

THE DUDESHIP

**MEN AND WOMEN CANNOT BE FRIENDS.
HERE'S WHY.**



THE QUESTION

We're not here to jerk you around. We're NOT here to answer a question based on commonly accepted social norms, and were DEFINITELY NOT here to tell you crap that you've already heard from Cosmo, Dr. Phil, or Oprah. What we ARE going to do is let you in on some common sense thinking that will help you sort through the B.S. that's been spoon fed to you by society, and give you the golden spoon to fling disgusting cafeteria food back at societies' misguided eyeballs.

If you've come this far, it means that you have a burning desire to answer the following question:

CAN MEN AND WOMEN TRULY BE FRIENDS?

If this subject is of no interest to you, if the opposite sex holds no power over you, if you have never been kept up at night trying to solve the unsolvable mystery of the sexes, then by all means put this book down, walk away, and go purchase a coloring book.

For those of you who choose not to continue walking in darkness, proceed. From this point forward you can think of your former self as a blind person clutching at straws - we will not only hand you a straw but also show you how to find more straws than you could have ever imagined. Here is what we can promise that we will give you:

1. A practical, all-encompassing guide **to the various types of male-female “friendships”**. We will tell you which ones are good, which ones are bad, and how to spot the different types. Once we’re done with you, **you’ll have a PhD in the functioning of male-female friendships**.
2. A deconstruction of the “grass is always greener” tendency that we have as humans, a look at the various ways it manifests itself, and how to deal with it.
3. **A new language**. That’s right – you’ll never have to use the word “friendship” when identifying a male-female relationship ever again. Life is way more complicated than that, it’s time you had a language that understood this. You deserve it, and we’re going to give it to you.
4. **How to positively experience better, less confusing relationships with members of the opposite sex and, more importantly, with your significant other.**

So it's time to put down that coloring book, stop wondering if your significant other's friend secretly has a crush on him/her (the answer is YES), step out of the darkness.....and into the light of...

THE DUDESHIP.

HUMAN NATURE

The question of whether or not males and females can truly be friends has been around forever....well, at least since 1989 for sure (thanks, When Harry Met Sally). This question has been debated aplenty by the media, friends in coffee shops, boyfriends/girlfriends, etc. We understand it's a divisive issue, so rather than start right in on a subject that people disagree on, we're going to start by agreeing on some points. These are fundamental to human nature and, to us, are not debatable – except for those who insist on acting according to how the world appears to them, not how it really is. The following are the facts of life as we see them, and to us they are indisputable:

- 1) We are hardwired to be attracted to members of the opposite gender (before you refute this statement by saying “What about homosexuals?” – please see Fact of Life #2) Physical attraction is something we have absolutely no control over – we do have the willpower not to act on it, but we cannot control who we are attracted to.
- 2) **We will only be explicitly addressing the relationships of heterosexual males and females.** Though we recognize and respect the rights of people who do not subscribe to this, we will be expressing our points in terms of males who are attracted to females, and vice versa. This is not to say that the ideas expressed here cannot also benefit people from other walks of life, we are simply saying that we will be expressing our ideas in terms of straight men and women.

- 3) **A committed relationship (from now on referred to as a “CR”) requires some kind of emotional connection. To proceed from booty call to boyfriend/girlfriend requires something more than the physical. The physical attraction is black or white – we either find someone attractive or we don’t. If we don’t, we can’t take action to help ourselves find that person physically attractive. The emotional component is a huge gray area, and when the emotional connection weakens or starts to falter, there are means of action that can be taken to repair it. It is a malleable property, whereas physical attraction is not.**

- 4) **We will be writing from a man’s perspective.** We’re men. We can’t speak about women because we aren’t women. The fact is that we are men and we’ve been studying this topic for OUR ENTIRE LIVES. Ever since we were kids, we thought about this topic, and the topic has not ceased to interest us. And it likely never will.

NOW THAT YOU’VE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY PREPPED, LET’S MOVE FORWARD.

Table of Chapters. (Try clicking on them... its awesome.)

