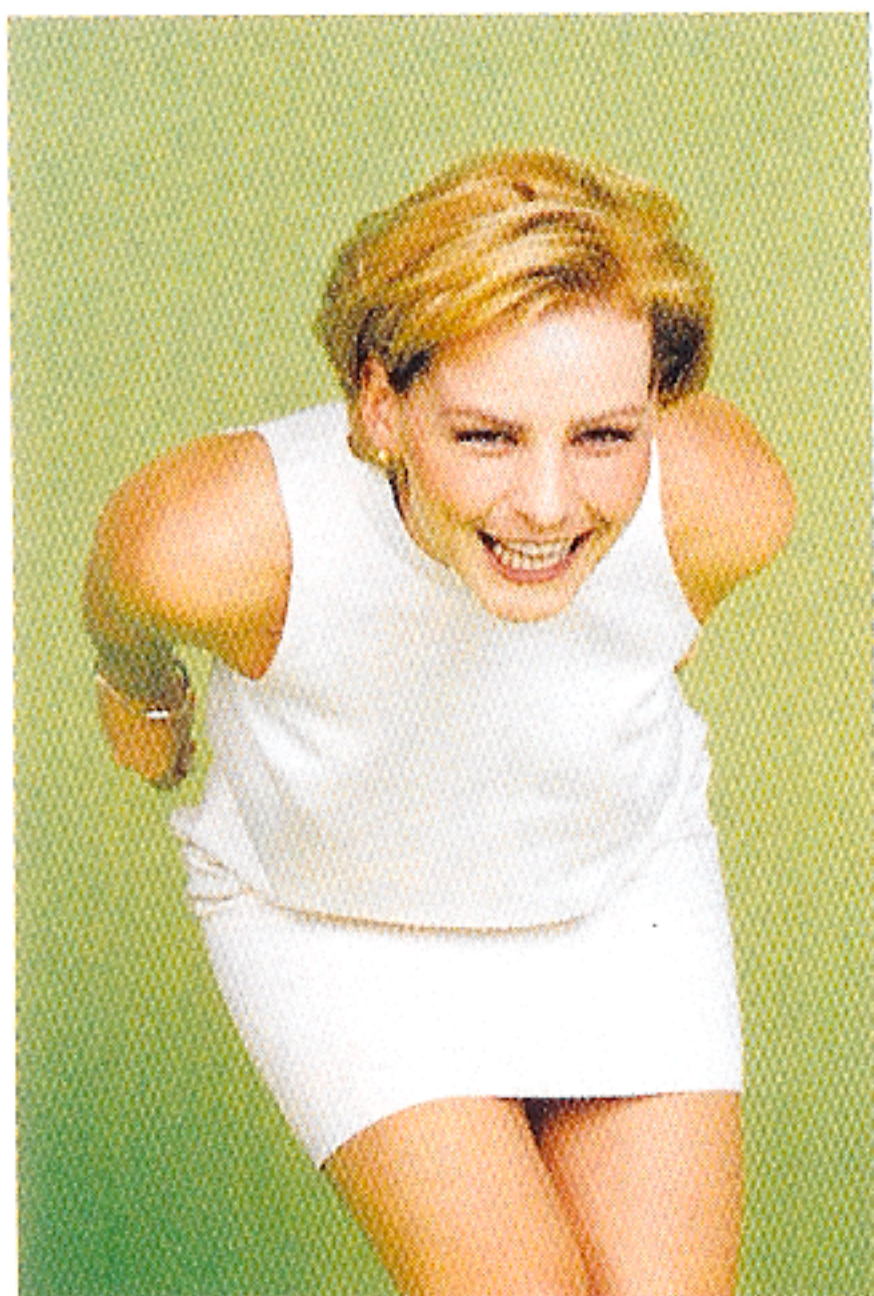




The last time
I wore my
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men and
one woman
tried to pick
me up.”
Jenifer



What I wear to get attention



TARA TURNER,
*senior product analyst for
a major fashion house*

■ When I arrived from Britain at age 21, I went to see the movie *Basic Instinct*. Sharon Stone personified the strong, powerful American woman that I aspired to be. The scene where Stone is interrogated wearing "that dress" and, well, nothing else, was so unforgettable that I convinced my mom to make a replica. While I do wear underwear, unlike Stone (honest), the topic of "is she, or isn't she," does seem to be a theme. Men refer to the movie with such original phrases as "So, are you Sharon Stone's sister, then?" "Well, is it true?" is a popular line too, delivered while trying to look under my dress. The last time that I wore the dress was at a cocktail lounge, after a stressful day. The dress helps me disassociate myself from work, and makes me feel sexy. I know I'm going to have a good time in it; it always gets attention. Most of my girlfriends love it, and often mistake it for Gucci, which is ironic, since it only cost my mom \$30 to make. (I'm often asked if my mom takes orders.) One girlfriend loved it so much that she asked to borrow it, but unfortunately, it didn't fit.



