

The Dating Rituals of the Beta Male

A Half-Hour, Single-Camera Comedy Series

Created By
Christine Alexiou & Felicia Brooker

Jamie's a guy. And a midwife - who FYI is straight - and looking for love in a world where the rules of dating are as convoluted as 16th century French feudal law.

Jamie Campbell (29), is the kind of nice, sensitive, fun guy that girls always claim they want but despite that, he's heard "it's not you it's me" from one too many women who he then sees on the arm of some bloodthirsty stockbroker.

The ever-shifting rules and expectations of women keep Jamie, just like every other man on the planet, on his toes. He thinks he gets it, and then something else crops up. Women say they want a man who can cry, chop wood, remember anniversaries, kill spiders, fill out a muscle-t and carry them off to the bedroom and still remember to put the toilet seat down. Whaa?!

It doesn't help his career choice of midwife doesn't scream macho. It doesn't even scream male. Life sure would have been easier if he'd just stuck to his original plan and became a doctor – but Jamie's always had to follow his heart - even if it means dealing with attitudes and debunking misconceptions about what he does for a living.

Speaking of attitudes, among the worst Jamie has to put up with is from his kid sister, **Leslie** (27) – a certifiable alpha-female, who's always been über-competitive with him and hates to acknowledge – so she doesn't - that she sucks at relationships.

Leslie is an OBGYN fresh out of medical school and just joined the Women's Clinic, which shares the office of Jamie's midwifery practise. Her boss is **Dr. Gerald Kane** (36), aka Capital "A" Alpha-Male Douche – rich, arrogant, chiselled and did we mention douchy? For Kane, midwifery is as laughable as being a naturopath or God forbid – a massage therapist. Though that doesn't stop him from dating them...and models...and nurses...and hot nannies.

Jamie would like to blame being in touch with his feelings or his job for all his bad luck with women but his friends won't let him. According to **Mary Bertolli** (38), the office manager, and recently unleashed divorcée who is game for anything and practically everyone, he's got "damsel-in-distress" syndrome.

His best friend, an alpha-male wannabe, **Colin Wong** (29), tells him he's addicted to a particular species of woman – “the crazy foxicans”. Colin works hard at being a “playa” – but James Bond – he's not. He's not even Austin Powers. Except for the bad Cockney accent he affects whenever he's had too many tequila shots. Yeah, baby!

One woman that Jamie thinks is pretty perfect is **Julia Chaplinski** (28), fellow midwife and co-owner of his midwifery practise. Trouble is, she's engaged to someone the whole world thinks is perfection on a stick. A serial monogamist, this is her fourth engagement but hey who's counting...?

Just like Mary J. belts out, Jamie always swears “no more drama” but he's kind of addicted. Does that make him emotionally pathetic? Occasionally. But no more than any other human being trying to find love in the post-modern dating world where people break up on Facebook, sexting is the new bedroom art, and man-scaping is a multi-million dollar business.

THE DATING RITUALS OF THE BETA MALE is a fast-paced comedy of manners that explores the fear we all have that we're abnormal when it comes to relationships.

It dives into the mass of unwritten rules, gambits and obstacles the modern-day guy and girl have to go through on the complicated, exasperating and exhilarating path to true love and celebrates the supportive, if sometimes misguided friends who accompany us down that hellish highway.

SETTING THE TONE

A little madcap, **The Dating Rituals of the Beta Male** has the whimsy and offbeat charm of “NEW GIRL” and the relatable ensemble and underlying heart of “HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER”.

DO WE GOTTA SEE THE BABIES?

While most of the main characters are in the birthing business – the major focus isn't on the clients and the babies. They'll be part of the plot and add to the comic action but **The Dating Rituals of the Beta Male** is an ensemble comedy with Jamie at the centre.

The stories and humour revolve around Jamie's misadventures in dating and relationships, while the subplots feature the other characters.

The action will take place in the Clinic, the house that Jamie shares with Colin, and the local watering hole near the Clinic where all the main characters frequent.

The series is episodic with small serial elements running through the First Season that culminates with Julia breaking up with her fiancé, just as “the girl who got away” turns up unexpectedly at Jamie’s door.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE?

