

Your great grandfather had a combination for life: it was a winning combination, and it was based on being "manly."

He learned very early to be a little man, to act and dress like one. He could hardly wait to get into long pants, since this was the visible sign of manhood.

He knew that he was expected to get married, and he knew that he couldn't get married until he could provide. So, his first obligation was to be a good provider. That could take a good number of years.

Until then, there were two kinds of girls. There were "good girls" like his mother, his sisters and their friends. There were "bad girls," who were no better than they ought to be. Manly men did not bother "good" girls. When the time came, manly men looked around for an attractive "good" girl and began courting.

Courting was serious business. There weren't many divorces, divorce was a real scandal. This woman would bear his children, live with him for the rest of her life, and it was important that she be "right." She probably wasn't in a hurry. Once married, she lost her identity completely. She could not have any property of her own. She could not have custody of her children. If she worked, her wages belonged to her husband. Bearing and nursing children would take their toll, and she would probably die long before her husband.

No sooner than ten months after the wedding, no longer than a year or two, your great grandmother was expected to produce a baby. After that they would probably come every year or two. There were lots of miscarriages, and lots of women died in childbirth.

Your great grandfather didn't expect your great grandmother to enjoy sex. After all, she was a "good" woman, and "good" women weren't supposed to enjoy sex. He didn't expect to "understand" her either. She had a role to fulfill, and that's what was important.

Married men lived the longest and were the happiest. It was a winning combination. The loser was your great grandmother.



A lot of men, and a lot of women have changed the combination.

Even though the combination has been changed, many of the things we do and learn are based on the old combination.

You can't hate girls and like women

Men are taught to regard women with both disgust and fascination. The teaching starts in grade school or before. They learn that men are capable and strong and that girls are dumb and fragile. They learn that certain things are "men's work" and other things are "women's work". They learn that it's somehow "unmanly" to do "women's work." Boys must not play with dolls. Boys must not

sew. Girls cannot be on the Little League team.

In the fifth or sixth grade the girls see a film on menstruation. All the boys are shut out, and there is a lot of giggling and dirty jokes. If the boys are shut out it must be taboo, right? Why would they shut out the boys otherwise? It goes on through high school, with the "manly things" and "womanly things" strictly segregated.

This kind of education has a purpose, and the purpose is to make boys regard women and women's bodies and women's work with enough disgust that boys will want to act as "manly" as possible. For girls the purpose is to make them believe that they are slightly disgusting and only fit for staying home and having babies.

Things which are disgusting and taboo become fascinating, just because they are forbidden. Your parents do not want you to be a homosexual, so they begin to focus you on girls sexually about the time you hit puberty. Meanwhile, of course, the girls have been focused on boys since they were two years old. The old combination was that girls had to be focused on men because if they didn't get married and have babies they might as well be dead.

In other words, you are taught that girls are not suitable as friends, that they are slightly disgusting as people, and then you are taught that it's all right to think of them as sexual objects. You learn to hustle girls, or use girls, or be mothered by girls, but you don't learn to like them.

Meanwhile the girls, who don't really like being hustled, or used, or treated as mother, learn to be suspicious of you.

And the two of you come together in the biggest con game in the world dating.

The dating game

If you don't start dating by the time you're sixteen or so, or at least start talking about it, people are going to worry. They're going to think you aren't normal or something, or that you have bad breath or a rotten personality or are too shy. They're going to push you.

What do you do? Do you date to get your parents off your neck? Are you interested in sex? Do you ask a girl out or pick up a girl somewhere? Do you like or hate it? Does it bore you?

What about the girl? Was she afraid to say "no"? Remember, girls are still taught to be more passive and polite, and many of them don't know how to say "no." Did she really like you, or was she just tired of staying home?

Did you spend money on the date and resent it afterwards? Did she offer to pay her own way? Did she seem happy? Were you? Did you hustle her? Do you plan to see her again? Will she want to see you?

It's a game. It isn't courting, because you aren't looking for a wife for the next fifty years. It isn't a ball game, because the score may be 0-0. It may not even be fun. You can have more fun with your friends. You could have more fun if she were your friend.

What happens is:

- You date her that once, maybe twice, and then don't do it again because the whole thing was just too phoney and uncomfortable.

- Or, you find out that you and she have sex in common and that keeps you together for a while.

- Or, you find out that you like her. She's interested in some of the same things that you are, and it's fun being with her. You tell her that she's different from most girls.

She really isn't. It's just that this particular girl turned out to be someone you could be friends with. If you could have known that in the first place, it would have saved you and a lot of girls a lot of trouble.

