
FOREWORD

Who Am I to Write this Book?

You might ask yourself, “Who is Dennis Yanke and is he qualified to write this book?”

It’s a very good question, and one I asked myself before I undertook the project. I don’t have a PhD in psychology, nor am I a marriage counselor. I can’t even claim to be minister of any church, although my father was. And yet, after much consideration and soul searching, I came to the conclusion that I am well qualified to write a book about what men want from marriage and how they can go about getting it.

Allow me to share a few of those qualifications:

- I’m a man, a husband and a father.
- I’m married—have been for more than 30 wonderful years—my wife, Pat, may not count as many wonderful years as I do. I have always loved and continue to love my wife.
- After all these years, my marriage is stronger and more meaningful than the early years. Those mundane issues we used to snap at each other about, such as hogging the covers, are now humorous to us. We are constantly affectionate and the sex is better than ever (a topic my children do NOT want to hear about).
- People have often said, “I can’t believe I told you that.” Men have told me that they’ve tried to be romantic but failed and don’t want to be burned again. Women have told me about

the times their husbands have tried and failed but would like them to try again. I've received endless compliments on what I have done for and with Pat, and many women, admiring our relationship, have asked me to write a book for their husbands.

- I've been a financial advisor for almost 30 years. Working closely with hundreds of couples has given me some incredible insight into the challenges of marriage and the importance of understanding each other's values in a society that tries to tear us apart.

Three things have become very clear to me as a result of my experiences:

1. Marriage breakdown is seldom a financial thing, even when it appears to be about money.
2. When a marriage breaks up, everyone suffers, both emotionally and financially.
3. Men want and need emotional and physical intimacy in marriage as much as women do—they just call it sex and often they don't know how to make it more than sex.

So, armed with my life experiences and an enduring belief in the potential of marriage to satisfy a man's deepest needs, I offer you some strategies and tactics for a more exciting, stimulating and sexier marriage.

CHAPTER ONE

Instructions...Please Read First

Most of the men I know, myself included, often skip the instructions. We jump right in and start putting the bicycle together before checking to see if those bolts that seem to be one-eighth of an inch too long really go somewhere else on the frame (where the shorter ones won't work). Sure, it might seem like reading instructions and planning a project beforehand is a waste of time. Jumping in, on the other hand, means action, tools and the appearance of progress. But let me assure you that your shortcut isn't productive and, in the end, some of the pieces you left out may be the pieces that keep your marriage together.

Let me start right here by saying that women are not bicycles, and the one project in my life I wish *had* come with an instruction manual is marriage—it would have saved me a lot of stress over the past 30-plus years. But I learned from every miss and mistake, and now I'm happy to say that marriage to the same wonderful, sexy woman, who put up with all of those blunders, could not be better.

Before we launch into the meat of this book, let's take a quick look at what you can expect in these pages and how you can make the best of what you'll read. You've picked up a book called *Love Your Wife...Get Better Sex* (or someone has picked it up for you). So there's a good chance that your marriage needs work, or at least a little more loving, a little more excitement, a little more sex. Or maybe this book caught your eye because you would like to make

your good marriage great. Either way, let's begin with a quick overview of the structure of this book so you know 'what goes where' and you can tackle it in the way that works best for you.

Chapters Two through Eight each address a particular strategy for creating the kind of physically intimate and loving relationship most men want and just don't quite know how to get. The beginning of each of these chapters offers some reasoning and background for the strategy, including examples of how our actions directly impact the results we experience in our marriages. By sharing stories and anecdotes from personal experience and that of friends and colleagues, I illustrate what works in a relationship and what doesn't...and (if possible) why.

The latter part of each chapter reviews what a particular strategy is intended to accomplish, and provides some practical tips for implementing the strategy in your own marriage. You'll also see a list of questions at the end of each chapter. The questions are designed to help you find your way through what is (most likely) uncharted territory and develop your own strategy for igniting passion in your marriage.

Finally, we wrap up each of these chapters with a look at the **Intended Results** of the strategy, and a discussion of some of the surprising and gratifying **Unexpected Results** that emerge as side benefits to the strategy.

In Chapter Nine, we revisit the reason for taking a more strategic approach to your marriage by considering the very substantial benefits that result, or what I like to call the 'icing on the cake.' For the truly 'clueless' husband, this chapter also offers a step-by-step example of how to seduce your wife—see the section "Seduction 101."

In the final chapter, Chapter Ten, you'll get a quick recap of the 7 Strategies for a Sexier Marriage and a few parting comments to help you get started on your own strategic union.

OK, let's start putting this marriage together!