Jamie Campbell (29 years old)

Jamie is the kind of guy everyone can depend on. He has a way with people and is a natural in a crisis. Except when that crisis involves telling a woman how he really feels about the use of handcuffs on the first date. Confrontation isn’t really his thing. Jamie found his calling while on a volunteer stint in Latin America. Once he stopped hyperventilating and asking the moaning pregnant lady by the side of the road, if he should boil water, he was surprised to discover that he had a real knack for birthing babies. Jamie realized that he didn’t want to waste years in medical school and decided to become a midwife. When it comes to helping mothers-to-be and babies, Jamie knows all the signs – but he’s totally helpless when it comes to reading women – especially those with “trouble” scrawled all over them. He claims he’s totally mystified as to why his relationships usually flare up and burst into flames. Maybe he’s holding out for the perfect woman who may or may not exist, maybe he really believes “the course of true love doesn’t run smooth”, or maybe he’s got a short attention span - who knows? But he’d rather have a Corona and unload on his best friend Colin cuz he’s not going to therapy – that’d just be nuts.

Leslie Campbell (27 years old)

The consummate overachiever - Leslie was always first to get her Brownie badges, valedictorian at her high school and top of her class in med school. She can and will turn anything into a competition – laundry folding, taking the stairs, Scrabble, delivering the largest number of twins. She always needs the last word and won’t let anything drop. One competition Leslie still can’t seem to win is the one with her big brother. While he’s crazy for babies and sees the whole birthing thing as an “other worldly experience”, Leslie sees it as medical procedure, an occasion for latex gloves, no incense required. Worse, it seems as if everybody still likes Jamie more. Even though she’s hot, Leslie is kind of a man repellent. She can’t seem to get past the third date before she’s hearing “I’m just not looking for a serious relationship”, or “I got a job in Hong Kong”. She’s even heard “you kind of remind me of a dude ...” Ouch! But Leslie just calls those guys wusses, does a 15K run, knocks back a high protein smoothie and dedicates herself to being even better than ever. Though more often she’d like to admit - and she’ll kill anyone who knows - Leslie watches Sandra Bullock or vintage Meg Ryan (before Botox) romantic comedies for a little boost.

Colin Wong (29 years old)

Jamie's best friend since they met in kindergarten when Colin took a dive off the monkey bars and crash-landed on Jamie. And that pretty much sums up their friendship today. Colin doesn't look before he leaps and Jamie's always there to catch him. But when Jamie hangs back – Colin is there to push him into the deep end. According to Colin – too much thinking is counter-productive. Hyperactive, Colin is addicted to action movies and video games - everything and everybody's a little too slow for him. Colin is an innately smart math/financial whiz type who's also inherently lazy - but always coming up with new money-making schemes. When it comes to the ladies, Colin likes to think he's a "playa" – like Kanye, Usher, JT and other one-name celebs. Suffice to say – Colin's longest-term relationship is less than a week long. But like Tigger – he bounces back from every let down and is onto the next challenge.

Dr. Gerald Kane (36 years old)

Gerry is slick. And we don't just mean his hair – though that mane is seriously tousle-worthy. Tall, handsome, charming, he likes to think he's God's gift to the field of obstetrics. And he kind of is. But that doesn't mean he has to rub it in – which he does to Jamie all the time. Arrogant and supremely confident, he's the type most regular guys wish would slip on a banana peel and break their nose but he is a brilliant doctor, a consummate outdoorsman, he even flies his own plane for crying out loud and speaks a couple of language including bull-shit – but the ladies don't seem to mind. But Dr. G does have an Achilles Heel or six...his ex-wives, his childhood nanny and his mother.

