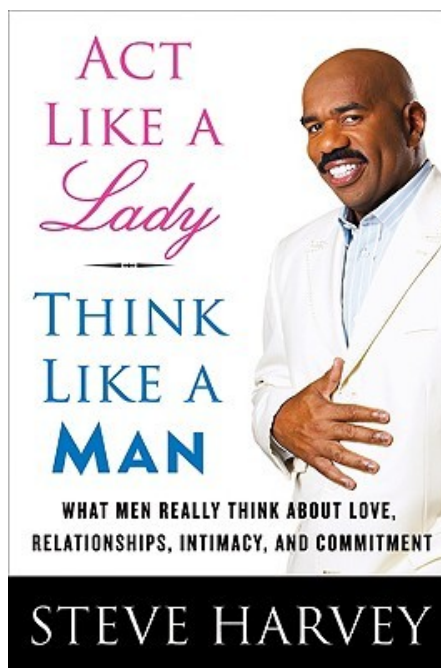




Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man: What Men Really Think About Love, Relationships, Intimacy, and Commitment

Steve Harvey

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Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man: What Men Really Think About Love, Relationships, Intimacy, and Commitment Steve Harvey

“Harvey offers surprising insights into the male mentality and gives women strategies for taming that unruly beast.”

—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

“Women should listen to Steve Harvey when it comes to what a good man is about. Steve Harvey dispenses a lot of fabulous information about men.”

—Aretha Franklin

The #1 *New York Times* bestseller from the new guru of relationship advice, Steve Harvey’s *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man* is an invaluable self-help book that can empower women everywhere to take control of their relationships. The host of a top-rated radio show listened to by millions daily—and of cable TV’s *The Steve Harvey Project*—Harvey knows what men really think about love, intimacy, and commitment. In *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man*, the author, media personality, and stand-up comedian gets serious, sharing his wealth of knowledge, insight, and no-nonsense advice for every good woman who wants to find a good man or make her current love last.

Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man: What Men Really Think About Love, Relationships, Intimacy, and Commitment Details

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From Reader Review Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man: What Men Really Think About Love, Relationships, Intimacy, and Commitment for online ebook

Amanda Roa says

There are so many things wrong about the advice in this book. I mean, right off the bat, he admires his wife for giving up scuba diving because he is afraid something will happen to her. He actually applauds her for giving up something she loves to do. And what the hell is wrong with wearing a t-shirt to bed? My husband happens to think it's sexy. Follow the advice in this book and you'll find yourself back in the stone ages being drug to the man cave with a huge bump on your head. Not all men think this way. I'm married to one who doesn't. I gave up and didn't finish the book about three-fourths the way through. It's a shame how he objectifies women. It's also a shame that this book is on the best sellers' list. I feel guilty for contributing to this book's success by buying a copy. Ugg.

Ziyanda Xaso says

I'm actually going to review this book as I read it. I actually find it very simplistic in dealing with relationships. Steve here deems men to be simple creatures who are all basically the same regardless of upbringing, culture or creed. He makes some really sweeping assumptions about both men and women. The fact that he assumes that all men are running some sort of game on us women tells me that he really does not have a broad view of people. To me the book sounds like the advice that a father gives to his girl child before he allows her to go on dates with guys, just to make sure that she is not duped into sleeping with them.

I must say the book is an extremely easy read as I was able to finish it within 24 hours. But honestly towards the end I was really tired of the advice that Steve is dishing out. I'm honestly surprised that this book has made it to the best seller list and I guess it's a testament as to how desperate we are as women to try and have successful relationships with these men. It is really sad to think that so many women are desperately seeking solutions in dealing with their relationships to no avail.

Now back to my review of the book, really the best thing about it is the fact that it is such an easy read and that you really don't spend that much time getting through it. Which in itself is a blessing as honestly the advice does become a bit tedious towards the end. Really the whole book is a bit of a big joke and looking at it from that perspective makes reading it bearable.