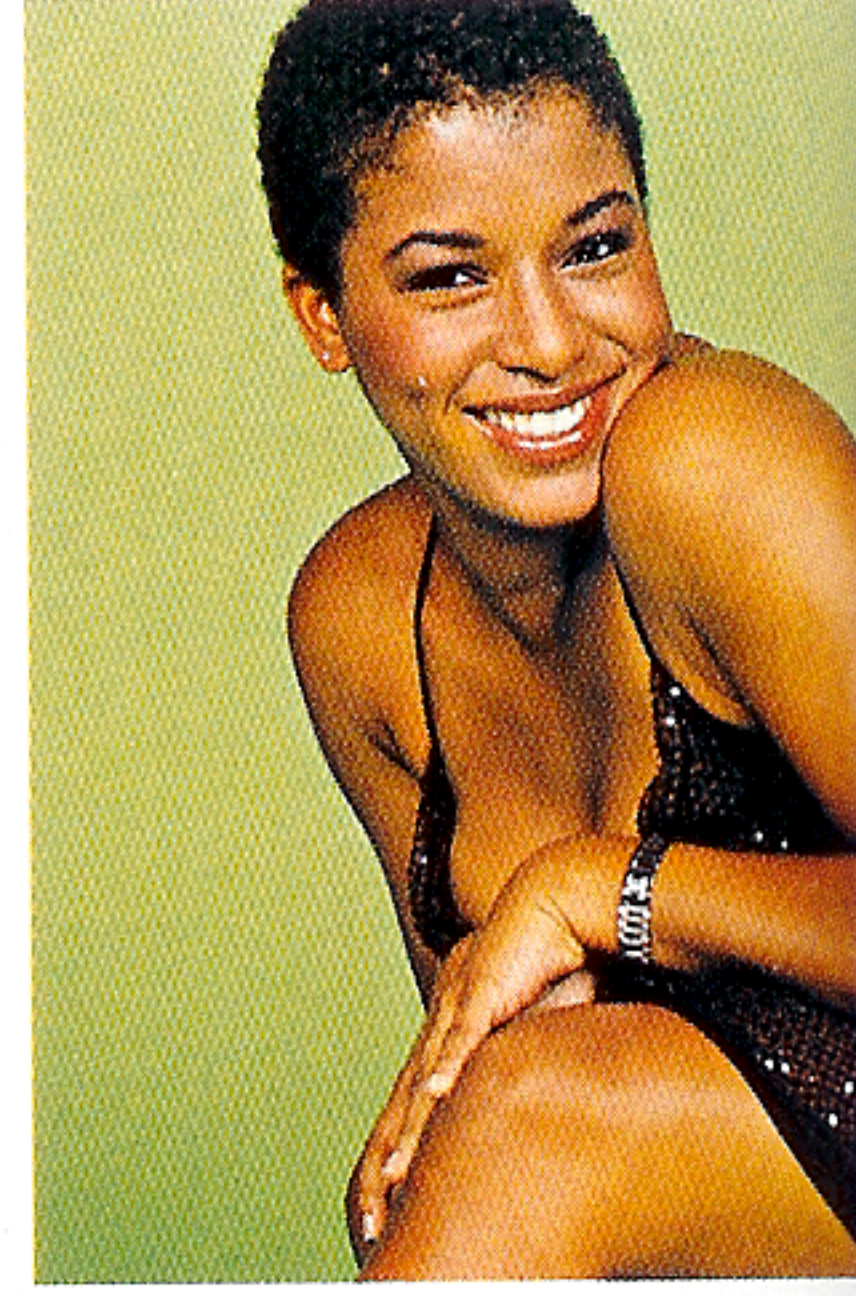
NANCY COLLINS,
writer

■ My tried-and-tested attention-getters are my breasts. But the only way to carry off the amount of focus that my bosom gets is to dress it subtly, in order to look classy—as opposed to tarty. If you're prepared for all the attention and you think you can handle it, then the best way to dress your breasts is in low-cut Giorgio Armani. The sophistication of Armani combined with a full feminine bustline leaves men gawking. I'm often approached by men when I'm wearing the dress, with comments like "fabulous dress." Not that they would really know, since they usually don't even look below my waist. Girlfriends comment on the bustline, saying that they wish they had the courage to wear something as daring. My motto is, "If you can't take it, don't flaunt it." In my 20s, I was the queen of plunging lingerie tops. Male friends remember them to this day. In my 30s, I wanted to be taken seriously, so I covered up. But now, in my 40s, I am more confident than ever. I enjoy making the most of showing a little skin. I call it naughty elegance. As they say, less is more. But it never hurts to give a sneak preview.