Julia Chaplinski (28 years old)

Warm, caring and Dove Girl pretty, Julia is a nature lover and environmentalist – sometimes to the point of being a teensy bit obsessive about recycling and composting. Do not get her started on the Green Bin program. Seriously. Julia grew up on a dairy farm and knows a scary amount about cows, and goats and chickens and other farm animal type stuff. She can also ride a horse, drive a tractor, and shoot a gun. Julia is super popular with the opposite sex. She hasn't been without a boyfriend ever since she was 11 years old. A serial monogamist, Julia's always the dumper never the dumpee. She's been engaged three times and recently got another engagement ring from a great guy that no-one ever meets because he's always travelling for work. Julia says she has every intention of making it to the altar this time but some (and by that we mean her friends) might say that she's too much of a commitmentphobe to follow through.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE:**Mary Bertolli (38 years old)**

The midwifery and Obstetrics practise joint office manager. Tough girl Mary married her high-school boyfriend at 19, had two sons in short order, and recently got divorced with a

“let out of jail and ready for anything card.” Brash, outspoken and very loyal, Mary is making up for lost time and taking a big bite out of the man candy that’s available. She doesn’t have time for hang-ups – unless that’s some kind of new sex thing. Mary’s not from the Harlequin Romance camp – she’s more of a Jackie Collins fan. She’s all for trying the latest thing – in dating, in fashion, in food, in extreme sports - you name it, she’ll give it a go and usually co-opts everyone to come along. She may not be an early adapter but she always commits 110 percent. Raising two randy teenage boys keeps Mary on her toes and with plenty of stories to relate.

Nigel (50 years old)

Owner of the local watering hole *The Beaver and the Bard* where Jamie and the gang regularly hang out. Nigel – no last name (he got that officially removed in ’79) is an aspiring poet and painter with a punk past. He was a back-up musician and roadie for some of the biggest names in the late 1970s and early 1980s UK music scene – from The Clash to Adam Ant. Alternately loopy and lucid, Nigel has been all over the world, and done it all or so he says and honestly believes. His stories always have a point...eventually.

EPISODE SPRINGBOARDS

FROM RUSSIA WITHOUT LOVE

Jamie meets a beautiful Russian émigré at a new vodka bar in town that Colin's dragged him to. Turns out Tatyana’s former boyfriend Yuri is a Russian mafia tough – who doesn’t take too kindly to his “replacement”. But Tatyana is also the jealous type – especially when she meets Julia and any other woman she thinks is looking at “her Jamie”. Julia is nervous about hosting an environmental fundraiser and asks Jamie to help out. Mayhem ensues during the event with Jamie running from Yuri (and then Tatyana – who he tries to break up with) and then to the hospital to attend to his clients – a young immigrant couple. Meanwhile, Colin tries to invent a new vodka for the market and decides to parlay his super-amped samples at the fundraiser without Julia’s knowledge causing many party-goers – including Mary and Gerald - to let a little looser than appropriate.

WEDDING CRASHERS

Gerald’s date for a wedding (where he’s the best man and the bride is one of his exes) cancels at the last minute and he asks Julia to step in. She agrees but only after Gerald writes a cheque to her pet charity. Jamie is jealous and Colin convinces him to crash the wedding to keep an eye on them. Instead, Jamie ends up in an inadvertent lust triangle between himself, the Maid of Honour and the Mother of the Bride. In the meantime, Leslie is miffed when Mary’s on-line sex survey categorizes her as a risk-aversion prude and vows that she will change her designation. She and Mary tag along on the wedding crashing and Leslie takes her risk-taker wild girl persona out for an awkward ride.

HISSY FIT

Leslie is on her way into work when she's cut off in the parking lot. Her hissy fit at the other driver, Lacey – who happens to be very pregnant and a client of Julia's – is captured on video and goes viral on the internet. Leslie's reputation as an OBGYN is in jeopardy as the story hits the news and a public debate ensues. It gets so bad that Gerald hires a sexy media consultant who he promptly attempts to get in the sack but who finds herself strangely attracted to Colin who in turn is trying to make money on the controversy with merchandise – like t-shirts, mugs and blow-up dolls. The entire fiasco causes tension between Jamie and Julia – since Julia is siding with her client – and Jamie is torn between the woman he secretly pines for and brotherly loyalty. Everything comes to a head when Lacey goes into labour while she's stuck in the elevator with Leslie.