Obviously not everything he says in the books is trash but in the same breath he really does not delve much deeper into the subject. The classic mistake he makes is in assuming that all men are the same and all women are looking for the same things in relationships. Mind you there is an audience for this book, narrow as it may be. But following everything he says in this book to the letter will really reduce your relationship to a game instead of something in which two grown intelligent people are building.

In terms of the advice it all sounds like the advice that a father will give to his daughter before she goes out on her first date. And this is evident when Steve retells the incident between his father in law and one his daughter's dates. It's all the warning that a father will give his daughter to make sure that the men out there don't take advantage of her and use her for sex. Some of this advice might apply to a teenager getting to grips with the opposite sex. But once you reach a certain level of wisdom and maturing really the game playing is

out of the question.

The fact that he assumes that as women we have no idea what some men are after really belittles our intelligence. Of course we know and sometimes it is exactly the same thing that we are after, sex. I just find the book a little condescending towards wise and experienced women because in all honesty if I have to run a game on you, in order to get you, then maybe we should not even be doing this thing.

Reeka (BoundbyWords) says

Ok so, I definitely have mixed feelings about this book. On one hand, I admire the fact that Steve Harvey gives it to you straight and without a TRACE of subtlety (or sugar-coating if you will), the reasons why the majority of men ARE the way they are, and why we, as women, are unknowingly encouraging them to continue bad habits. He made some very valid points, though I felt that many of them should ALREADY be obvious to woman everywhere (i.e. set standards for yourself, RESPECT yourself in order to be respected, don't accept being just his "plaything"....like, cmon now).

On the other hand-and I suppose this has a lot to do with the fact that I was raised in a time where chivalry was (and still IS) unheard of, and feminist views were strongly imparted in schools and within society- I simply cannot accept Steve's obvious conclusion that women need to put forth MORE than half the effort to land a GOOD man. Steve even goes on to (indirectly) blame women for their cheating spouses; their child's uninvolved father. Call me young and ignorant, but the real truth here, is that boys in this day and age just AREN'T being taught to be REAL MEN anymore. Someone needs to write THEM a self-help book on how to smarten the HELL up.

Overall, I recommend this book for those with an open mind and a need to understand our male counterparts a little better-just take what you need from it.

End venting.

Traveller says

Just some more cliché'd rubbish spouted forth in order to make a few bucks.

AZ ZA says

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We need to talk

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a man always wants something. Always. And when it comes to women, that plan is always to find out two things: 1) if u're willing to sleep with him, and 2) if u're, how much it will cost.
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If ur man truly loves u and he's a real man, he'll figure out a way to get his mom on board with making his woman happy-to smooth everything out so that the relationship can work for all parties involved.

"and honestly, you'll realize it's much better to be in a relationship with a man who loves his mother than it's to be with someone who can't stand the woman who gave birth to him."

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Why men cheat?

primary causes are:

- They can
- They think they can get away with it
- He hasn't become who he wants and needs to be or found who he truly wants.
- What's happening at home isn't "happening" like it used to.
- The biggest reason of all: There's always a woman outthere willing to cheat with him.

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Men respect standards-get some
& learn how to introduce them.

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- 1.What are ur short-term goals?
- 2.What are ur long term goals?
- 3.What are ur views on relationships?
- 4.What do u think about me?
- 5.How do u feel about me?

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The ninety-day rule:

Getting the respect u deserve

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- How does he react when you tell him u've got some problems?
- How does ur man react under pressure?
- How does he react to bad news?
- How does he react when he's told "No" ?

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If he's meeting the kids after u decide he's "The One", it's too late

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How to get the ring

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Quick answers to the questions u've always wanted to ask.

Paula W says

This book is complete crap.

Allow me to elaborate, please. Because I have lots to say.

*Disclaimer - a friend asked me to read this with her because she is single and "not sure what she is doing wrong".