JENIFER WOHL,
publicity manager

■ The last time I wore these glasses was at a friend's birthday party. They make me feel like I'm in costume and somehow disguised. One of my friends has called me "the naughty librarian." The glasses always get attention, and that's why I wear them. The last time I wore them out, I had just broken up with a long-term boyfriend, so I wanted to change my image and feel different and good about myself. Men, especially, love them. My guess is that it's a fantasy thing: you know, the secretary who takes off her glasses and lets down her hair. I used to have long hair, and men always tried to take my glasses off, so I guess my theory could be true. The night of the party, five men and one woman tried to pick me up, all commenting on, or trying to take off, the glasses. After accepting a date with one of the men, and then going on the date and *not* wearing the glasses (much to his disappointment) I decided that the \$250 that they cost me had been money well spent. My date said, "But you were the girl in the glasses." Needless to say, the relationship didn't last long.



ALLYSON HERNANDEZ,
*executive for a major
fashion house*

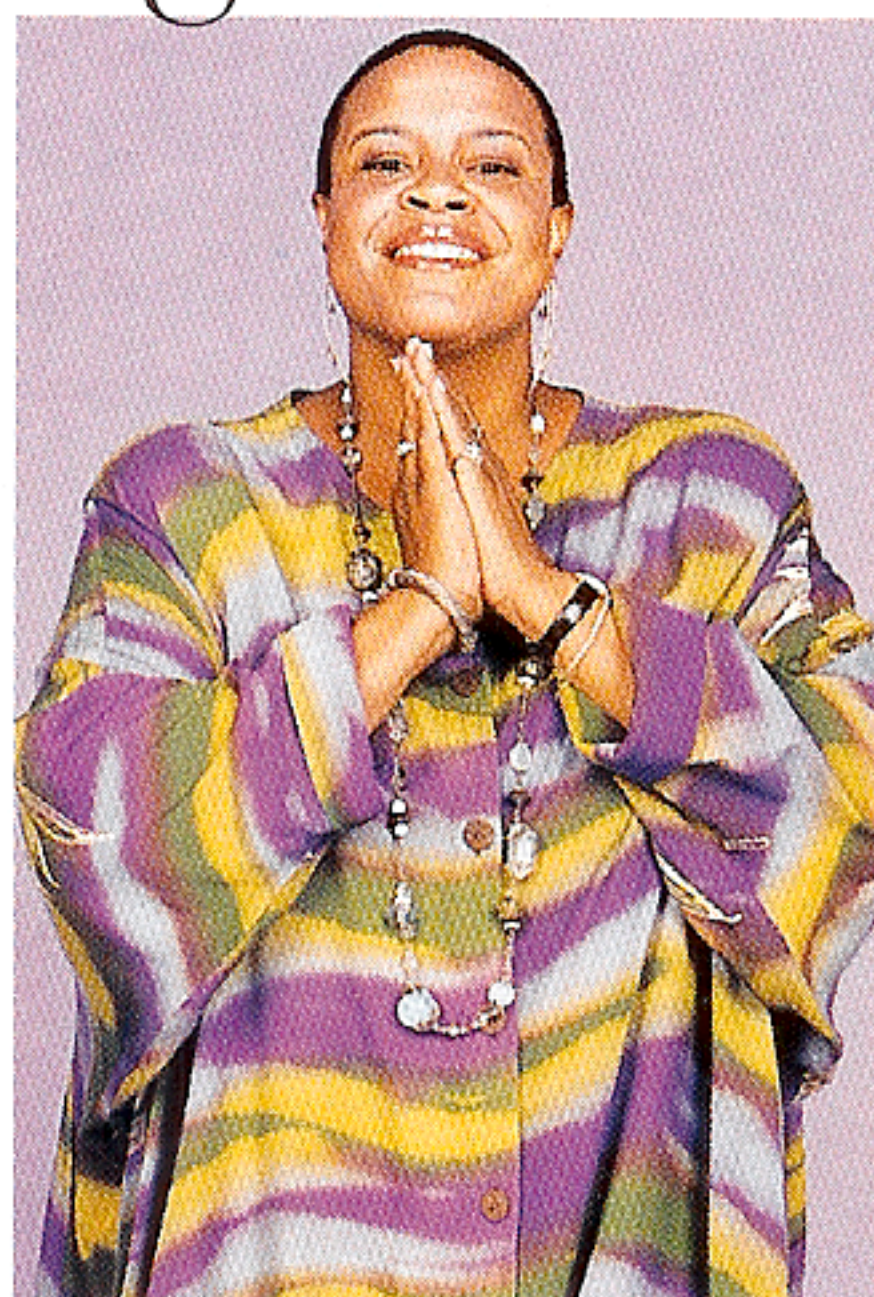
■ After I helped out a friend of a friend, who happens to be the designer Felicia Farrar, she sent me this dress as a gift. I couldn't believe my luck, because I'd fallen in love with it when I was trying it on in her studio. When I put it on, it made me feel so classy and glamorous that I almost wanted to shout, "Look at me." (Although I did manage to restrain myself.) Everything about it—the sequins, cut and material—are so flattering and eye-catching. And the plunging neckline certainly helps to draw attention and accentuate my assets. The last time I wore the dress was to a friend's 50th birthday party, where the guests endlessly asked who had designed it. Although the party was a great success, the cab ride there was even more of a bang. As I stepped out of the cab, a group of men driving toward me were so mesmerized with what I was wearing that they didn't see the pole in front of them and crashed into it. Perhaps Felicia should put a warning on her future creations, saying, "Caution: May cause road accidents."▷

