

# **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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**Edited by Katina Z. Jones**

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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?







# **Part Two:**

Getting to Know Men  
as They Really Are





Men are like coolers.

Load them with beer and you can take  
them anywhere.

9

Men are like coolers.

Load them with beer and you can take  
them anywhere.

9

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

But they usually just head right down to  
your hips.



**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 cement:**

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

15

**Men are like cement:**

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

15

**How are men like lawn-mowers?**

They are hard to get started, emit foul  
smells and don't work half of the time.

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They are hard to get started, emit foul  
smells and don't work half of the time.





## **What's the difference between men and government bonds?**

Bonds mature.

**Why are men like tile floors?**

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

**Why are men like tile floors?**

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

**How many men does it take to  
change a toilet paper roll?**

We don't know; it hasn't happened yet!

20

**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.

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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.

25

**Why is it hard for women to find men who are sensitive, caring and good-looking?**

Because those men already have  
boyfriends.

26





# **Part Three:**

A Peek Inside the  
“Good Old Boys’ Club”



























“Because I’m a guy, yes, I have to turn up the radio when it’s Bruce Springsteen or Jim Morrison—and yes, I will have to tell you every single time about how Bruce has his picture on the cover of *Time* magazine and *Newsweek* the same day—or how Jim Morrison is buried in Paris and everyone visits his grave. I expect you to act every time as if you’re hearing this for the first time.”

















# **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.

53

**Question:** Why do men like BMWs?

**Answer:** They can spell it.

53

**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:** Why is food better than a man?

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

58









**Question:** How are men and spray paint alike?

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

**Question:** How are men and spray paint alike?

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

**Question:** Why do so many women fake orgasms?

**Answer:** Because so many men fake foreplay.

64



**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.

The man in the hotel lobby says,

“Your usual room, Mr. \_\_\_\_?”

74

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 #4:**

Always carry extra singles when going to the airport. Your male companion will likely announce, once you're there, that he doesn't know whether or not to tip the porter—and he doesn't have change, anyway. Deal with it.

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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 #7:**

Remember to apologize in advance for everything that may happen in the course of the day—even though you will have nothing to do with any of it. Chances are, he'll blame you anyway. It couldn't possibly be his fault.

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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



**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













