

LIFESTYLE

Ten Kick-Ass Female Movie Characters

by GraceHolliday



Gone are the days when women had to hide their ankles and play the strong, handsome male's assistant, wife or wimpy, doe-eyed admirer. We love that cinema now portrays women who can take charge at work, have the best jobs, give the most cutting put-downs (that would take us three days to come up with) *and* can handle a gun better than we can handle our straighteners. So here's to our ten favorite female characters who kick-ass, in every sense.

Gracie Lou FreeBush (Sandra Bullock) Miss Congeniality: She keeps a punching bag in her apartment, jumps the queue in **Starbucks**, hides donuts in places we don't want to talk about, can do that cool thing with wine glasses and she taught us all how to S.I.N.G (that's a solar plexus, in-step, nose, groin self defense technique, for those not yet in the know). Oh, and did we mention the snort? Gracie Lou FreeBush is a hero—enough said.

Natasha Romanoff/Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) The Avengers: It's difficult to believe that the Black Widow actually has no superpowers and is just super highly trained. Proving that women can be just as strong as men, she was a highlight of the 2012 movies and, with co-workers as hot as that, who wouldn't want to be this lady? Oh, and she rocks one of the coolest hair colors we've seen on screen in years.

Jane Smith (Angelina Jolie) Mr. and Mrs. Smith: Jane Smith manages to blow up her house, jump out of a car and take down a billion armed men in a store and still keep her eyeliner in place. That alone deserves a medal—we'd have serious panda-eyes. Not to mention the fact that she can kick her husband's ass, literally, and put him down with some of the snarkiest comments we've heard since, well, ever. Leaves you wondering if that's what it's like in the Jolie-Pitt household these days...

Olive Penderghast (Emma Stone) Easy A: Portraying one of the best attitudes we've seen on screen in forever, Olive is the definition of sassy, oh and witty, intelligent, confident...we could go on. She also has the coolest parents and, eventually, the cutest boyfriend. Jealous?

Darcy Maguire (Helen Hunt) What Women Want: Representing successful business women properly since the year 2000, Darcy shows that women can take charge in a boardroom and come up with better ideas than male colleagues without having Maggie Thatcher hair or a heart of stone. It's almost enough to forgive her for falling for Mel Gibson, of all people, but even we have to admit he became pretty sweet once he could hear women's thoughts—and which guy hasn't wished for that in bed once in a while?

Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep) The Devil Wears Prada: Sure, she's the definition of super-bitch, but there is something about Miranda we just love. She's got herself a beautiful corner office, terrified assistants on tap and she can throw her bag and coat at people and no

one tells her off. Oh, and did we mention that she's a New York magazine editor? Serious girl envy.

Beatrix Kiddo (Uma Thurman) Kill Bill: We know that girls can go a bit crazy before their big day, but you've never come across a bride as terrifying as one with a grudge and a skill for sword-fighting. Remorseless, cutthroat and a really good driver, Beatrix Kiddo, with the help of incredible director Quentin Tarantino, really took kick-ass woman to a whole new level. Hats off to you both.

Fox (Angelina Jolie) Wanted: It's no surprise that Angelia appears in this list twice. In the same way that Eve Mendes is often portrayed as the man-eater, Jolie gets the "woman who knows how to use a gun really well" role pretty often—probably dating back to her days as **Lara Croft**. Standing her alongside the initially pathetic character played by James McAvoy made her look even more kick-ass. What we loved the most, however, is that she ends up being the good guy in the end after all...or should we say, girl.

Summer Finn (Zoey Deschanel) 500 Days of Summer: The interesting thing about *500 Days of Summer* is the response you get when you ask people what they thought of Summer. For the most part, girls love her, yet guys think she's the devil incarnate. Why? Because this indie-flick from 2009 is one of the few movies that is a rom-com narrated by the guy, not the girl, *and* in which the girl breaks the guy's heart, rather than the other way around. Well, damn right. We're not all crying into blankets Bridget Jones style, as the movie industry would apparently like us to believe. Oh, and Summer has the best collection of vintage dresses we've ever seen.

Erin Brokovich (Julia Roberts) Erin Brokovich: If we ignore the terrible clothes and hair, Erin kicks everyone's ass in this movie, **and in real life**, repping single mothers everywhere and showing us that women can be capable even with children. Divorced? Unemployed? It didn't stop Erin, so why should it stop anyone else?

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