What I wear to get attention



DR. JOY BROWNE,
media psychologist

I am a student of human behavior, so I know how to get attention. There are two basic ways to go: flash or class. Sometimes the subtle approach works better than blatantly clobbering 'em with cleavage. I prefer the traditional little black dress that shows off my arms, shoulders and legs, coupled with high heels to get the attention really focused. The pièce de résistance, however, is a playful piece of jewelry that is more about wit than weight. My frog pin is sparkly, shiny, and really stands out against black. The pin always gets comments like "Isn't he cute?" or "What does it mean?" Froggy's a gift from an ex-beau. On our first date, we went to see *Waterworld*, but I literally got hives (I think I was allergic to the seats), and he spent the evening putting cold compresses on me. Not the scenario I'd imagined. The next day, the pin arrived. Whenever I need luck, a pick-me-up, or glitz, I pin Froggy to my shoulder. Recently, I wore him on a plane trip, and a really cute guy noticed us both and came over to chat with me. We had dinner that night. Froggy hasn't let me down yet. One of these days . . . well, you know about that prince thing.



TERRIE WILLIAMS,
president, The Terrie Williams Agency; author of *The Personal Touch*

In *The Personal Touch*, I write about those extra touches that make you stand out in a crowd. While my book focuses on business, I look at how one dresses as a very important way to get noticed. If you're shy, like me, wearing something individual helps break the ice. I like to wear outfits that are "show-stoppers," outfits that I will be remembered for. Free-flowing outfits like this are my trademark. This dress in particular brings comments from both men and women. It's Indonesian, and cost around \$150. The combination of the colors, length and the way that it moves makes me feel comfortable and sexy. I've worn this dress to black-tie events, and it certainly stands out. The last time it really made an impact was about four months ago. I was on a trip to Washington. A very handsome Frenchman approached me. He said the way the dress moved and its elegant appearance intrigued him. He said he was trying to picture what was under the flowing fabric. I won't say whether he ever found out. But we certainly enjoyed a nice waterside lunch together, later that day.



SAMANTHA ALTEA,
writer

I last wore my numbers dress to a 1960s dance club. It's by Body Action Design and I bought it on sale for \$49. It causes such a stir that I only bring it out of my closet when I'm feeling really outrageous and a bit crazy. But whatever I wear, I'm looking for respect and the "right type" of man. This dress certainly gets a "ten" for attention. It gives a whole new meaning to putting on "that little black number." I always know that it will be a conversation piece with both sexes. Friends know that it's going to be "one of those nights" when I turn up in the dress. I'm guaranteed that an onslaught of men will bombard me with lines such as, "Hey, you can have my number any time" or "I lost my number, can I have yours?" The list is endless. "You're the '1' for me" seems to trip off the tongue. And the men openly debate the number that they think the wearer of the dress deserves. On occasion, I've lent out the dress to friends who wanted to make an impact. So far, all have been given high scores. The attention it gets is certainly fun, but as for those unoriginal men with their cheesy lines, well, I've definitely got their number.



KRISTI ROCHE,
territory sales manager

I wear my leather dress when I want to feel sexy and when I am in a playful frame of mind. I bought it at Banana Republic. The last time I wore it was about six months ago, to a club in New York. Men constantly want to touch the dress, and usually make comments like "Ooh, is that leather?" or "So, are we going to the Vault?" (a Manhattan S&M club). I usually wear the dress for attention, but would tone it down with a turtleneck, tights and boots and wear it to work. Most women are quite stunned when I wear it; usually, all they can manage to say when they see it is "Wow." I once lent the dress to a friend, but the friend's date thought it was "too much." I think the dress appeals to the fantasy that men have about being with a dominatrix. It certainly brought out the primal instincts in the man that I was with at the club that night. After we spent a considerable amount of time in the ladies' room together, my date made sure he gave the bathroom attendant a tip on the way out. My tip would be: Get this \$200 dress on sale for \$40, like I did. □