

## The Metrosexual

After 10 years of being the most eligible bachelor in Sweet Water, Oklahoma, Hank Arnold (32) has finally decided to polish up his cowboy boots and ask the woman he adores to marry him. But before he can get the ring out of the box, Caroline Brookes (28) announces she has just landed her dream job --- in Los Angeles. Ever the strong, silent type, Hank never even makes the proposal.

Pretending to be happy for Caroline, Hank puts her on an airplane, then returns to his job as a carpenter, building houses all day and moping around the local bar at night. Finally, his best pain-in-the-ass friend, Bo Wilson, can't take it any longer. It's time to get out there and ask her, Bo says as he packs their bags, if she won't marry you maybe one of the Baywatch Babes will.

Meanwhile out in Los Angeles, Caroline is busy learning about life in the big city. Working as a publicist for the most powerful sports agent on the West Coast, Adrian Michael Cox, (35) she's discovering the importance of image. Under Cox's direction, Caroline is helping to transform a local hockey star into the hottest new celebrity in the city by turning him into the Ultimate Metrosexual. Giant billboards along the freeway display America's new male. Men love him for his testosterone-loaded ice stick. Women love him for his hair gel and silk boxers. And the star-magazines love him because he pushes the envelope, including pulling his long hair into pigtails before he puts on his hockey helmet and wearing lip gloss and nail polish. And Cox's campaign is working brilliantly, because when his client exits the locker room after a game wearing nothing but a sarong, the tabloids pick it up. Soon, men all over LA are wearing sarongs.

In fact, by the time Hank catches up with Caroline in a Westwood club, the woman he loves is living every small town girl's fantasy. And this fantasy includes dating her successful, manicured and Botoxed boss. When Hank sees how happy Caroline seems to be, he is determined to walk away with dignity, like his hero Clint Eastwood. But when Adrian Cox suddenly draws on him, saying it's Hank's fear of his feminine that keeps him from being a real man, we know there's going to be a show down at high noon.

Determined to prove he can express himself better than any metrosexual, Hank rents a cheap motel room in West Hollywood with Bo. Then, our hero sets out to learn how to get in touch with his female side. To his surprise, almost every man he meets along Santa Monica Boulevard is more than willing to help! There's Vito, the sassy stylist who introduces him to the virtues of highlights; Manny the manicurist who guides him through his first pedicure; and Pepi the personal shopper who introduces him to the sinful pleasures of Melrose boutiques. But no one impresses Hank more than Tony Arpeggio (40), a flamboyant car mechanic, who owns Driving Me Crazy, a shop specializing in exotic cars. Tony teaches Hank the importance of a man's 'auto image' in LA, wresting away the Oklahoma pickup and giving Hank a Mercedes coupe to drive.

If looks could thrill, Hank would be home free, even with his residual cowboy boots. But when he finally talks Caroline into having dinner with him, it turns out he's

still firing blanks. No matter how hard he tries, he can't get the right words out of his mouth. We can see in Caroline's eyes that she loves this cowboy, but her disappointment is palpable. And there's no way this girl is going to let herself fall for a man who can't verbalize his feelings.

Devastated, Hank sits in his motel room, watching Eastwood westerns, until Bo drags him out for a night on the town. As the duo cruises the bars, Hank watches Bo move from one blonde to the next and suddenly sees his own future---always hustling, never able to open himself up to a woman.

How do I make myself emotionally available, a drunk Hank screams to the stars atop Mulholland Drive at 3 a.m. And the answer comes to him in a terrifying flash of insight that would make Clint blanch—*You go to therapy.*

Unfortunately, Hank approaches therapy like he approaches everything else, by acting it out, instead of talking it out. Through a stroke of genius, however, Tony Arpeggio has recommended a therapist who specializes in pent up male aggression. Hank spends most of his hour-long sessions slamming laminated photos of Adrian Cox taken from Maxim Magazine that are taped on a punching bag. Hank soon discovers that he still can't talk to women, but his biceps look amazing.

The situation seems hopeless. So hopeless, that Hank goes to Tony to get his pickup back and head home. Like a sage, Tony suggests Hank try a technique that he and his partner use when there is a blockage of their communication. Tony takes Hank's hand, sits him down in the front seat of the pickup and says they are going to role play the marriage proposal. It turns out Tony's performance as Caroline is so sweet and touching, that Hank is moved to tears. Before he knows what's happening, Hank is pouring his heart out. For the first time, Hank hears his feminine side speaking. He's finally ready to open himself up to the woman he loves.

