

MODE ONE

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **Breaking Through The “Small Talk” Barrier: Why We Approach And Interact With Women In The First Place**

*“Men today are a mere shadow of what they could be. Many men are putting on a façade to get along in life. Many are wearing masks to conform to the social and political climate. This is especially the case when men deal with women.”*

*Rom Wills, author of Nice Guys And Players: Becoming The Man Women Want*

**Small talk.** I absolutely **hate** small talk. Why do we engage in what’s known as “small talk” (i.e., conversation that is trivial and meaningless, but usually, to some degree, entertaining) when most of us really don’t care for it? Because we’re being *pleasantly phony*, with the objective of making those who we’re conversing with feel as comfortable around us as possible.

Since I was a child, I was conditioned by my elders, and particularly my female elders, to always be ‘well-mannered’ and tactful. To be the “little gentleman.” I was groomed to always exhibit behavior that was pleasing and flattering to whomever I was speaking with. It was a given that you avoided saying anything that had the potential to be