

Shoot to thrill

My first Bond movie was Thunderball at Madhumita Cinema Hall sometime in the late seventies. For lack of a baby sitter I tagged along on my parents' movie date, thereby spoiling Sean Connery's awesome action moments as James Bond for them.

I have no clue whether I understood anything of Bond at all back then, but I do remember being forcibly side-tracked with crisp packets every time glamorous Bond girls in skimpy clothes appeared on-screen. And there was a lot of crisp packets I tell you. I think this incident during that eventful movie is what kicked off my undying love for 'desi' potato chips along with all the Bond girls.

Recently, I was watching YouTube and looking for something interesting when I stumbled upon the trailer of James Bond's 2020 outing with 'No Time to Die.' And suddenly, I started reminiscing Bond girls.

Most might disagree, but I believe all the Bond girls are each an action hero or anti-hero themselves, and not just some eye-candy put in to please Bond and moviegoers alike. They all have pivotal roles such as key love interests, sidekicks, allies or enemies of Agent 007.

As for the new entries in the Bond franchise, I find that the Bond girls feature more intricate character depth and arc than Bond himself. Each woman has an important role to play in the story, and get more into the integral parts of the fine fabrication of plots, just as much as Bond is.

While the status of M as a Bond girl is debatable, I think M, especially considering her role in Skyfall, is definitely a Bond woman. There is no mandate on what kind of person a Bond girl should be or what role she must play, but all of Ian Fleming's Bond novels and short stories include one or more female characters who can be said to qualify as Bond girls.

Each character in the novels, and later movie adaptations, brings in her own unique charismatic individual traits, but mostly, a Bond girl shares a few common characteristics.

For one, they tick just about every categorical box of beauty there is and coupled with those looks are smarts and combat potential that can go toe to toe with the man with the licence to kill. They exist to either help Bond in his fight for good, or to put 007 out of business.

They dress in practical yet assertive fashion, wear little jewellery, wide leather belts, and shoes fit for any situation. Sporting a tan look, their hair falls heavily to their shoulders in a casual cut of any colour from fiery red to a classy brunette, or a pale blonde. They appear in classic bouffant shoulder length hairdos or sleek gelled side parts, or soft Brigitte Bardot haircut.

I strongly believe that without these talented, athletic, intelligent, beautiful, and charming Bond girls, Bond would not be able to save

the world as often as he did, or look as suave and debonair as he does.

I found two reasons to talk about them this March. One is obvious because it's a new Bond movie year, hitting the screens in late March. As for the second reason, for me personally, I feel femininity, sophistication and boldness are what Bond girls exhibit. I find them beauties with brains and power.

I want all of us women and girls to be bold and beautiful, both inside and out. It doesn't matter if you are homemaker or a CEO or a day labourer, bring out that

inner strength for all the world to see. Challenge yourself to reach your goals, to fight for what is yours, and to show the society that you are not naïve and weak.

Don't forget to read our article focusing on the economic importance of recognising women's work at home, and on mompreneurs and their businesses, and more.

This 8th March, appreciate the women in your lives by recognising their talents and strengths, instead of greeting them with a dry, droopy, dead rose.
Happy International Women's Day

— RBR
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
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ARIES
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

You have a lot to offer. Sudden changes are likely. Social activities will be satisfying. Channel your inner Gloria Steinem as you charge forward this Tuesday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Stay out of unnecessary trouble. Avoid minor accidents by maintaining concentration. Don't let others daunt your progress. Channel your inner Cecilia Payne and be one with the stars this Thursday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Put genuine effort into your projects. You don't owe anyone an explanation. Social activities will be enjoyable. Channel your inner Marilyn Monroe and win hearts this Tuesday.



CANCER
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Your unique approach will intrigue others. Don't overexert yourself. Don't waste time trying to please everyone. Channel your inner Frida Kahlo and the world will become your canvas this Thursday.



LEO
(JUL. 23-AUG. 23)

New romantic partners can arise through group projects. Your suggestions at work will be appreciated. You will do your best work by yourself. Channel your inner Amelia Earhart and reach for the skies this Saturday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Don't get into unnecessary arguments. Keep your personal information to yourself. Go on short trips to recharge your spirit. Channel your inner Mother Teresa and take the world in your arms this Wednesday.



LIBRA
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Do things that you enjoy. Open up and let your thoughts be known. Concentrate at your work. Channel your inner Lata Mangeshkar and let the world hear you this Sunday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Time to make changes at home. Romance may be likely if you travel. Any plans for entertainment will be good. Channel your inner Marie Curie and discover something new this Thursday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Use your abundant energy for something good. Enjoy all the good things life has to offer. Social events will lead to a strong and stable relationship. Channel your inner Jane Austen and inscribe your destiny this Saturday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Think carefully before making any move. Don't try to be bossy. You could experience some unusual circumstances. Channel your inner Michelle Obama and lead the pack this Friday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Direct your energy wisely. Make plans with your partner. Don't push your opinions on others. Channel your inner Madhubala and etch your name onto the heavens this Friday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Look for creative ways to make extra money. Don't overspend to impress others. Don't turn down plans to mingle with children. Channel your inner Elizabeth Taylor and take centre stage this Saturday.