[Introduction](#)- Here you'll learn what a Dudeship is, and the different kinds of Dudeships that exist in the world(Don't worry if you don't know these terms, you'll be a pro in no time at all). You'll learn why Dudeships can hurt your committed relationship, and you'll learn how to identify them in the world around you. You'll be amazed at the kind of insight you will have into the relationships of your friends. It will truly astonish you. And them.

[The Scales](#)- Here you will learn a more accurate way of describing how attractive you or your friends think someone is. You'll learn how and why ratings can change over time, and more importantly, what it means for your CR as well as the relationships with other people in this world.

[The Relationship Market Value](#)- Here you will learn a framework for conceptualizing how much value you place in the relationships around you, and how to "increase the value" of some relationships, and deliberately decrease the value of the relationships that will hurt the relationship you really care about.

[The Always Bigger, Always Better Theory](#)- Here you will learn about the reasons people keep dudeships in their lives, and how to get more out of the relationships you're in.

The Dudeship Recovery Plan- Here you'll learn how to recover from dudeships and female dudeships in your life, as well as the life of your significant other. Dudeships hurt the relationship, and we want to do things that help the relationship... right?

The Law of Relative Assets- Here you'll learn that just because you have found out about dudeships, it doesn't mean that you or your significant other will be cut off from the opposite sex and live in a box without windows or doors.

The Category Complex- Here you will learn more about how the term "friend" has permeated our society and has confused people for so long! You'll not only have an answer to the age old question of "Can men and women be friends?", but you'll have an intelligent sounding argument for why you believe the things you do.

Concluding Remarks- Some final words about you, this book, and life in general.

THE ANSWER

Is it healthy to have “friendships” with people of the opposite gender when a person is striving to maintain a healthy, committed, romantic relationship?

Answer: Based on our aforementioned assumptions, NO.

Since human nature is that men and women are biologically attracted to each other, before the first words between two people of the opposite gender even come out, we are subconsciously establishing a baseline of attraction to that person (more on this later) on a basic, instinctual level. We all have certain characteristics that are more attractive to us - maybe your filter negatively reads short people, or chubby people, or people with glasses, but there is still a baseline level of attraction. And as you will see later, this filter can be overcome by time spent together, learning about each others' life, and general bonding (see Lesson on scaling.)

Remember: The number one predictor of the success of a relationship is proximity. We've expanded this to say “proximity AND emotional connection”.

So now we've got this girl who has just “filtered” a guy into what is commonly called the “friend zone”. Every guy HATES this term. Can I get an AMEN, brothers? Yeah? Cool. Moving on.

Unfortunately, this girl has not read this book, and now that this person is in the “friendzone”, they begin talking and getting to know each other, and develop a “friendship”. WRONG.

This is not a “friendship”. A friendship is a big broad terms that basically means we hang out, do stuff together, and talk about stuff. We, as a group of people have this big broad term that doesn’t address the SUBCATEGORIES. There’s more than one type of friendship. There’s the friendship you have with your mom, the friendship you have with your buddies at work, the friendship you have with your kid brother, the friendship you have with your significant other, the friendship you have with cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, EVERYONE. We have this ONE TERM to describe RELATIONSHIPS with ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE.

We are here to change this. We are here to finally come out and address the elephant in the room. The relationship between men and women NEEDS TO BE REDEFINED because it DOESN’T GIVE US A COMPLETE PICTURE OF WHAT IS GOING ON. This is ESPECIALLY TRUE when it involves males and females who are in CR’s with “friends” of the opposite gender. We are NOT TRYING TO REDEFINE THE WORD “FRIENDSHIP”. That word is forever rooted in our brain as something that we have been defining our entire life. We have no hope of redefining this word in a brief booklet.

So let’s make a new term.

