

Jane Dimond's famous chair

has lulled many a celeb into a confession – but sassy Mel and Sue would rather perch...

Q What's the best bit of advice or saying that you've ever heard?
Sue (near right): 'Lose the Lithuanian'. Who is this Mel person anyway? No, my favourite phrase is, 'If life gives you lemons, make lemonade'. I was really miserable before we did *Light Lunch*. I had no money and I was thinking maybe I should give up and get a proper job, but my mum just said, 'If you can do comedy, stick with it.'

A Mel: My favourite is 'Better to be happy than dignified.' I think it's from *Pride and Prejudice*.

Q What did your mum teach you about men?

A Mel: My mum said never go out with a man with small ears, because it means he's a robber. To this day I can't trust a man with small ears. She also said to look at a man's hands to see his character before you go out with him. Actually, this one's good advice. I can't tell you how, but I know a kind hand when I see it. It's a vibe thing.

Sue: My mum always says the same thing about men: 'All cats are grey at night', by which she means, don't just go for the bloke that looks the best, because everyone's the same when the lights go out. You have to enjoy their company, so go for the one who makes your heart and mind work together.

Mel: My mum and dad pray every day that I'll find a husband!

Q You're both single but say you'd like to be in a relationship. What kind of blokes are you looking for?

A Sue: I would love to meet somebody who was independent, who did their own thing, who I could have fun with –

Mel: And who didn't smell! I want someone to chill out with, someone I can feel I can really be myself with, that's all I ask for.

Sue: You just want to feel yourself –

Mel: Not here, please! It sounds cheesy, but for me humour is a big thing and counts more than expensive dinners, anything. I'd

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THE CASTING COUCH
ITV/MONDAY

BOYS, BEDTIMES, AND BALANCING ACTS

'WE EXIST TO FILL THE WORLD WITH BAD PUNS'

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rather have a damned good laugh and a beer belly than a six-pack and no humour. Laughter is so sexy, it's an aphrodisiac.
Q What makes you laugh?
A Sue: Childish things, usually. And I'm quite ironic, so very dry sarcasm can really set me off.

Q What about things on TV?

A Mel: Any bloke I go out with *must* enjoy watching TV. I don't like people that have to do, do all the time. I've sometimes found myself slightly pretending to be like that, whereas I'm really much more of a 'Telly, please!' person.

Q Do you tend to fall for all the wrong types?

A Sue: Once or twice in my life I've picked unsuitable people. They were

interesting, funny people but I knew from the word go there were problems. I kept with it because sometimes it's nice just to have a fling. I don't mean a one-night stand – I stayed with them for a while – and I don't beat myself up about it. We've both had relationships like that.

MEL 'I'M LOSING IT. I JUST GIVE EVERYONE THE EYE'

SUE 'I HAVE TO BE LOADED TO THE HILT. EYE CONTACT IS OUT. I RELY ON GROIN CONTACT'

Q You're pretty good flirts on-screen – are you good off-camera, too?
A Sue: Mel is fantastic. I'm quite envious of her.
Mel: Oh, I'm losing it. I just give everyone the eye. Sue, though, she's very attentive.
Sue: I have to be loaded to the hilt before I approach someone. Eye contact is out the window by then. I rely on groin contact.
Mel: You have a great hit rate, seriously, mate!
Sue: More likely I'm flushed, I've got a lazy eye from the booze, and I leave on my own. I prefer it when someone comes up to me.

Mel: Me, too. Blokes are so timid these days. Where are all the real men? I don't want a chauvinistic Darcy figure on a horse, but I'd like to be asked out for a drink now and again. I don't want a namby-pamby simpering Nineties new man.
Q Who would be your ideal man?
A Mel: Stephen Fry – because he's funny and

A Sue: Eddie Large was wrong. I admit that.
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weeks I'm hopelessly in love – it's the one! But within a day I can go from being madly in love to absolutely not. I just get scared off. I hope one day I really just crack down and sort it out.
Sue: I like the honeymoon period, too, but I also like the really lazy period of them moving in, 'cos you don't have to walk to their house any more and they warm you up in bed – practical things like that.
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A Mel: Stephen Fry – because he's funny and

such a good egg – meets Ian Wright – because he's phwoah and cheeky and adorable.
Sue: Jeremy Paxman meets Robbie Coltrane meets Jon Snow.
Q Do you think you were destined to meet?
A Mel: Yes, I think each day is mapped out and you meet people for a reason.
Sue: We were brought together to make sure there were more terrible puns in the world. Seriously, I think fate is more of an energy thing. Certain people are destined to be together, on whatever level. With Mel, we were very compatible from the word go.

Q Have you got room for a gay in your lives with such a close friendship?
A Mel: I'm always really pleased for Sue when she gets it together with a guy. I guess I just feel so secure in my friendship with Sue.
Sue: I can't see Mel being with someone who I loathed, because she has good judgement and we have similar morals and everything.
Mel: I trust your judgement on blokes.
Sue: Yes, there was one time where I saw somebody just sucking the lifeblood from Mel.
Mel: Eddie Large was wrong. I admit that.
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for you. I had to say something, and it took a long time but I came clean and told her she'd turned into a different person. He was negative energy for her.

Q Last November, you both said you were feeling pretty broody. Is that still the case?

A Sue: I love kids, but I don't want them now. My life's probably too selfish. Plus I think you have a limited shelf-life in TV. You have to make the most of the work while it's there. I want kids in a stable environment, and I really don't feel my life is at all stable at the moment.
Mel: Really? My latest thing is I can't talk about it cos I'll start brimming. For some reason my brain is connected to here [points to womb].

Q If you had kids, would you give up work?

A Sue: No – but if I had a child, work would never again be the most important thing.
Mel: I don't know. I can't really see myself giving up work altogether. I like to think of myself hamming it up at the age of 70 in some provincial pantos.

Q What would you like to be doing in 10 years' time?
A Sue: I'd like to be playing *Fire* by Jimi Hendrix. Mel and I have just formed a band with a couple of mates. We do all sorts of cover stuff, mostly with a heavy bass-line, and anything with sheer volume of noise. We're having great fun but we've only been learning our instruments a few months. I'm like a teenage boy with my guitar.

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