



***Thelma & Louise* at number one.  
*Notting Hill* tedious and overrated.  
Must be the new **Rough Guide to Chick Flicks.****

The **Rough Guide to Chick Flicks** by Samantha Cook rates *Thelma & Louise* as the best chick flick ever, slams *Notting Hill* as an overrated bore and celebrates the 1950s movie *Pillow Talk* as the most underrated romantic comedy.

“Most of us recognise a chick flick when we see one. But they are generally regarded as more of a guilty pleasure than an art form”, says Cook, who goes on to say “a chick flick is any film that women adore, with at least one central female driving the action, from Scarlett O’Hara and Holly Golightly to Erin Brockovich and Clarice Starling.”

The new Rough Guide celebrates favourites old and new from *Camille* and *Casablanca* through to *Pretty Woman* and *Dirty Dancing*, and offers surprises in *The Silence Of The Lambs* and *Terminator 2*.

“Mention chick flicks and people tend to come over all condescending” says Cook, “but the new Rough Guide delights in all that is great about women’s films.” From femmes fatales and art-house divas to working girls and silent icons - anything where women take centre stage and feelings come to the fore. The new Rough Guide even includes a playlist that proves there is more to chick flick singalongs than *I Will Always Love You* and *Wind Beneath My Wings*.

The Rough Guide is the first book to gather together costume dramas, feminism, ‘romcoms’, sassy screwballs, flapper movies and new Iranian cinema into one volume, along with classics, blockbusters and indies. “It’s a celebration of what’s great about chick flicks and why women (and secretly men) love them” says Cook.

**To listen to Samantha Cook talk about chick flicks you can  
download her Rough Guide podcast FREE on iTunes  
or from [www.roughguides.com/podcasts](http://www.roughguides.com/podcasts)  
and visit her website at [www.chickflickguide.com](http://www.chickflickguide.com)**

## The Top Ten

Placed at the top of the Rough Guide list is an outlaw movie where the girls get to don the Stetsons, sling their guns and look cool in their cars. Beautiful to look at with fabulous performances (and a super sexy cameo from a young Brad Pitt), *Thelma & Louise* is the Rough Guide number one, beating *Brief Encounter*, *Gone With The Wind* and *Breakfast At Tiffany's*.

1. *Thelma & Louise* (1991)
2. *Brief Encounter* (1945)
3. *The Way We Were* (1973)
4. *Gone With The Wind* (1939)
5. *Imitation Of Life* (1959)
6. *The Piano* (1993)
7. *Stella Dallas* (1937)
8. *Breakfast At Tiffany's* (1961)
9. *Now, Voyager* (1942)
10. *Bridget Jones's Diary* (2001)

## Most Underrated Chick Flick

*Pillow Talk* (1959)

With its famous split-screen scenes, glossy fifties glow and sly, sassy humour, *Pillow Talk* is a must-see. "Doris Day is a super-talented comedienne far too often derided as the eternal virgin," says Cook. In this movie, Day stars as a sophisticated and sexy New Yorker, more than a match for the drily witty Rock Hudson. A great battle-of-the-sexes movie, with a sophisticated champagne sheen and sizzling chemistry between the two gorgeous stars, *Pillow Talk* is a romantic comedy par excellence.

## Most Overrated Chick Flick

*Notting Hill* (1999)

After the phenomenal success of the wonderful *Four Weddings And A Funeral*, this return to formula should be far funnier, fresher and more romantic than it is. "Hugh Grant, who can do so much better, bumbles and bores as the male lead, and the usually effervescent Julia Roberts plays the most famous film star in the world as if she's having a really bad day", says Cook. "The two of them have as much chemistry as a couple of dead fish", she argues. "With its lame dialogue and lazy characterisation, *Notting Hill* is a sad waste of everyone's talent, money and time."

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Rough Guide to Chick Flicks adds to an impressive array of Film and TV titles from Rough Guides. Already published: British Cult Comedy, American Independent Film, Kids' Movies, Cult Movies and film genre guides covering; Westerns, Horror, Gangster, and Sci-Fi Movies. Forthcoming: Film Musicals, Film Noir. Rough Guides published the first Rough Guide to Greece in 1982 and now publish 300 travel titles and 60 reference books on subjects ranging from Classical Music to Climate Change and from iPods to MySpace.

The Rough Guide to Chick Flicks

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