As fate would have it, Caroline unexpectedly appears on his doorstep, but before he can pour out his feelings, Caroline lets loose a gusher of her own. She's discovered that Adrian is cheating on her and she's devastated. Hank couldn't be happier comforting her, and holds her in his arms until they both fall asleep.

The next morning, Hank is determined to make his proposal. But, once again, before he can get the words out, he's interrupted. This time by Adrian Cox, whose come to not only apologize to his girlfriend, but to propose! That's right, in front of our hero, Mr. Manipulation delivers the most beautiful and disingenuous marriage proposal any woman has ever heard. Caroline is completely taken, and is drawn right back into Adrian's arms.

Depressed and defeated, Hank walks the streets of Hollywood until he wanders into a dive off Sunset. He begins to drown his sorrows with a guy sitting on the stool next to him. To Hank's astonishment, the stranger turns out to be LA's top hockey player and ultimate metrosexual. Hank learns that the athlete is only hours away from the next step in Cox's media campaign—a nude photo shoot for a gay men's magazine. It's more than the broken jock can take! This whole metrosexual thing just isn't me, he cries in his beer, and I don't know what to do. Using his new found communication skills, Hank puts his arm around the man and begins to speak. With both emotion and profound wisdom, our hero hears himself say, "Just be yourself, fella." And in the true spirit of revelation, Hank suddenly realizes he's talking to himself, and he knows what he must do.

Dressed in his old clothes, Hank prepares to return to his old life. Surrounded by all their new, teary-eyed friends, Hank and Bo pack up the pickup and get ready to ride off into the sunset. Vito, Manny, Pepi and Tony can't believe Hank is leaving the big city. Don't you like Los Angeles, Tony asks. The truth is, Hank DOES like LA and he likes his new friends, as well. But I came out here to be with my girl, he tells Tony, and she doesn't want me. Tony's had enough of the Clint Eastwood act! How do you know what Caroline wants, Tony says, you've still never asked her, you schmuck!

Once again, Hank is faced with the challenge of actually articulating his love, but he falls back on his old excuse, convinced it's too late. They're getting married this afternoon, he reminds his friends. But Tony and the gang are not letting this cowboy off the hook. It's never too late to crash a wedding, they say! Tony turns to his friends, determination in his eyes: Gentlemen, start your engines!

Cross cut between preparations for the wedding at the church, and Tony et al launching into action----

- Caroline and maid of honor finish dressing and the church begins to fill.
- Hank's pickup barrels down Melrose, stopping at various boutiques.
- The minister enters the front of the church and the organ begins to play.
- The pickup truck pulls up to Staples auditorium downtown.
- Caroline walks down the aisle to meet the groom, best man, maid of honor and minister standing in the front of the church.
- The pickup skids into the church parking lot.
- The bridal party stands in the front of the church as the minister asks: Is there anyone present who knows any reason why these two should not be joined in holy matrimony?

From the back of the church, we hear Tony's voice over: We do!

The camera moves from the wedding tableau in the front of the church, down the red carpet, to an almost identical wedding tableau at the back of the church. It includes: Hank in western groom outfit, Bo, as his best man, Tony dressed as the maid of honor and the hockey player (who has been ordained over the internet) dressed as a minister.

All eyes are on Hank, as we wonder if he's actually going to speak up. He struggles, but nothing comes out.

Back to the front of the church, where a mortified Caroline watches. Suddenly, Adrian Cox takes a bold step down the aisle toward Hank.

Back to Hank, who takes a similar step toward Cox. It's clear that the town is too small for the both of these guys, and somebody's gotta go.

Back to Cox, as he reaches towards his hip pocket.

Wide shot—as both men whip out a ring box, and flip it open.

Silence, as it appears like a stand off. Tony leans over to Hank and whispers: That's not enough, Hank. He's got about 10 carats on you! You have to make your move!

Suddenly, Hank starts down the aisle toward Cox to beat him up. Cox recoils, as the gang manages to hold Hank back. Tony whispers again to Hank: No, Hank, this isn't about him. It's about her. You have to tell Caroline how you feel.

The moment of truth, as Hank finally faces his greatest fear. Determined, he looks into Caroline's eyes and falls on one knee. Somehow, Hank manages to get the words out—and his proposal is a simple and authentic as Cox's was contrived. To her credit, Caroline is able to tell the difference.

In the background, we see Vito ease the organist off her bench, and begin playing *Here Comes the Bride*.

Caroline, once again, walks down the aisle, this time toward the *back* of the church, where Hank is waiting. The hockey player performs the ceremony. Hank and Caroline kiss. The congregation applauds and the two walk out the door and off into the sunset.