Girl, you aren't doing anything wrong. And this is not the advice you need.*

Things I learned while reading this (and believe me when I say that most of these are direct quotes):

- 1.) Men are all very simple people and all basically think in a similar way.
- 2.) But only straight men. Gay men aren't men. They are "gay men".
- 3.) The dream most women have - The husband. Some kids. A house. A happy life. True love.
- 4.) Everything a man does is filtered through his title (who he is), how he gets that title (what he does), and the reward he gets for the effort (how much he makes). These three things are all that make up the basic DNA of manhood.
- 5.) As a woman, you will know if a man is serious about you once he claims you (like you are piece of luggage at the airport or something I guess?)
- 6.) Women are either someone's lady, someone's daughter, or someone's mother. Not ever someone.
- 7.) It is considered noble and wonderful if we women sit out something we enjoy doing if our man can't do that thing because then he couldn't protect us if something happened.

You guys, I'm only up to Chapter 3 so far.

- 8.) Men will occasionally cook and/or help out with household chores if there is a reward in it.
- 9.) For some reason, "the Smithsonian" needs to be hyphenated as "the Smith-sonian".
- 10.) Sex is always referred to as "the goodies", "a reward", or my favorite "the cookie". And it is basically the biggest reason any man would want to be with you or stay with you. You better not have an off couple of weeks unless you just gave birth (that's the example he gave for an acceptable reason not to give up the cookie).
- 11.) What is wrong with you for thinking your boyfriend or husband wants to talk to you? "That's what your girlfriends are for." Because "women love to sit and talk for no apparent reason but to talk".
- 12.) The perfect woman - "capable of interesting conversation (which contradicts the above), you cook a mean breakfast, you hand out backrubs like sandwiches, you're independent (which means, to him, that you're not going to be in his pockets)". That last part contradicts something else later on.
- 13.) It is the woman's fault if her man is a mama's boy because she hasn't told him not to be.
- 14.) It is usually the woman's fault that men are cheaters.
- 15.) Have standards and communicate those standards, but word them so that his fragile ego doesn't take a hit.
- 16.) A man who is an atheist or agnostic has no moral barometer to make him even consider being loyal.
- 17.) Vaginas are like insurance benefits that shouldn't kick in until a man has proven himself for 90 days.
- 18.) Women should pretend that they can't move furniture or fix a broken sink so that men are clear that women need them.
- 19.) Independent women are lonely.

20.) Steve Harvey is a terrible human being.

It is sexist, misogynistic crap. And honestly, men should be livid that people like Steve are out there saying that men are basically egotistical walking impulses with no discretion, no thoughts, no nurturing instincts, minimal care for their partner's hopes and dreams and needs unless that partner makes his life perfect and easy, and of very little value except for what he brings home and what he can do in bed.

I know most men are better than this. I hope most men are better than this.

Now I need to go take a shower and wash this funky grossness off me.

Kathrynn says

First read April 6, 2009:

A quick, easy read that wasn't as funny as I thought it was going to be. Mr. Harvey gives straight, common sense advice about men that could be used by teenage girls just beginning the dating cycle to women married/divorced with kids. Several of his examples are with divorced women with kids: when to introduce your kids to the man you are dating; if a man is truly interested in a long-term relationship he will make an effort to include your kids on dates, etc.

As for younger women starting to date, this book could be very insightful. Respect yourself and a good man will respect you. He recommends not having the first sexual encounter for 90 days. Uses the advice of starting a new job and having to wait 90 days for the "benefits" to kick in (health insurance). Men can do it if it's important to them, if it's not they move and women are better off knowing early on. I felt the book was primarily geared toward young women just starting to date...

As for married women, Mr. Harvey gives some advice on keeping your man happy at home. Why they cheat and who they cheat with. He states that men will cheat if they aren't getting "the cookie" at home or if "the cookie" is not like he wants it to be. He mentioned that men will cheat and not consider it cheating, just having sex. I laughed at his joke about how men will deny their butts off when caught cheating--even in mid "pump" with their social security numbers tattooed on their butts. There is a section on forgiving a man who has cheated, too.

