

Disenchanted Evenings

A Girlfriend-to-Girlfriend Survival Guide
for Coping with the Male Species

By Barb Ewing and Maria Sude

First Edition

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To all the men disguised as princes who turned out to be frogs.

Thanks for making this book possible.

We hope you make us rich enough to forget you!

— Barb and Maria

Foreword

I have no doubt that Divine Providence brought us together. When Maria and I first met at a business briefing in January 1997, at the home of my former sister-in-law, somehow I just knew we shared a common denominator.

First impressions definitely are lasting ones. Maria and I soon became the best of friends and traveled together often on business. What a formidable team we were—she, the “Beautiful Brunette” and I, the “Blonde Bombshell.” Ha!

It was on one of our journeys to Detroit that the idea for this book was born. We had exchanged stories of our own, along with stories we had heard from our girlfriends, of some frustrating and disappointing behaviors and other strange quirks of men we had all either dated, married or divorced. It seemed as though our friends had experienced many of the same trials and tribulations that we had.

In the middle of rush-hour traffic on Interstate 75, I said, “You know, Maria, we should write a book.” I quickly glanced her way and could already see the wheels spinning in her head. “Let’s do it!” she said.

To our amazement and delight, the book evolved from a few short quips and anecdotal excerpts into the finished product you are now holding in your hands. Through synchronicity and at the suggestion of a dear friend, we connected with our editor, Katina Jones of Chance Press, and our printer, upublish.com. Katina took

the notes of our book from an embryonic idea into organized, polished, humorous reality. She quickly embraced the tongue-in-cheek, wry humor that prevails throughout this book, recognizing the “girlfriend-to-girlfriend” bond and support this book offers.

We were ecstatic! Finally, *Disenchanted Evenings* (which is the flip side of “*Some Enchanted Evening*,” to be sure) was born. We are delighted to share the dating and mating disasters that naturally occur when you’ve accidentally chosen a frog and not a prince.

We would especially like to acknowledge and thank our friends for their input and loving support of this project. Without your disaster stories, jokes, tips and anecdotes, this survival guide would not have been possible.

I suppose we should also acknowledge the would-be princes we’ve known to be frogs at heart. It is because of your antics and unbelievable behavior that this book even entered our minds.

Finally, we hope that as you read the following pages that you come to the same realization that we did: Men truly are from Mars. May the essence of our Sisterhood serve to sustain us all as we experience our wild ride on this beautiful, otherwise serene planet of Venus.

Barb Ewing and Maria Sude
January 2000

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Afterword

Part One:

In the Beginning

God created man

before creating woman.

But doesn't

every artist need

a rough draft

before creating a masterpiece?

Word Origins of the Major Problems
of Women:

MENstruation

MENopause

MENtal breakdown

“GUY”ynecology

“HIM”orrhoids

And they say it's all in our heads!

Part Two:

Getting to Know Men
as They Really Are

Men are like coolers.

Load them with beer and you can take
them anywhere.

**Men are like chocolate bars—
sweet and smooth.**

But they usually just head right down to
your hips.

Men are like coffee:

The best ones are rich, warm and can

keep you up all night long!

**Men are like laxatives...
they can irritate the
crap out of you!**

Men are like horoscopes:

They always tell you what to do and are usually wrong.

Men are like plungers:

They spend most of their lives in a hardware store or the bathroom.

Men are like cement:

After getting laid, they take a long time to
get hard.

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Men are like cement:

After getting laid, they take a long time to
get hard.

15

What's the difference between men and government bonds?

Bonds mature.

18

What's the difference between men and government bonds?

Bonds mature.

18

Why are men like tile floors?

If you lay them right the first time, you can walk all over them for years.

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If you lay them right the first time, you can walk all over them for years.

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How is a man like a snowstorm?

You never know when he's coming, how
many inches you'll get or how long it
will last.

**What should you give a man
who's got everything?**

Try a woman who will show him how to
work it.

22

How does a man show he's planning for the future?

He buys two cases of beer instead of one.

**What's the difference between
a new husband and a new dog?**

After a year, the dog is still excited to
see you.

24

**What's the difference between
a new husband and a new dog?**

After a year, the dog is still excited to
see you.

24

**What do you call a man with
half a brain?**

Gifted.

