

Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha may be in rerun heaven but their spirit lives on, and is reincarnated in Bree, Susan, Gabrielle and Lynette. And with the *Desperate Housewives* season premiere this Sunday – rejoice – the girls are back!

Four singles in the city. Four attached, albeit unhappily, in the suburbs. Sounds like these women are worlds apart, but scratch beneath the gritty New York City sidewalk vs. white-picket fence surface and they might as well be next-door neighbours.

1. *Sex and the City* starred four women. *Desperate Housewives* stars, you guessed it, four women. Okay, Edie makes five, but no one likes her anyway so she doesn't count.
2. Can you say Comeback Queens? Sarah Jessica Parker was a rising star in the '80s with *Square Pegs* and *Girls Just Want to Have Fun* and then ... phhssssz. *SATC* rescued her from big-hair obscurity. Teri Hatcher similarly tasted fame as a Bond girl and a small-screen Lois Lane, before hitting a dry spell. *Desperate* not only quenched her thirst, it handed her a Golden Globe.
3. *Desperate* features, a blonde, a redhead and two brunettes. *SATC*: a blonde, a redhead, and two brunettes. (What's that? C'mon, Carrie's two inches of dark roots in dishwasher locks is by no means flaxen.)
4. Speaking of hair colour, both shows bust the stereotype that redheads are girls gone wild. Bree polishes silver for a good time and Miranda left the sizzling city for Brooklyn. Yawn!

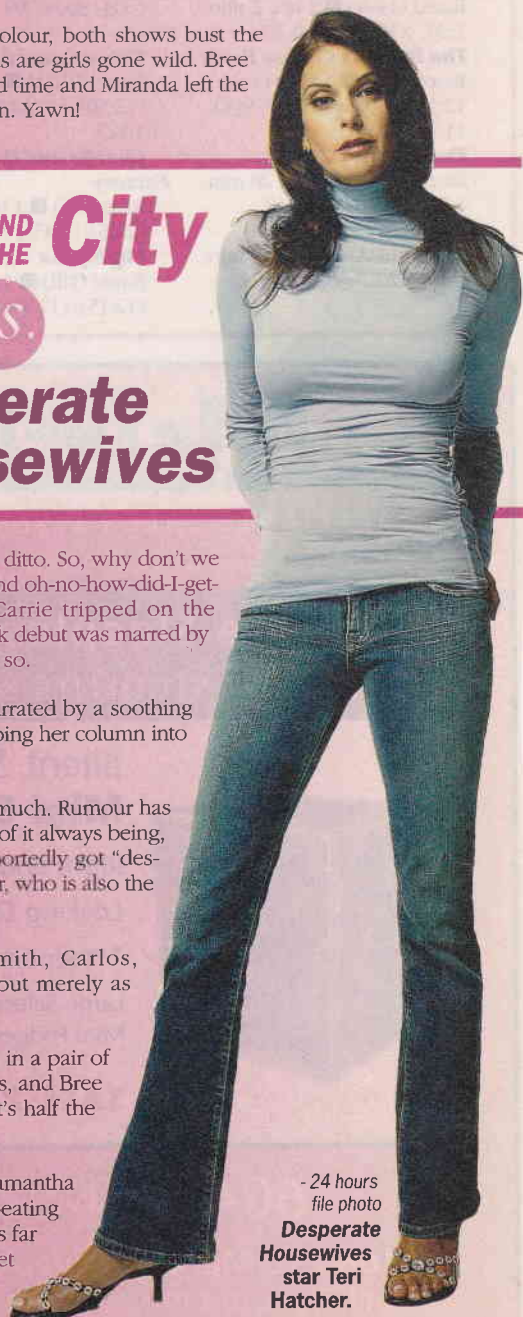


- Getty
Sex and the City star Sarah Jessica Parker.

Sex AND THE City



Desperate Housewives



- 24 hours
file photo
Desperate Housewives star Teri Hatcher.

5. Carrie is gorgeous with a perfect size 0 body. Susan – ditto. So, why don't we hate them? Both are made likeable by their clumsiness and oh-no-how-did-I-get-myself-into-this-mess mishaps. Remember when Carrie tripped on the runway becoming "fashion roadkill?" And Susan's catwalk debut was marred by a rather disheveling catfight. Coincidence? I don't think so.
6. I hear voices. On both shows the ladies' lives are narrated by a soothing female voice from beyond. Sure *SATC*'s is only Carrie typing her column into her laptop but *Desperate*'s is straight from the grave.
7. Best friends on the small-screen. In real life – not so much. Rumour has it Kim Cattral nixed a *SATC* movie because she was sick of it always being, "Parker, Parker, Parker!" A *Vanity Fair* photo shoot reportedly got "desperate" after Marcia Cross threw a tantrum when Hatcher, who is also the highest paid, was placed front and centre.
8. Men are second bananas. Mr. Big, Steve, Smith, Carlos, Mike and John. Yeah, yeah, they're in the picture – but merely as eye candy.
9. Style. Sure it's unrealistic – no one can seriously run in a pair of sky-high Manolos, Gabrielle practically lives in negligees, and Bree scrubbing the floor in a twin set – pulleeze! But still, it's half the reason we watch.
10. Sex is sex, whether it's in the city or the suburbs. Samantha went through so many men in NYC she started repeating romps. And Edie's steamy car wash scene showed she's far from your average housewife. Both women can't get enough of it. And apparently, neither can we.

- Carly Krug, 24 hours