He mentions how women should deal with a momma's boy. What questions a women should ask a man she is dating (both early in the relationship and later). He explains what type of answers women should receive if the guy is committed to a long-term relationship or a fling. He uses the analogy of sports fishing: keeping and tossing back. He talks about the first words out of a woman's mouth when a guy begins talking to her. Women set the stage for how the guy will see them and treat them: long term material or a quick toss. He mentions how men will do almost anything to get sex and how not to be used for sex if your goal is a long-term relationship.

Mr. Harvey gives a brief insight into his own life at the beginning of each chapter, then delves into the topics that range from:

The Mind Set of a Man:

- Three things that drive a man:

1. Who they are
2. What they do
3. How much they make

Why Men Do What They Do

- This section was neat to read because it talked about how men behave--if they love you--particularly for married men.

How to Win the Game

Kristen says

I saw this book being promoted on "Oprah" one afternoon (rarity, since I typically work until 5) and thought he made a lot of sense. So, I picked the book up and within 2 days I read it cover to cover. Excellent. I recommend it for any woman struggling with relationships with men. It brought a lot of clarity to what I have been going through and made me realize what to look for in men.

Suzanne says

Advice for the desperate?

I guess someone who's having a lot of trouble getting married might find this book helpful. I have never found men to be all that simplistic. I also don't need some guy telling me how to be a girl ("don't paint"). Okay, the guys can do the heavy lifting, they're much better equipped for it, but I'm from a generation of women who decided nobody was going to tell us what to do, or what not to do, including painting, mowing the lawn, and finding what's making that funny noise in the car. And we seem to have gotten married at the same rate as women from the fifties, which is the decade this book sounds like it came from.

I have to question the sanity of someone who says that we all know women run the household, but women should continue to let men think they run it. He knows this, and he still says that? If he's aware of it women are not doing such a hot job of letting men think they run things, are they?

I thought it was particularly sad when the author related how his wife had given up sports she loved, like scuba diving, because he, not knowing how to do those things, could not protect her while she did them.

Being a comedian and not a social scientist, he seems blissfully oblivious to the fact that not all men are raised exactly the way he was and men don't all think alike, not by a long shot.

Miranda says

I'm sorry to say this, but this book is a JOKE. The first half of the book, it acted like it was talking to smart women, telling women what drives men and how to make your man feel like a man. Then the second half was talking to dumb, easy girls, making sure they have standards for themselves and don't be clinging to a guy who has other women hanging on his other arm. It didn't flow into "this is what you need to do next" from the beginning.

Another thing he does, is has women making lists of how she wants her man to be! Every girl in her right mind who has read a good relationship book knows not to make a "list" about what her "dream" man is. It's

such unrealistic expectations to say you want a 100% gorgeous, funny, smart man.

Here's an example of how he's not clear: "And if we can't exercise two of the major components that make up who we are as men—providing and protecting—then we're not about to profess our love for you." THEN he says, "Don't give up your money, or your job, or your education, or the pride and dignity that come with all of that. Just be a lady." Women will NEED to give up their pride in order to have a healthy relationship.

Another thing: He's not very clear on which side of the board he's on for ANY points. For instance, he expects a woman to take care of her family, take care of her husband, keep a clean house, cook, let the man provide and protect, etc. yet he says men like women who are independent and don't "reach in his pockets" and "it's a necessity for both the husband and the wife to work to make ends meet", and then "most men would not have a problem with his woman staying home." And then in the Q&A section, he says "most men who really care about you won't think anything of (women asking for money) if they have it." ??? Which is it? Is she a "gold digger" or "relying on her man"?! And then, he wants them to wear heels on top of all this (in the Q&A section he even says that he doesn't know a single man who prefers women in flats and "If we could get athletic shoes with heels for women, we would!") I personally believe that for me, as a woman, my place will be in the home, and my future husband's place is providing for the family. These are natural human instincts, like he mentioned before about the man wanting to provide. Why make it more confusing than it is?!

