



DAWN O'PORTER

HONESTLY...

WARNING she always says what she thinks

“Take as you find – and don’t judge people based on gossip”

Hollywood is a town of talkers. Everyone has an opinion of everyone else, and very often it isn't great. It's just the way it is, it's Hollywood. People come here to be talked about, and you have to accept it as part of the deal. But I'm learning that you mustn't take what you hear as verbatim, you have to give people a chance. Just because one person has a bad experience with someone doesn't mean that you'll have the same.

I've been spurred to write this because there's someone out here I really like who has the most horrendous reputation. She is horrible to work with, terrible at keeping secrets, and dismissive of other people's feelings, apparently.

Before you get excited, it isn't anyone famous like my best friend Angelina Jolie (ooh, that reminds me, I have to call her back). For personal security reasons (in case it is true), I can't give away too much, but my experience of her is actually pretty good. We have had heavy dinners together, lengthy debates; we've talked for hours about life and love, and she is brilliant at staying on the phone until my problem is solved. I don't think people are making up what they



say about her, I'm sure she has had her moments, but it doesn't affect my life at all, so why should I not talk to her? To me she has always been a good friend, and fun.

But other people have drummed it into me that she's nasty, so a while

ago I started to phase her out. It wasn't long before she asked me, straight up, why I had stopped talking to her and I thought, 'What am I *doing*? She hasn't done anything wrong to me.' So I very actively pushed what I'd been told to the back of my mind and went out for dinner with her. We had a great time. We talked openly and honestly as we always do. We even discussed her attitude, and she explained her vision for the business she runs, and how her quest for quality probably means

she can be a bit of a bitch sometimes.

The thing is, there are probably lots of people that I've crossed in my life who think *I'm* the biggest plank to walk the planet because of the way I behaved when I met them. People at parties who ►



I'm loving...

I LOVE cycling, but it does mean having to abandon style for safety. Or at least it did. If you haven't heard of Cyclechic, check them out, because they have everything you need to look awesome on two wheels. Even better, the founder, Caz Nicklin, has written a book on how to look good on a bike. *The Girls' Bicycle Handbook* is out on April 3. Get pedalling! cyclechic.co.uk

◀ have experienced how annoying I can be after a few drinks. People from work who I defended my position to and now feel they have the right to call me difficult. People from school who act like I was 15 yesterday and don't consider that I might have grown up. People I said the wrong thing to and assume I didn't think twice about it (like the girl who I asked if she was pregnant – she wasn't), when, actually, I stayed up most of the night feeling terrible.

I am sure there are all sorts of people saying all sorts of things about me and it's horrifying to think these opinions are being passed on until it sounds as if I'm like that all the time. So when judging others by what people tell me about them, I have to remember that we can all act like total dickheads sometimes, but it doesn't mean you *are* a total dickhead.

I think, particularly in an environment like Hollywood, people get more excited when they hear something negative about others than when they hear something good. Juicy gossip turns people on. In fact, people actively try to dig the dirt on others because there is a really sadistic part of human nature that likes to shame and bring others down (see the tabloids for details). It's rarely a reflection of who that person actually is.

I for one am going to stop doing it. I will create my own opinions of people and always take as I find. I'm going to give people the chance I hope they'll give me.

Let me know what you think @hotpatooties
#GlamourMagUK

love
Dawn
xxx



Cat in a bowl
#best

• IN THE NEWS • IN THE NEWS • IN THE NEWS • IN THE NEWS

FUTURE SEX

Google has developed 'Sex With Google Glass'; an app that allows you to record your own face during sex so you can watch it back for up to five hours afterwards. WHYY?? Seeing your own sex face can only end in tears. ALSO, you have to wear glasses while having sex to get the video. So, thinking about it, maybe you would just be laughing anyway. Still... no.



AUNTIE TWIT

Dawn solves your problems (well, sort of) in 140 characters

@hotpatooties student problems!

Essays deadlines arghhh it's all becoming too much!!

@daisyjaneridley I get this with deadlines too. Drop everything else, shut the door, get in the zone. Come up for air and biscuits. You can do it!

@hotpatooties as a mum of 3 I seem to live in jeans, bored of them. Help, please?!

@crosbycharlie easy, stop buying jeans. Or if you can't, why not buy coloured jeans, then at least they will feel more exciting... green?

@hotpatooties I'm starting a totally new career and I'm SO NERVOUS. Any tips?

@sophiethefrog don't be nervous. Imagine all those people stuck in jobs they hate and feel so lucky to have variety and something new.



WOMAN OF THE MONTH

I've pretty much listened to at least one Dolly Parton song every day for around ten years. So you know what hurts? That she's touring the UK this summer and I'm unable to go. Despite my misfortunes, I wanted to give a huge "Yee-haw!" to the queen of country, and to let any of you who've got tickets to her show know that I hate you (not really, but I'm so jealous!). #dollyforqueen ☺

Dolly Parton's *Blue Smoke World Tour* comes to the UK from June 8 to July 2

Photographs: Instagram, Camera Press, Getty Images, BBC, Redferris, Rex Features, Mirrorpix, LFL. Fans of Dawn's debut novel, *Paper Aeroplanes*, will love the sequel, *Goose*, out this April. Last time you saw them, Renée and Flo had found each other. This time, they have to keep hold of each other. Available for pre-order at amazon.co.uk now