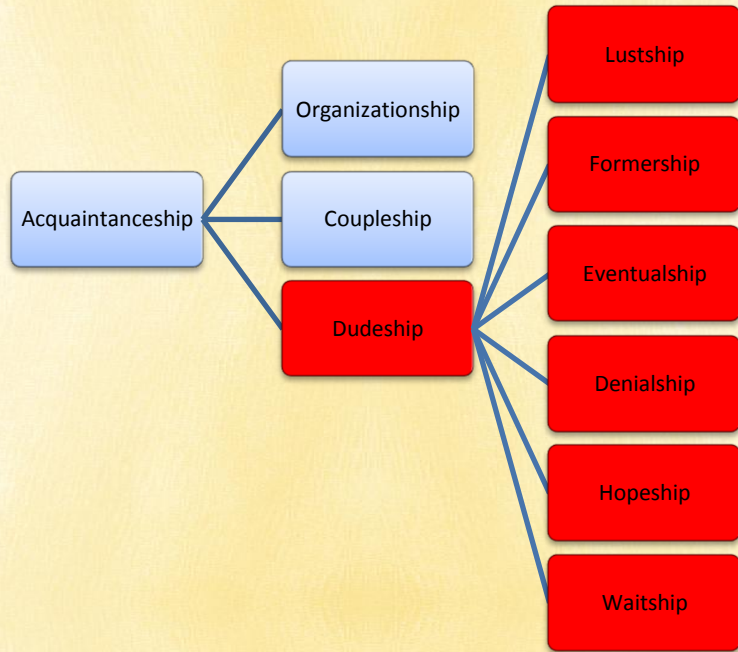
CHAPTER I

THE DUDESHIP

Our term is **“Dudeship”** . A Dudeship is simply any relationship between a man and a woman that isn't someone you've just met, work with, or see because of other external factors such as work, school, book club, etc. There are many types of **Dudeships**:

- **Lustship** - friendship in which one person just wants to get into the other person's pants.
- **Hopeship** - friendship in which one person secretly is hoping for something more.
- **Waitship** - friendship in which one person is single and is determined to "wait out" the other person's boyfriend/girlfriend and then pounce when they breakup.
- **Eventualship** - friendship that seems purely platonic right now but which, if continued, stands a good chance of a strong physical/emotion connection developing that leads to feelings sometime in the future.
- **Denialship**-A friendship between two people who vehemently deny that anything could ever happen between them.
- **Formerships**- A friendship between two people who used to date.

See Diagram on next page.



We all know these relationships. We've been in them, we've seen them. We've seen our friends in them, we've seen our friends deny that they were in them. We just haven't had a word to describe them all. Previously it was named "weird friendship" or "a friendship where something seemed fishy" or "friendship, but she's totally not into him" etc. It was a missing market. **Not anymore.**

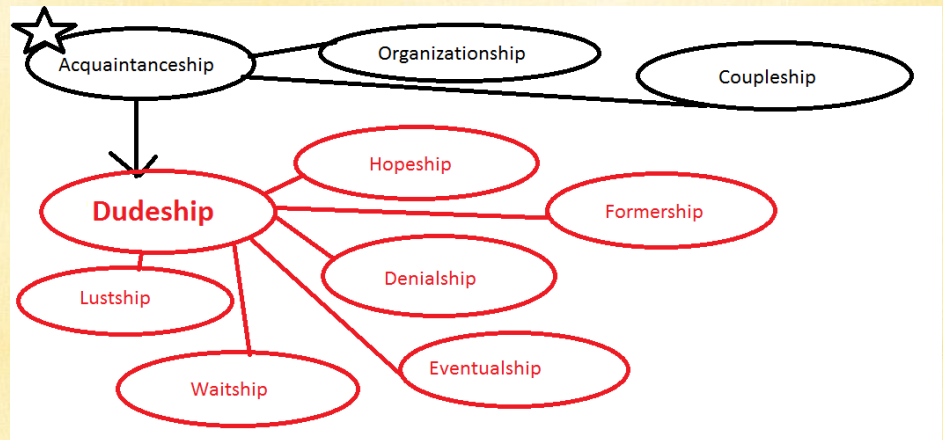
We have found the missing market.

