

Think Like
a Woman
to Get
the Love
You Want



SUZANNE VENKER

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By Suzanne Venker

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About the Author

SUZANNE VENKER is an author, speaker and relationship coach. For over 15 years, Suzanne has taught women how to succeed with men in life and in love. She's a leading voice for millions of women and men who know that a partnership with the opposite sex is superior to constant competition.

Suzanne's extensive research, combined with her sound and compelling arguments, dispel cultural myths that have infiltrated society and undermined women's most important relationships. She has helped women:

- embrace the way men and women are naturally wired
- prioritize marriage and relationships over career
- express their unique value outside the marketplace
- enjoy the power of their femininity in sex and relationships
- build a lasting, satisfying relationship with a man
- build a flexible career that accommodates the needs of children and family life



Suzanne is a former Fox News contributor and is currently [a columnist at the Washington Examiner](#). Her article, "[The War on Men](#)," is one of Fox News' most read op-ed in history. Suzanne's work has appeared in publications such as *Time*, *USA Today*, *Parents* and the *New York Post* and has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *The Atlantic*, *Forbes*, *The Huffington Post* and *London's Daily Mail*. Her TV credits include *Fox & Friends*, *STOSSEL*, *The View*, *CNN*, *ABC* and more. She has appeared on hundreds of radio programs throughout the country, and her work has been featured on "The Dr. Laura Program," "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" and "The Rush Limbaugh Show."

A former high school English teacher, Suzanne was born in St. Louis, MO, and graduated from Boston University in 1990. After ten years on the East Coast, where after college she made the unfortunate decision to marry the wrong man and subsequently learned what *not* to do in love, Suzanne returned to the Midwest, where she now lives with her husband of 22 years and their two teenagers, one of whom is in college.

<http://www.suzannevenker.com>

Endorsements

“Ms. Venker’s contribution to humanity, to families, to marriages, to women is huge.”

Dr. Laura Schlessinger

Author of six *New York Times* bestsellers, including *The Proper Care & Feeding of Husbands*, and host of one of the most popular talk show hosts in radio history

“Without being preachy or prim, Suzanne Venker extols femininity , domesticity, and—get ready—a considerate and solicitous wife to a good man.”

Christina Hoff Sommers

Resident scholar at AEI and author of *The War on Boys*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, and the groundbreaking book *Who Stole Feminism?*

“Suzanne Venker presents a refreshing guide to a happy marriage. The insights and advice she gives will save many marriages.”

Dr. Scott Haltzman

Distinguished Fellow, American Psychiatric Association, author of *The Secrets of Happily Married Women*

“... one of the most wise women in this country.”

Clayton Morris

Former weekend anchor for FOX & Friends on The FOX News Channel

“Venker brings a disarming dose of common sense to the arguments she forthrightly makes.”

Kate O’Beirne

Author, editor and former panelist on the political talk show, “The Capital Gang”

“Any young woman would benefit from Suzanne Venker’s practical and hard-headed advice on love, marriage and sex.”

James Taranto

Journalist and Editorial Features editor of *The Wall Street Journal*

“As women have gained more freedom, more education, and more power, they have become *less* happy.”— Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers

Why Love Is More Elusive Than Ever

This eBook will completely transform the way you think about men and marriage. If your goal is to find lasting love, or to find peace with the love you’ve already found, these pages will help you do just that.

There isn’t a woman in the world who doesn’t have skin in this game. No matter what you do for a living, whether you’re a housekeeper or a famous actress, we are all connected in this one way. All of us want the same thing.

To be loved. To be known. To be accepted.

Our day job is almost always secondary to this primary goal. No one says on their deathbed that work fueled their soul, that it understood them in a way no one else could, that they went to bed each night curled up with a great job. Yet to be a woman in America today, you’d never know this to be true.

Modern American women are some of the brightest and most accomplished women in the world. They outnumber men on college campuses and comprise the majority of the U.S. workforce, including in fields previously dominated by men. We call this phenomenon “the rise of women.”

But all progress comes at a price, and that is certainly the case here. For in the midst of all their hard-earned success, women forgot how to do something that used to come naturally.

They forgot how to love a man.

Gone is the soft, feminine creature who craved masculinity and who longed to find a husband and settle down. In her place is the hardened woman who prides herself on her fierce independence. She’s convinced she doesn’t need a soul, least of all a man. And she’s proud of it.

Sound familiar? If so, let’s see if one of the following applies to you. Are you a product of divorce or the child of an alcoholic? Was your father a cad? Was your mother aggressive and domineering? Was money scarce when you were growing up?

All of these circumstances have one thing in common: they instilled in you a deep sense of fear. Fear that you can’t trust anyone or anything, least of all love.