I hate to bring up this issue, but he comes off as racist. All his examples are of "black character", I guess you could say. Talking about "gold diggers" and "mama's boys" and the like. Me, being white, can't relate to the examples of these black women.

Another thing: he says a woman needs to have her man say this to her: "When I don't see you, I miss talking to you, I always wonder what you're doing and whenever you come around, I just feel better—you're the type of woman I've been trying to find." And he goes on to say, "In other words, his answer has to make you feel wonderful. He may not be in love with you just yet, but he's crazy about you and he's probably thinking he wants to explore a long-term commitment with you..." He has to explain himself on everything because he is not clear. He has no examples of good, healthy marriages in this book, to prove his point. It's all on a whim and what he believes. He puts all men in one category and it proves absolutely nothing. I think this book emasculates men! His relationship story with his wife doesn't convince me that he has good advice! What man says "I'm going to marry you someday!" when she walks into the room? I told my brother (who is 19!) about the things in this book and he agreed with me! Steve Harvey is a confusing male and doesn't have business writing a "self-improvement" book.

I do think it's great that he advises to lay your expectations of a relationship out on the table and not to have sex for 90 days. Couples who want sex before they really know each other need to take the time to get to know each other first, but isn't this a pretty obvious point?

I also like how he advises women to re-word what they're trying to say to their man to make him feel like man. We're wired different and communicate different.

After telling women they need to act like a lady, he says this: "This "If he wants to marry me, he'll ask me" thing has got to stop. Because we're not going to ask you when you're ready—we're going to play with you until you give us your requirements and standards and stand by them. I'm not telling you to get on bended knee. I'm telling you to set a timeline for the ring and the date, and tell the man you want to married to what it is." Talk about pushy! Every woman knows that if you've talked to your man about marriage and he hasn't made a move, chances are, he's not ready! Whatever happened to the beginning of the book where he said men cheat because they haven't found out who they are yet? Well, chances are, he's not giving you a ring because he hasn't found out who he is.

come-on. In our mind, if you want to buy us a drink, you want us. And if we think you want us, well, we're coming in for the kill." Really? So scratch all that talk about a guy's instincts to pursue a woman and chase her?

Anybody wanting a true relationship book shouldn't read this. The only reason I wanted to finish it was to say I finished it all the way through (in case, at the end, he says "just kidding!") and to make a review on here. I wouldn't really say it was a waste of time though, because I got to see what men NOT to marry. Go read Dr. Laura. She tells of true, healthy relationships! ;)

Zero vi Britannia says

A small rant:

I hate books that reduce male-female relationships to gender stereotypes.
I hate books that make men responsible for their woman's happiness.
I hate books that make men responsible for women in general.
I hate books that treat women as though they are objects to be sought after by men.
I hate books that teach women how to manipulate men.
I hate books that teach men how to manipulate women.
I hate books that take gender relations back to the 50's.
But you know what I hate the most?

I hate it when women want to be independent modern women that shouldn't be held back by outdated stereotypes, and yet that still want to hold men to those stereotypes.
And that is what this book does.

At one point, Steve Harvey says that it's not fair that women are judged by how the house is kept. I agree. But throughout the book he continuously tells men that it is their job to keep the bills paid, provide for their woman, and all the stuff that the 50's man did. This is one of many points where I disagree with Steve. You can't have it both ways! If one group is held to old-fashioned standards then the other one should too.

Also: Sex stereotypes-

Steve tells women not to have sex on the first date. Fine. I really don't think a woman or man should have sex on the first date unless they really know the person. However, he also says that women should give men a 90-day sex-probation period. My problem is not with the probation (wait till your ready and don't give in/put on pressure) My problem is with how it asks like all men are after sex and will dump the woman is she gives it up too soon. Damn stereotypes.