We've also identified the term "acquaintanceship". Though we were hesitant to use the term at first due to the obvious negative and impersonal connotation of the word "acquaintance", the word has grown on us and we think it would be a useful term to describe healthy relationships between men and women that exist because of some external reason using this word. Note that an acquaintanceship is **not** a negative thing. In fact, it should be expected for a person to very much enjoy the company of their acquaintanceships. **However, once the reason to see the other person stems from internal reasons, it automatically enters a Dudeship.**

We've also identified the subcategories of acquaintanceships as coupleships and organizationship. A coupleship is where a couple is friends with another couple. An organizationship is where a person is friends with the opposite gender because they work together, are in a book club together, go to school together, etc. The key here is that these are all **external factors**. There are surely more subcategories of acquaintance ships – we will be relying on the experiences of our readers, as well as how much we have learned from now until the second edition. **Once an organizationship takes any step to cultivate the relationship outside of the organization it automatically becomes a dudeship. Same idea with the coupleship. Once the opposite sex individuals of the coupleship deliberately begin seeing each other outside of the coupleship, it becomes a dudeship.**

We believe that if two people are not dating, then a relationship with the opposite sex must be classified as either a dudeship or an acquaintanceship. The term friendship is reserved for only people of the same sex (ex. by our definition, a guy is only able to have a friendship with another guy)

After Acquaintanceship, for male/female relationships, one of the following two things must naturally occur. 1) romantic relationship, 2) one or more of the following(see below). If it fails to proceed into either of those two, then the relationship is still an acquaintance, which may(and should, in such cases where a CR is involved) last indefinitely, given two mentally balanced and self-aware human beings who understand these dynamics.



CHAPTER II

THE SCALES

Can a strong emotional attraction actually create a physical attraction? We say “yes” - but only to the amount of degree/level. Men find other males 0% attractive, but even men who don't have a strong attraction to a woman will still have some basic level of attraction to any other woman.

We use 3 scales to characterize how men and women see each other in this world. Is this scientific? Nope. Is it useful, practical, and help us to clarify the blurry picture that is male-female relationships? YES. (Put it this way... when was the last time you actually used $E = MC^2$? Ok... Now when was the last time you and your friends rated someone else on a scale of 1 to 10. ...Moving on.)

3 Scales:

Physical Attractiveness Scale: *How attractive you find someone based purely on physical looks.*

- We use a 0-10 scale. 0 is a man's attraction to another man. 9 would be the person considers the other person very physically attractive. 10 is the most attractive person you can ever imagine- there might be a 10 out there, but like Big Foot, remains to be proved unequivocally.

Emotional Connection Scale: *How emotionally invested/attached to the other person.*

- We use a 0-10 scale. 0 means you have no contact with the other person. 10 would be wanting to hang out all the time, love talking, investing in the other persons' life, wrapping up your happiness with the other persons' well-being. The idea here is that this scale climbs slowly from 0 upwards as you get to know the person better and better.

Combination Scale: *How you view the other person physically taking into consideration the emotional connection you have towards them.*

- As your emotional connection to someone climbs, your willingness to look past your initial ideas of how the person looks grows and grows. Also, as you get older, looks start to matter less and less as our values and goals in life change. The idea here is that this scale more accurately represents your inclination to be attracted to someone, and that it can fluctuate over time.

Example: If you start out with an acquaintanceship with someone and see them as a physical 3, after you develop an emotional connection and get into a CR with them your strong emotional connection would lead them to be a 6 or 7 on your combination scale. We are assigning an actual value to emotional connection. We can use these 3 scales to track relationships as they progress throughout a person's life.

Ultimately this goes to show that even if someone is not physically attracted to someone, the potential for a romantic relationship between a man and a woman is NEVER OUT OF THE QUESTION.

CHAPTER III

THE RELATIONSHIP MARKET VALUE

Every relationship we have is a living, breathing thing. We are able to feed it, ignore it, build upon it, or tarnish it. This is true no matter what the dynamic of the relationship - it applies to relationships with family members, friends, dudeships, significant others, etc. There are 4 major components that each of us has to give to our relationships in order to help them succeed - these 4 components are our relationship "assets." The 4 relationship assets are:

1. **Time**



2. **Energy**



3. **Attention**



4. **Affection**



1) Time - This is the simplest, most basic asset we possess. There is no relationship unless you make time for another person - whether that is the time to call someone, see them in person, or sit down and write them an email. We can't have 30 best friends because time is finite and there is not enough of it to sufficiently devote to that many people. Of the 4 assets, time is the strongest indicator of the strength of our relationships because we tend to spend more time with the people we feel closer to.

