

## *The Pragmatist, The New Wife and The Late Bloomer: Categorising the Female Adulteress*

*By Sara Hartley, August 2010*

Affairs are very rarely textbook. The multitude of reasons that cause men and women to seek out extramarital relationships make it very difficult to pin down a single model of how and why a person decides to stray from their long-term partner.

However, after over 7 years of study into extra-marital affairs, the IllicitEncounters.com research team and I feel that although cases maybe wide and varied, women in particular seem to fall into three main categories of adulteress.

The categories themselves were determined both on statistical information, such as regular age flash-points, and on interviews the site held with 60 female members during the beginning of 2010. These interviews were designed to delve deeper into the thoughts and feelings which lead our female members to seek out our site (not all participants had experienced a 'full-blown' affair, but all had used the site to conduct some kind of extramarital relationship). Below is a synopsis of the three main 'cheater types'. More statistics on this and related topics available on request from the IllicitEncounters.com press department.

### **The New Wife**

AGE : Between 20 – 32

MARRIED FOR : Less than 5 years

The New Wife has only been married for short time, but is already feeling claustrophobic in her new status. She is not motivated by unhappiness at home, or feelings of unfulfillment; rather she is anxious about the prospect of spending the rest of her life with one person.

*Behaviour : The NW is tentative about pursuing an affair, so is likely to spend a lot of time browsing and chatting, and less actually organising to meet others in real life. For her, the importance is placed on the flirtation and the excitement; just the simple act of having a suggestive conversation with someone outside of her relationship may be enough to sate her curiosity.*

*NWs obviously do 'follow through' in some cases, but this is far less likely to happen with them, than with The Pragmatist or the Late Bloomer.*

Preferences : *Despite her youth, she has no real preference when it comes to the age of her love interest; she is simply looking for someone to remind her of her newly-relinquished freedom. Because she is wary of upsetting her new home-life, she may be more prone to seeking out married men, who she knows will not wish to leave their partner.*

### **The Pragmatist**

AGE : Between 25 – 35

MARRIED FOR: ?

Pragmatists are more determined by their inherent personality than their situation. They enter into a marriage comfortable about their situation, but have never totally ruled out the idea of having an affair from day one. As opposed to the other two types, Pragmatists see an affair as a practical step to aid the inevitable ebb and flow of attraction in their primary relationship.

Because they have this attitude from the get-go, predicting how far into their marriage The Pragmatist will decide to conduct an extramarital relationship is difficult; they will be quick to acknowledge feelings of boredom or decreased attraction as soon as they set in, and will act upon such feelings equally as swiftly.

Behaviour : *The Pragmatist is looking for a simple, no-strings-attached affair, and will be very self-aware, both about her reasons for conducting an extramarital relationship, and her feelings for the person she is conducting it with.*

*This is not to say that The Pragmatist is not capable of emotionally attaching to her lover, or having passionate experiences; she is simply very conscious of the boundaries she must adhere to.*

Preferences : *For ease, The Pragmatist is likely to seek out someone of a similar age, and in a similar situation.*

### **The Late Bloomer**

AGE : 40+

MARRIED FOR: More than 10 years

The Late Bloomer has been married for at least ten years, to a man who now pays her scant attention. Following years of neglect and unfulfilling sex, she has decided to take the bull by the horns and bag herself some happiness. She has for the first time become aware of

herself as a sexual being. To begin with, this was more than a little unnerving, but now she is embracing it.

*Behaviour : The Late Bloomer's progress speeds up as she becomes more confident. Of all the categories, she is most likely to feel like a 'different person' after her experiences; her self-esteem, which was at an all-time low, will be restored to how it was when she was in her 20s. She begins her journey looking for one person, perhaps simply for chat and flirtation, but as times ticks by, it is common for her to meet up with not one, but several men.*

*She revels in her newly-discovered sexuality, and will swap dowdy clothing for figure-hugging, sexy outfits as she becomes more empowered by her experiences.*

*Preferences : Because the Late Bloomer is hitting her sexual peak, she will want to find a man who will be guaranteed to keep up with her – and he is usually a great deal younger than her. She may also derive more of a confidence from dating a much younger man, as his willingness to be with her confirms that she still 'has it'.*