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Part Three:

A Peek Inside the
“Good Old Boys’ Club”

“Because I’m a guy, when I lock my keys in the car I will fiddle with a wire clothes hanger and ignore my woman’s suggestions that we call a road service until long after hypothermia has set in. When the car isn’t running well, I will pop the hood and stare at the engine as if I know what I’m looking at. If another guy shows up, one of us will say to the other, ‘I used to be able to fix these things, but now with all these computers and everything, I wouldn’t know where to start.’ We will then drink beer.”

“All of these things I do solemnly swear, as long as I shall remain a man.”

Part Four:

Riddles of the Male Species

Question: What is the difference between men and women?

Answer: A woman wants one man to satisfy her every need.
A man wants every woman to satisfy his one need.

Question: How does a man keep his youth?

Answer: By giving her money, diamonds and luxury cars.

Question: Why do men like BMWs?

Answer: They can spell it.

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Question: Why do men like BMWs?

Answer: They can spell it.

Question: Why would women be better off if men treated them like cars?

Answer: At least then they would get a little attention every six months or 10,000 miles—whichever came first.

Question: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?

Answer: Rename the mail folder “Instruction Manuals.”

Question: Why is food better than a man?

Answer: Because you don't have to wait an hour for seconds.

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Question: Why are men like popcorn and Chinese food?

Answer: They satisfy you, but only for a little while.

Question: Why are men like popcorn and Chinese food?

Answer: They satisfy you, but only for a little while.

Question: Why are men like blenders?

Answer: You need one, but you're not quite sure why.

Question: How are men and spray paint alike?

Answer: One squeeze and they're all over you.

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Answer: One squeeze and they're all over you.

Question: Why do so many women fake orgasms?

Answer: Because so many men fake foreplay.

Question: What is the difference between men and pigs?

Answer: Pigs don't turn into men when they drink.

Part Five:

Warning Labels and
Survival Tips

You catch him singing the lyrics to
Shalimar's "Second Time Around."

He invites you to a business conference or staff party—at your expense.

You find a bra in your bed—and it
isn't yours.

...And now, here are the
survival tips

Survival tip #2:

Always be understanding—but don't expect HIM to understand anything, especially if it pertains to anything, well, *emotional*. Call your best girlfriend before he attempts to “solve” your problem.

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Survival tip #3:

Never confront a male about anything. This will undoubtedly cause him to retreat into his cave. However, should you need rest and relaxation, a confrontation will do the trick.

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Survival tip #6:

Take Clairvoyance 101 at your local adult education center. You'll need this course to be able to read his mind—which you **will** be expected to do ad nauseum.

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Survival tip #8:

Make your man think everything is his idea. Then compliment him on a job well done!

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Survival tip #9:

Suggest that your minister hold church services on the 19th green. His attendance will improve 100 percent.

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Suggest that your minister hold church services on the 19th green. His attendance will improve 100 percent.

Survival tip #10:

Become well-versed in sports jargon.

Bookmark <http://www.espn.com> on your computer. This will undoubtedly impress him to no end.

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Survival tip #14:

Never forget all the days that are special
to you. He'll expect you to remember
them—because he cannot.

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Part Six:

Training Courses for Men

Training Courses Now Available for Men

Introduction to Common Household Objects, Part I: *The Mop*

Introduction to Common Household Objects, Part Two: *The Sponge*

Advanced Dressing Up: Beyond Weddings and Funerals

Refrigerator Forensics: Identifying and Removing Half-Eaten Objects

Design Pattern or Splatter Stain?

You Can Tell the Difference

Trash Economics:

If It's Empty, You Can Throw It Away

Accepting Loss:
If The Milk Has Expired, It Must
Be Removed

Supermarket Purchasing:
Not Just for Women—and Not Just Beer
and Chips

Recycling 101:
Boxes That Electronics Came In

Advanced Recycling:
Styrofoam That Came in The Boxes
That Electronics Came In

Bathroom Etiquette 101:
How to Remove Beard Clippings From
the Sink

Advanced Dining:
Beyond Pizza Hut

Film Criticism 101:
Movie Rentals Outside of the
Action/Adventure Category

Auto Mechanics 101:
Sometimes Empty Means Empty

Listening Skills:
Beyond Commercials and Half-time

Yours, Mine and Ours:
The Sharing of The Remote Control



Part Seven:

Hope For the Future

