

how to understand women



Men think of them as unpredictable, flighty, and mysterious, but here is the low-down from one who ought to know—a woman.

with reason, and thought out each act of kindness rationally, half the beauty and spontaneity would disappear from this earth. Moreover, if wives were totally logical beings, would husbands love them more for it? Of course not.

Fortunately for all of us, women, like men, are creatures of emotion as well as reason; and women, like men, crave praise and acceptance and love.

No one denies that women express these emotional needs more often, more easily, and more violently. Years ago I heard a husband say, "I really envy my wife. When she gets mad, you know it! No ulcers for her! I only saw her frustrated once. We hadn't been married long when she blew up over something. She did it with a flourish: grabbed her purse, shouted 'Goodbye,' and slammed the door. The only hitch was that that particular door led into a closet, and there she stood in the dark, burning-angry and shamefaced."

That man was right! Most doctors

agree that the ability to release feelings in anger and tears is healthful. There is no mystery, however, in why women do it more easily. The reason is physiological and based on the production of female hormones.

There are a thousand other old wives' tales which husbands use to "prove" the imponderable nature of women. "Woman driver" is one; "tied to Mama's apron strings" is another. Statistics poke holes in the first, and a veritable army of GI brides and wives of men who must travel confound the second.

I'm not trying to plead that women are like men, however. They wear lipstick and love babies. They move furniture about and listen to soap operas. They sob at weddings. They love new hats and Christmas and anniversaries. In a hundred ways they differ from the men they marry. And thank God! These are differences we should cherish—differences sometimes vexing, often charming, but understandable always as an integral part of womanhood.

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