CREATOR BIOS

CHRISTINE ALEXIOU is a Toronto-based TV writer and filmmaker. She graduated with a Bachelor of Journalism from Carleton University and was a writer in residence at the Canadian Film Centre in the Prime Time Television Program. She is a winner of the **Canwest Global Writers' Apprentice Program** for BANFF 2010 and interned with the Showcase drama **Lost Girl** in 2011. Her one-pager for her live-action/animated series **Wilimina: Kid Reporter** won the inaugural Pitch Expo One Sheet competition in 2009.

Her writing credits include: **Degrassi: The Next Generation** (CTV/ Nickelodeon); the animated series **Chilly Beach** (CBC) and **The Very Good Adventures of Yam Roll in Happy Kingdom** (CBC/ Cartoon Network USA); the docu-drama series **Forensic Factor** (Discovery, National Geographic), **Exhibit A: Secrets of Forensic Science** (Discovery/CTV/TLC), and **72 Hours: True Crime** (CBC/TLC); and the documentary series **Family Restaurant** (Food Network Canada) and **X-Weighted** (Slice TV).

Christine has produced, directed and written five films including **Who's Afraid of Happy Endings?** which aired on Bravo!, SCN, Access and the Ovation Channel (Australia). She's also freelanced for CBC Radio and wrote and produced a 2-part radio documentary on Midwifery in Ontario for her Honours thesis.

In addition to co-creating **Maiden**, a one-hour supernatural action adventure series with Felicia Brooker (project represented by Meridian Artists); she has a half-hour comedy/mystery series **Knot a Clue** in development with Anaid Productions; and is developing a Victorian era mystery thriller **Gentleman Murderer** inspired by true events; and the sitcoms **Way Out There** and **Alter Egos**.

FELICIA BROOKER is a Toronto-based television writer. She graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the film program at Ryerson University after receiving an LLB in Israel. She is currently a writer-in-residence at the Canadian Film Centre's Prime Time Television Program.

At Ryerson, Felicia was awarded both the **Nick Holeris Award for Excellence in Writing** and the **William F. White Production Award** for her thesis film "**Red Dress Budapest**". This film, which she also directed, was selected for the **Female Eye Film Festival** in the Emerging Directors category and was awarded the largest monetary prize by the **Du Maurier Arts Council Grant**.

Her pilot **Maiden** (series co-created with Christine Alexiou) was a winner of the Canwest Global Writers Apprentice Program for BANFF 2010. She has a 30-minute comedy **Molly and Toni** co-created with Karen McClellan in development with Lark Productions; and a one-hour spy drama, **Blowback**, is in development with Off Island Films. Felicia is also thrilled to be working on the development team for **Spiral**, a BC Films award-winning web/TV series concept.

Felicia's varied background including, but not limited to, a stint in the Israeli air force as a secretary to a very moody Major, a dairy farm worker, an ESL teacher, an educational director at a humanitarian aid organization, a volunteer at a community school in Havana, Cuba, and a probate officer for the Public Guardian of Ontario gives her plenty of fodder on which to draw for her creative endeavours.

The Dating Rituals of the Beta Male

Summary

Concept:	A smart, quirky and sexy comedy about a guy who helps bring new life into the world as a midwife, while looking for romance and never quite getting the ever-changing rules in the game of dating.
Format:	13 x 30 minutes
Target Audience:	women 25-49, with broader appeal to women and men ages 18 to 54
Characters:	Male midwife Jamie, his competitive OBGYN sister Leslie, his best friend Colin, fellow midwife Julia, office manager Mary, OBGYN Dr. Gerald Kane, and Nigel, owner of local watering hole
Structure:	A and B storylines linked thematically and a runner. A-stories revolve around Jamie's misadventures in dating and relationships, while B stories and runners feature other main characters.
Milieu:	The Women's Health Clinic housing both Jamie's midwifery practise and Leslie's OBGYN practise; Jamie and Colin's place; The Beaver and the Bard Pub where all the characters frequent
Tone:	A little physical, with a dash of madcap, yet relatable with an underlying heart. Mines its humour from the misunderstandings and mishaps in the quest for romance and maintaining relationships in a world where the so-called rules and roles about men and women keep changing.
Style:	single camera