2) Energy - Where time is a finite asset, energy is not. It represents how we use our time with that person to enhance the friendship. 2 hours spent with a friend can take on many forms - it could be getting coffee, seeing a movie, going to a concert/sporting event, etc. Perhaps you don't want to see a particular movie but you know that your friend wants to see it very badly so you suggest going to see it - you are putting more energy into the relationship to ensure your friend's happiness. Energy also manifests itself in the small things that define a relationship - rather than just buying a birthday gift for somebody you put more thought into the gift, rather than send an email to say hello you send a link to something you enjoyed that you think your friend would enjoy also....essentially showing that your friend that they were on your mind.

3) Attention - We've probably all had people in our lives who "wait to talk" rather than genuinely listen to what you have to say. These types of people were not allocating much of their attention to their relationship with you. A healthy relationship requires both parties to be interested in the lives of the other person, and the attention asset measures this level of interest. Generally when you are not interested in what someone has to say, your attention to that person wanes - and indicates a lower score on the emotional connection scale.

4) Affection - Get your mind out of the gutter - affection doesn't have as much to do with physical affection as you are thinking right now. Affection relates to those emotional aspects of affection that make you think someone genuinely cares about you. While this does include physical affection - touching, hugging, etc. - it also includes sympathy and empathy. The emotional components of affection explain how you can have an affectionate relationship with a family member or a member of the same sex without actually having any physical affection with them.

Now that you understand the assets, think of your various relationships with people in terms of a stock in the stock market. To increase the market value of our relationships, we have to allocate more of the various assets toward these relationships. If we reallocate assets away from a relationship, its market value decreases. Whereas the Scales introduced to you the emotional connection scale, the Assets Chart shows you the factors that make up that emotional connection. It's important to understand that our assets remain the same regardless of whether the relationship is platonic or romantic, and that understanding the assets allows us to understand why some relationships are better than others and what steps we can take to strengthen ones that are weak and to even weaken ones that we don't want to be as strong (i.e. Dudships).

CHAPTER IV

**THE ALWAYS BIGGER, ALWAYS
BETTER THEORY**

Though men generally find other women attractive(think Britney Spears when you were 12) , and women generally find other men attractive(think Twilight), even within the context of a CR, it would be good to face this subject head on, instead of letting it be the elephant in the room. Since this is biologically natural, this is NOT A BAD THING. The “bad” starts to happen when those biological signals are acted upon in a counter-productive way.

Though men and women may find the opposite gender attractive, we have already concluded that there is MUCH more to attraction (in terms of a CR), and that the Combination Scale is a more accurate indicator of this dynamic. The question is- What are we to do with this natural attraction to the other gender?

We as people who are committed to their significant other need to understand and admit that there will always be someone with certain attributes that you may find attractive out there in the world. There is always someone out there with more money, taller, funnier, easier to chat with, someone who is a better listener, has family that is more fun, better looking, etc. but we make a conscious effort not to even let that person into our life to become a dudship and even come close to interfere with the relationship because we want to direct all our energy toward making our relationship with our significant other stronger, more healthy, and better equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead.

Two people recognizing and accepting the “Always Bigger, Always Better Theory” is the next level of a relationship. It gets two people “more serious” about each other and really hammers out whether or not they can spend “forever” with the other person. It shows the other everything they need to know. Can they make sacrifices? Can they get all their internal needs fulfilled from that one person? If not, are they coming together to work on how they can do so (growing together)? Can they show self-control (something hugely lacking in our 50% society [50% society means that our society has a 50% divorce rate... this is a joke, and makes a mockery of the idea of marriage, as well as the idea of a committed relationship.])

People all too often enter into a CR with an expectation of finding “the perfect mate.” Once it becomes apparent that the other person is flawed, or can’t live up to expectations, the Always Bigger, Always Better theory can lead that person to begin looking elsewhere for “the perfect mate.” It’s important to understand that much like Bigfoot – or a 10 on the physical attractiveness scale – “the perfect mate” does not exist. Rather, it is something that is realized over time.