The only good thing that I can say about this is that I'm gay and I don't have to deal with this book. Straight guys and ladies, I'm sorry. Do not pick up this book.

Robin says

The best thing about this book was that when men saw me reading it, they would get ALL KINDS of bent outta shape. Seriously. I mean, they took it personally. That only made me want to get through it faster to see what the hell Steve was telling because men were nervous.

The first part of this book reads like a relationship manual from 1950. I understand where he's coming from, but I couldn't relate. My mind doesn't work that way. A friend of mine agreed that it did sound a little bit

dated, but she also said "it gets better."

It did. I love the part encouraging women to "get some standards." It's sad that people need to be told that but, obviously, they do. I'm glad to hear a man say it. But, it is also kind of sad that Harvey sets up men as these brainless little creatures who will only act right if you make them. I just can't believe that is true. Sure, there are people who will try to get away with whatever you're willing to let them get away with. I get that. But surely, SURELY, there are some men out there who don't need to be put in check from the starting line. Surely there are some men out there who have standards of their own and don't need you to dictate yours in order to act accordingly.

All of that said, it was an entertaining book and a quick read. I would recommend it to people who are interested, but take it, like any other "self help" book, with a salt shaker.

Judith says

Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man by comedian, Steve Harvey, is as simple as the title. Moreover, Harvey insists all men are simple, like him. Also, all women are complicated, nurturing, irrational beings, or if not, they should fake it so they can get a good man. According to this book, whenever a "real man" chats with a woman it is because he wants to sleep with her. Mr. Harvey compares dating to sport fishing: a woman who is too easy is a "throwback," not a "keeper." So, ladies, if you want to be kept by a 55-year-old talk show host, this book is for you.

I only read the book because I track the most popular books in the browsing collection at Rhode Island College, and this book has circulated many times. Perhaps everyone who borrowed it expected a book by a comedian to be funny, or at least witty. Perhaps, like me, they were all disappointed.

Sara says

This book actually angered me quite a bit. It's a one-sided critique hammering away that women aren't happy in relationships because they are doing something wrong. It assumes that women are the ones who need to change in order to be happy in a relationship, as if men were perfect in their existence, and it is women who are still struggling to achieve that same level of perfection. Even when Harvey discusses men who treat women like dirt and use them for sex, he turns it around on women, claiming that it's the woman's behavior that caused the man to treat her that way - men are above fault and blame.

There are so many double standards in the book it was disturbing. I think Harvey would have been happier had he come to age in the 50s when women were expected to do nothing more than put rollers in their hair, cook and change diapers. This book basically assumes that it is the woman who needs to adjust her expectation regarding what a relationship should consist of as if she have no right to demand what it is that she wants in a relationship and a partner. "Lower your expectations, change your behavior ladies!," Harvey implies, "because men aren't going to change and they must be right, so you have to do all the work!" If all men are as Harvey describes them I'll just stay single.

Kristen says

This is a movie now? Are you fucking kidding me? Sure, why wouldn't I take relationship advice from a some fourth-rate hack comedian whose greatest accomplishment is hosting Family Feud (which apparently wasn't canceled in 1989)? Clearly this guy is a relationship expert since he's been married three times himself, so who better to tell us women how to act right for our man. I especially like the casting of unapologetic woman beater Chris Brown for the movie.

Sadly I actually have a friend who owns this book, in answer to my ridicule she tells me it's 'not so bad', but then she's also reminds me exactly how much time I have left to breed every single time I see her, so I guess she's the target demographic, whereas I'm just disgusted by self help books in general, and Steve Harvey as a human being specifically. The only book this guy is qualified to write is "How to Make Money in Comedy Without Being the Least Bit Funny", really, a self-help book for women written by a thrice-married egomaniac made into a movie starring a women beater . . . The only way it could be better is if had a crossdressing Tyler Perry.