But you didn't know, because you didn't have any female friends. The solution is simple. Don't date. Make some female friends, and spend your time with your friends, male and female, but don't date. Why should you go through that courting routine when you aren't courting? Why should you hustle a girl you don't even know or like? Unless, of course, that's what you're really after. It's a good way to get hated.

The female as friend

In a study done not long ago, a group of people was asked to select from a long list of characteristics the ones which were male and the ones which were female. Then another group was asked to select from the same list the characteristics which were adult and those which were childish. The "female" and "childish" lists were very similar. Why? Because the women have been taught that men and society do not like strong, capable women. Such women are called "masculine," "unwomanly," "desexed."

Girls don't want to be "masculine," they just want to be people.

They don't really want to hide their personalities behind a silly baby mask, but the world keeps forcing the mask onto them. Their fathers call them "baby doll." Men on the street call them "baby" and make remarks about their tits. Their schools push them toward home ec and away from math and science. If they are intelligent, their mothers tell them to hide it. By the time most girls are through high school, their abilities and minds are permanently warped. No girls wants to be called "unwomanly" or "desexed", but underneath there is a lot of resentment toward the people who put the baby mask on her and tied it there.

The part that hurts girls the most is this. Many of them refuse the mask, try to live as they really are. They want male friends because they find men interesting and attractive. But, the men seem to give all their attention to the girls who wear the mask best, the baby dolls with six pounds of eyelashes and silly giggles.

If you're serious about having female friends, judge them the way you judge your male friends.

Who does what?

It's easy to destroy people and put them down. It's also stupid. It's easy for men and women to destroy each other, but it's stupid. No one gets hurt if each person remembers that the only thing people owe one another is courtesy.

If you do decide to ask a girl out, even if you spend a week's pay on it, she doesn't owe you anything but courtesy. She doesn't owe you a kiss or a quick hop into bed or going out with you again. If she's polite and she likes you, she'll issue the next invitation herself if you've indicated that this is O.K. You say, "It was fun. Give me a call if you'd like to get together again." She may send you a note or a little impersonal gift to thank you for your thoughtfulness. At that point, that's all you've got coming. If you're already friends, courtesy is less important than honesty. If you're not friends, courtesy lets you find out about each other without hurting anyone.

If she says "no," it doesn't mean that she hates you. It may mean that she cares about someone else, or doesn't want to get involved just now, or that you aren't the type of person she relates to easily. That's her problem, and courtesy demands that you don't hassle her.

Sex rears

There are only two basic kinds of sex: sex with victims and sex without. Sex with victims is always wrong. Sex without is always right.

Sex with victims leaves someone abused, hurt, demeaned, of damaged, either mentally or physically. The girl at work who is coerced into sex on Saturday night and then is talked about on Monday is a victim. The guy who pays all his wife's bills while she runs him down to her friends is a victim. The girl who accepts a ride home from someone she's just met and then get raped on the way is a victim. The guy who helps a girl out, time after time, while she laughs at him behind his back is a victim. The girl who gets psyched into sex by a guy who uses every trick in the book is a victim.

Men have a whole mythology which they use when they victimise women. They say things like:

"Oh they have to fight a little, but

they really love it." "Never women when she says 'no.'" "I will do it with somebody will anybody." "She's lucky I even her."

Sexual athletes don't have friends, they just have victims. Sexual athletes can be either male or female. What they count up as "score" victims count up in hate and resentment.

One way to avoid having victims is to have sexual relationships with your friends. If you can't do that, at least try to observe the rules.

1. Never assume: Never assume a girl can't get pregnant. She may be sophisticated. She may have been married and have two children. Assume she knows what she's doing at this particular moment.

She may have quit taking the pill three months ago when she was

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with her boyfriend, and she's too young to remember that.

She may be having a person who is not acting right now and not be thinking too much.

Don't assume. Ask. Ask before you go beyond the point of no return. If she's still young, always ask. If she blushes or mumbles something, don't take it as an answer. If you know her well enough to be getting into bed, you know her well enough to get that little point straightened out.

Don't tell her you've had a performance, or that you're sterile, unless you really are. You may not be gambling with your life, but you are gambling with hers.

2. Be honest about your intentions. If you're a one nighter, and you don't intend to be around, say so. If you're just looking for a good time, say so. If this is a girl you've just met and she agrees, you're in the same boat. If she's old enough to know her own mind, she's the victim even if it happens to her later that may be physically. You don't want to be physically because she may turn you down. She may.

3. Be fair: The girl is a human being, not a plastic doll for your convenience. She may have picked up a dose of something at the party two nights ago, but you're sure? She can always get a shot of penicillin, can't she? Maybe she can't and maybe she does it will be too late and she'll be permanently sterile.