Ideally, we would be able to treat other men as brothers, other women as sisters, etc. however, that is not reality. By dealing with this reality, in fact, we are making the dynamic between men and women even MORE positive, because it ELIMINATES CONFUSION. By eliminating this confusion and telling the person of the opposite gender upfront that the relationship is not going to proceed into a dudeship, then the two people can begin a positive acquaintanceship where all parties involved feel good about the relationship. Interestingly, **when we accept our biological traits**, we can come even closer to being able to treat other men like brothers, and women as sisters, etc. because we are making a conscious, deliberate decision to do so.

CHAPTER V

THE DUDESHIP RECOVERY PLAN

Is the term “dudeships” scientific? No, it’s really not. But this wasn’t written to be a science textbook, or a “Psychology Today” article. This started with one, singular purpose in mind-

Improve the quality of our committed relationships.

Well, it worked so well that everyone we shared it with told us to put in a book. So here we are! Let’s get one thing straight- We are not here to box you in to a bunch of “relationship rules” that you need to follow in order to “get the most out of your CR”, or to make your marriage “cheatproof”. Rather, we just want to bring to light something that didn’t make sense to us in our lives, and something that when we found out what it was, lots of things in the world suddenly made sense. It was literally THAT profound for us, and we hope that it will be for you as well. The implications for your life will be unique and will help you to further define you as the unique individual you are. This we can promise. To make good on this promise, let’s answer a few basic questions so that we can develop a context for the later ideas in this book...

By answering these two questions, and then that big third one, we are identifying our values. This is huge because our values make up a giant portion of who we are. In our specific case, it will help you to construct a framework for the later ideas expressed in this book. Maybe you can think of it as the “foundation” of how you are going to approach romantic relationships in your life. Think of it this way- Unless you know the destination, there’s no way you’ll know how to get there. Like a teenage driver without mapquest, you will be lost in a culture that **does not have your best interests at heart**. Lucky for you, you’ve got us.

Here are two questions we've picked that can help iron out the way you think about romantic relationships-

- 1. Who you are-** Are you married? Are you in high school? Are you single? Have you been dating someone for a few weeks? Do you date many people at once?
 - All of these questions help you to identify your relationship with the “significant other(s)” or lack thereof in your life. Maybe you're still looking for one of these, GREAT! By reading this book, you're going to have the little known knowledge to know how to get the most out of it.
- 2. What are your values-** Do you believe in finding and staying with one partner for your entire life? Would you rather “sow your oats” for the first 20 years of your life, then “settle down”? Do you want to have relationships with many people over your lifetime, and see committed relationships as a relationship of convenience? Are you religious? What do your beliefs tell you about marriage or life partners, if any?
 - All these questions help you to identify the value you place on the romantic relationship(s) that you have/want in life.

By combining these two questions, we get this question-

How do my values affect my ideas about what I want out of a romantic relationship?

If you are a swinger, then the ideas expressed in this book may not be as profound for you as they might be for someone who is dedicated to finding someone they want to spend the rest of their life with (soul mate, true love, etc), and to make that relationship the best it can possibly be for both people. Now we're not here to bag on swingers. To each their own... We're just saying that this text for swingers might be like a fat dude who just bought a donut AND a diet book. It just doesn't make sense, and it'll look kinda weird to everyone else watching.

On the other side of things, maybe you're in a committed relationship and you sometimes get jealous of other men in her life... or maybe you're a woman and you get jealous of the other girls he has in his life... (newsflash... THESE ARE **NORMAL FEELINGS NOT TO BE SUPRESSED**). But before you storm away to text or call or show up at the door of your significant other, or your significant others' girl/guyfriends, let us perhaps suggest a different approach. After all, the difference of how we deal with these perfectly normal feelings defines who we are, our maturity level, and our character. Here are the ways you can deal with this-

- 1) Storm to her/his door, start yelling at her, and in so doing ruin the relationship with someone you care deeply for.
- 2) Bottle these emotions up inside of you until you are red in the face, and THEN blow up at some hugely inconvenient time such as a family reunion, or perhaps a quiet, fancy, Italian restaurant.

