

FEMME FATALE

If there is a Lee Oswald type, a figure in our mythology, why are there no female Oswalds yet—or will there be? It's not as if women lack cause for anger or alienation from our society.

Take Alex Forrest in *Fatal Attraction* (1987), that spectacular show of feminist urges in a mainstream picture made to goose the guys. Alex is branded as “fatal,” but she is the only person killed. Before I'd seen the film a friend in the business had told me: “It's every man's worst nightmare.” He said this with delight and promise. For the story is built on a male dream of going wild and being forgiven. The Michael Douglas character is set up as an urbane gentleman outlaw. After all, he's in publishing.

Alex (Glenn Close) was a knockout in 1987—she had some of the best hair in cinema. (We can't quite say “knockout” now, but the word was alive and well as the film was made.) She is erotically alert—the sex scenes are not just exciting and beyond de-