



A Practical Handbook for the Boyfriend: For Every Guy Who Wants to Be One/For Every Girl Who Wants to Build One

Felicity Huffman , Patricia Wolff

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On *Desperate Housewives*, actress Felicity Huffman plays Lynette Scavo, a feisty, resourceful woman who juggles many hats and keeps her man in line. In real life, Huffman is happily married to actor William H. Macy, but she also multitasks with enviable aplomb. Her "good boyfriend" handbook can be read for advantage by both guys new to the role and gals who are wondering if they are seeking an extinct species. With its pulp fiction artwork, sidebars, and quizzes, *A Practical Handbook for the Boyfriend* manages to maintain a light tone while imparting info that could lead to lasting satisfaction.

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Bunny says

This is terribly adorable. Adorable may be a wrong word, but that's all I can think of it as.

The book is basically common sense relationship advice for the menfolk. The question is, do I think these ideas are common sense because I'm a woman? Innnteresting.

I can't imagine a man actually reading this. But maybe they should. Plus, it's very funny.

I would've liked for Felicity Huffman to read the audiobook, though.

Jeremy says

An entertaining & attractive book that “sheds light on the confusing world of romance” and succeeds in providing insightful advice on how to read and interpret what women really want. So whether you’re an average joe or a Casanova, you will find plenty of refreshing material here that will help you grasp a better understanding of the opposite sex and become a desirable boyfriend and not the dreaded “borefriend”.

Dan Schwent says

My gf got me this for our one year anniversary as a gag gift (I hope). Funny stuff is contained within its pages along with some practical advice. I look forward to theatrically pulling it out and looking at it during tense relationship moments.

Kevin says

I first read this a few years back after a couple of bad dating experiences.

It was a quick but enjoyable read. The humor really helped reinforce some of the concepts that might have otherwise been glossed over.

My favorite part of the book was the chapter on the differences in thought processes between men and women (and especially the translations for the women).

Example quote:

"A man's emotional checklist is pretty basic: Am I hungry? Am I sleepy? Am I horny? If he's content in all three areas, he's pretty much okay. A woman's emotional checklist reads more like a Russian novel. It's long,

complicated, confusing, and you spend a lot of time trying to keep the characters straight."

I couldn't have said it better myself...

Gary says

Want to be the best boyfriend there ever was?? All this & more is just a few chapters away in this honest account of what women hear when we speak & what we don't hear when they speak. Laugh out loud passages make this the most entertaining read I have ever read next to Bridget Jones Diary & Pulp Fiction. Don't delay read this today! A better world awaits where men can express their feelings, apologise and listen and not solve all of women's problems. This is something I always need to remember more! Happy reading!

Mathew Ostrander says

The book was definitely humorous and fun to read, but having just gotten married it wasn't quite as helpful as I would have hoped it to be. I didn't go into it expecting super serious psychological discussions, but I also was hoping for something a little more in depth than was delivered. It's a good starting place for a young awkward teenager to begin I suppose.

All in all an enjoyable funny read.

Jesse says

This book is only semi-serious where other (e.g. Mars & Venus) are all serious. It was actually good to read something that had wit as well as wisdom. It's mostly things I already knew but may or may not pass along to future SOs. It also helps give women some insight into men and what men may have dealt with in the past (e.g. jealous, crazy, and other behaviors seen on Melrose Place).

I agreed with most of it but one thing I absolutely did not agree with is the 'boxers only' rule. I am against tighty whiteys because they are remarkably unsexy but boxer briefs are my favorites and I know many other women who agree. Overall, it's fun and worth the read and men may want to take this at least semi-seriously.

Amy Denim says

I felt a little bit like I was cheating with this one as I actually listened to it on audio. But what fun that was. I wanted to listen/read this book to get some good insight for the male characters in my writing. I got that, but I also got a couple dozen laugh out loud moments in every chapter. I wish I could actually get guys to read this. I'm guessing more women will pick it up than men, but if they do, they should definitely coerce the men in their lives to at least skim some of it. This is the new Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, only funny.

Adalira Morningstar says

Perhaps I am being "overly sensitive" or a "unfunny feminist" but I found this book to be shallow and incredibly patronizing.

This book promises practical relationship advice but instead paints all men as hopeless and totally clueless and paints all women as delicate flowers who spend their time sobbing about every little thing. It implies that women can never be logical because we are mindless slaves to our emotions while men wouldn't understand emotions if they jumped out of a bush naked and punched them in the face.

There are a ton of other relationship advice books out there that are actually written as though both members of the relationship are, you know, actually people. I highly suggest reading one of those books instead of this one.

Marsha says

This book really understands what women are like. Yes, the authors confess, we can seem crazy. But we're not. We're really not. Don't give me that look.

This lays down a lot about feminine behavior and the motives behind it. It's definitely diverting, astute and surprisingly helpful. From dating women to leaving them (but leaving them happy), this book covers modern-day topics with thoroughness and flair. I'm not sure how many men will actually read it but it's worth their time to take a peek within its pages.

Douglas says

This book was in Oprah's book club. I actually am starting to read a number of books in Oprah's book Club. The book is a lightning fast read. As usual, I pick up a couple things here and there. Its a bit pricey if you buy it new. Get it used.

Some great advice about breakups. Basically, rebounding is bad and though the sex is great, its always better to go back to square one and start over. On the other end, if you are still mulling over your ex, they suggest "Getting over someone by getting under someone"

Tammy says

I read this book because I thought it would be funny. I did laugh out loud a few times, but that is the sole saving grace.

I may be too cruel: 5% of this book is good, solid advice for guys. However, at least 15% is HORRIBLE, completely inaccurate advice for guys. the remaining 80% of the book is enough babbling about women to make any sane man scream, run for the hills, and join a wolf pack the next time a pretty girl so much as

smiles at him.

Farheen says

It speaks to men, but I don't know how many men are actually reading it. It's pretty funny, my favorite part:

"The truth is, we women are so obsessed with our bodies that we often rate our experiences according to how much we weigh or how we feel about the shape we're in. Looking back over snapshots of vacations, we think, "Oh yea, I was a hundred and twenty pounds then, that was a good trip." Or, conversely, "Oh God, I was so fat on that vacation to the Grand Canyon, it was the worst trip."

Jillian says

A book like this will always have sweeping generalities in it that don't hit home with everyone, so I can only hope most men who read in hope of gaining insight take it with a grain of salt, both treating it as a guidebook (not a source of bible truth) for all women and remembering that all of us are still individuals with our own preferences. (And, it's only fair that we women do the same for men!) There were several sections where I was very happy they addressed a few subjects openly and in a frank manner--after all, we're all adults here. I expected to be entertained, and I was, laughing out loud a couple times.

Jason says

This book was funny. There's some good advice in there, and it's particularly useful to keep in mind how the other gender thinks.

Remember, "Girl math" figures prominently in most women's everyday lives and we men need to be aware of the calculations actually going on in their heads.

For instance, and I'm paraphrasing: Guy says, "I need to lose a few pounds." It's something he'll do between watching TV and drinking beer. Woman says "I need to lose a few pounds" and (here's the girl-math) it equals a legion of trainers, nutritionists, weight-loss clubs, fashion consultants, health and self-help publications and the full support of everyone in her close network of friends and relatives.

Hilarious yet accurate. I highly recommend it.