OR, the alternative...

**3) Approach the subject assertively, objectively,
and lovingly by:**

- 1. expressing the kind of relationship you want,**
- 2. why you want that kind of relationship, and**
- 3. what can be done(if he/she wants to) to attain and
preserve this kind of relationship.**

Step 1) Expressing the kind of relationship you want.

You want exclusivity in the relationship physically **and** emotionally. Not preserving the emotional intimacy of the relationship has often been the precursor to affairs. By getting needs fulfilled elsewhere, you are increasing your emotional connection to someone else, which isn't fair to you, your CR, or the relationship you two share. At its most basic level, it is a betrayal that over time can erode the relationship. It's kind of like forgetting to hit the gym. Forgetting once isn't all that bad, but if you forget on a regular basis, you won't be in the kind of shape you want to be in. You get one shot at life, don't you want your relationship with the person YOU chose to be YOUR significant other to be the absolute best it could possibly be?! Exactly.

Step 2) The reasons for why you want this kind of relationship.

Like we said, if you're a swinger, or a player, or some other kind of seeker of relationships that hides your insecurity, this section is going to look a LOT different than if you're like us- looking for that special someone to spend forever with. Expressing to your significant other that this dudeship-free relationship you want will do a number of fantastic things for you. In fact, you're likely to go to sleep tonight with a giant grin on your face because of how amazing your other half thinks you are. Here's what this'll do for you-

- You'll be sending all the right signals clearly and concisely. You will be telling him/her that you are not willing to half-ass your relationship. This shows that you care deeply for this person and aren't willing to compromise on either of your happiness.
- Shows that you want to be in this for the long-haul.
- Shows that you are amazingly perceptive about your environment, and will likely be regarded as a local hero for "calling it like you see it".
- Put simply, your significant other will have gained IMMENSE amounts of respect for you for taking the relationship seriously. Either that, or they will choose their dudeships over you. That should be a pretty clear indicator of where you fall on his/her priority level in this world. **Be warned**- calling it like you see it has not always worked out great for people, but they tend to go down in history as some of the greats- Galileo, Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, are all people who were persecuted for seeing things for how they really are. But hey, it's them who we read about in school, not the shmucks who go with the flow of the world. Decide who you want to be, and be it.

Step 3) What can be done to attain and preserve straightforward relationships with everyone in your life.

Cut out the dudeships and female dudeships in your life, YESTERDAY. Don't cold-turkey people because that's just mean. Instead, work towards, and don't compromise in shifting those dudeships and female dudeships back into the safe zone of acquaintanceship or organizationship or coupleship zone. Don't just let people into your life as if you were a 7/11 convenience store. You want to be more of a Costco- lots and lots to offer, but only people with a membership get in. My bet is that you're lots better than a 7/11. Be the Costco.

What does this look like in the real world? It means don't be the person at work where everyone knows every gritty detail of your life. Don't be a gossip. Go out of your way to make sure your significant other is included in things in your life and not out of the loop on stuff. After all- theoretically this person is your best friend. Well... act like it! If you meet someone who is of the opposite gender, and they seem like a person you want to get to know- why not get to know them together with your significant other? If you have only innocent motives, then this shouldn't be very difficult. If you want to keep your significant other out of that relationship... then red flag. In fact, re-read this entire book until you have it 100% committed to memory.

CHAPTER VI

THE LAW OF RELATIVE ASSETS

Law of Relative Assets (LORA)

This law has been created in order to address the grey areas in life. We understand that life is complicated and complex, and sometimes things such as emergencies and special circumstances come up. An old friend is in town and she calls you up to go to lunch. She invites your girlfriend also, but she can't come. Can you still go? An old fling of yours was travelling through town. Her car broke down and she has no other friends or relatives in the area. Are you allowed to help her? For this reason we have created this law.

The Law of Relative Assets states that **the specialness of someone in your life is directly proportionate to how much time, energy, attention, and affection that you give them RELATIVE to other people**. For example, if someone's job is time consuming, but a vast majority of the free time available to the person goes to their significant other, then clearly that person is important in that person's life.

We're not saying you need to quit your job in order to devote more time to your girlfriend or boyfriend, but rather to say that the four relationship assets are relative. If my CR has an infinite amount of time to give to people, then it's not special anymore. But if she only has a little bit of time, and chooses to spend it on me, viola! I feel special. therefore, to have cross-gendered acquaintances is fine because relative to the time, attention, affection, you spend with your CR, it doesn't even compare. That is the absolute foundation of a relationship(the exclusivity and specialness of that one person).

There is one important amendment to the LORA:

The invite or request can never be exclusive, or it becomes void. For example, if the old friend wants to hang out with you and only you and does not want to invite the other person in the relationship, then this law does not apply. The other person in the relationship should always be allowed and encouraged to come, and only when he/she doesn't want to, or cannot for some reason would it be ok to apply the Law of Relative Assets to a situation.

CHAPTER VII

THE CATEGORY COMPLEX

We started with a few funny terms, and when it grew into lots of funny terms, we had found that we had accurately portrayed nearly every possible way we can have relationships with the people in our lives. This is profound because as we all know simply by living our lives, WE ARE AN OVEREXPOSED SOCIETY. OUR ATTENTION IS POUNDED EVERY DAY BY MEDIA, PEOPLE, AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH MOTIVES THAT USUALLY DO NOT ALIGN WITH OUR NEEDS/WANTS. The crux of the matter is that we have too many confusing relationships to the people around us, and we usually have no idea how to categorize them, so we settle with using a term that doesn't give us the full picture (when the microscope came out, people came up with new terms to describe what they saw, now these terms are commonplace i.e. cell.)

Categorizing relationships helps because it gives us patterns so that we can live our lives less confusingly and will allow us to concentrate our "assets" on the things that matter most in our lives. For example, because of categorization, I know that the category "boss" should be treated with respect. This way, I might get a promotion. In the same vein, "old people" should be respected because they know lots of stuff, and their wisdom could be helpful to me.

Additional categorizations that we use in our day to day lives include:

The category “babies” should be treated with care because they are fragile.

The category “rabid dogs” should be treated with caution because we know they are dangerous.

These examples are just to refute the people out there saying “but I want the freedom to not have to categorize every little thing in my life! By living like a hippie I get to invent a fantasy world where I don’t have to do things like face reality.” To these people we say, you already categorize on a subconscious level, we’re merely giving you a choice... so as far as freedom goes, we’re your **freaking founding fathers**, duuuude.

CHAPTER IX

SOME CONCLUDING REMARKS

Lets be clear... We're not advocating shutting yourself down emotionally to anyone but your CR. Being connected to a variety of people in this world is a necessity that we as humans universally recognize (except for hermits, of course.). This isn't even to say that you should not have fantastic relationships with lots of people, regardless of gender. But that's just it! It should be regardless of gender! If a guy talks to your girlfriend in a way that he WOULD NOT if you were around, that is either a dudeship, an ass hole, or a betrayal of trust. Same thing goes for you, bucko. If you're going around talking to girls in ways that you WOULD NOT if you're CR is around, then maaaaaybe you should reevaluate that behavior. Just sayin'.

Rammifications:

- 1) If your CR has a "friend", and they have conversations that have content that they don't want you to hear, that's a dudeship. If, when he/she describes him/her as someone who "opens up much more when you're not around".... Hmmm.. sounds pretty self-explanatory.

CONCLUSION

(VERY FINAL REMARKS)

We hope that the last few pages have opened your eyes and mind to the complex and complicated world of male-female relationships, and how they can negatively affect your Committed Relationship.

What we have given you are the tools necessary to identify and evaluate for yourself the effect of your relationships with the people around you.

We hope that at the very least this can help the discussion. That people in the coffee shops, the restaurants, the phone calls to friends, have the foundation to speak about the different kind of relationships they have to the people around them.

And most of all, as to see the world for what it really is, rather than how we want it to appear to us.

If not...

Enjoy the coloring book.