To make matters worse, you've been conditioned by the culture to never depend on a man. Women are supposed to take care of and to stand up for themselves at all times—even in their relationships with men. Especially in their relationships with men!

The result has been a profound shift in the way women approach men and marriage.

In 2012, [I wrote about this at FoxNews.com](#). I said women have been taught to view men as the enemy and as a result are defensive and angry. I said the attitude women carry with them permeates America and has created a bona fide gender war. That article amassed a boatload of feminist vitriol. Even Stephen Colbert couldn't resist chiming in.

But I'm not concerned with feminists. Or with media elites.

My sole concern is you.

Men and women have never been more at odds. Online dating is a \$2 billion industry, as professional matchmakers desperately compete to get men and women hitched. Even marriage is proving to be difficult for women. About 70% of divorce is initiated by wives.

Lasting love has never been more elusive.

The question is why.

The answer you'll hear from the culture is that women have taken their rightful place in society, and men can't handle it. They're threatened by the power shift and becoming bums as a result.

There's no question gender dynamics have changed, and this does pose a problem for marriage and relationships. But women's ambition, in and of itself, isn't threatening to men.

“Men know women are powerful, and we don't mind that one bit. It empowers us that you're empowered,” writes clinical psychiatrist Paul Dobransky, M.D. “Unless, that is, you disempower us in order to feel empowered.”

And there it is.

The Gender War

Ever since the birth of the sexual revolution, there has been a profound overhaul in the way men and women communicate and interact. Prior to that time, male and female nature was viewed as complementary. Each sex was viewed as bringing something of value to the table.

Then feminists came along to teach that equality means sameness, or interchangeability. Whatever one sex can do, the other can, *and should*, do—“should” being the operative term.

All those differences you see between the sexes, said feminists, are in fact social constructs with no basis in biology. Such differences can be easily deconstructed.

And with that one singular (yet bogus) idea, everything changed.

Today women no longer understand men, for they have not been schooled in male nature. They haven't received the type of advice or guidance—about men's sex drive being much greater than women's, for instance—women used to hear from their mothers and grandmothers. And if they're a product of divorce as well, they're really shooting blanks.

How can women know what they've never been told and what they've never seen modeled?

Ergo, women do the only thing they know how to do: put up their dukes. Armed with an "I'll get you before you get me" attitude, women let men know, in no uncertain terms, that a woman can do everything a man can do just as well. Better, in fact.

Prior to the feminist revolution, men had been respected members of society and prided themselves on their ability to provide for their families. And this was no small thing—a man's need and ability to provide is crucial to his identity.

Think of it this way. You, as a woman, are able to do something no man can: give birth. What on earth can top that? Nothing—it's miraculous. And men don't have this power.

I'm not suggesting men secretly long to give birth. I'm saying a man's ability to provide for the child he helped create is vital to his manhood. That's something he *can* do.

For most women—not all, but most—motherhood, or childbirth, is integral to *their* identity. Any gynecologist can tell you that most women, if they haven't had children by their early to mid-thirties, become extremely anxious. They cannot envision a life without children.

No matter how committed a woman may be to her job, that maternal desire is there. And when it's met, her nurturing gene will kick in. Providing for that child *emotionally*, not financially, will be her first instinct.

But feminists, via their powerful perch in the media, encourage women to eschew maternal desire in favor of something they believe is more valuable: work. Over time, work was elevated to an unreasonable degree, as though the marketplace can provide for women the same level of satisfaction, if not more, as marriage and family.

I have a secret to tell you.

It can't.

The truth is, you're replaceable at work. But you are irreplaceable at home. That's why your personal life, not your professional life, is a better investment of your time, energy and resources.

I think, deep down, women know this. Heck, even men are aware of women's value on the home front. They've been intimidated by it for centuries.

Oh, I know that's not what you've been told. You've been told that women are oppressed and that men have the better end of the deal.

What would it mean for you to discover that isn't true?

What would it mean for you to learn that men are good by nature and want nothing more than for the woman they love to be happy?

What would it mean for you to find out you're your own worst enemy?

In 2012, [media personality Terri Trespicio exposed this vein in a YouTube video](#), where she makes this bold admission:

Let me tell you, I have made my own dating life very hard for myself—and for the men who have dated me, for sure. I'm the first to admit I'm not easy. And part of the problem is that I have gone in trying to win. And this is a problem. My need to prove that I didn't need a man has actually not worked in my favor... I've had great success in the world functioning with a masculine model, and so one of the things I've been trying to do is get in touch with what that feminine side means. I believe there's a real strength in feminine power, and we're still trying to figure out what that is.

By “we,” Trespicio means women. And she's right—that is precisely women's dilemma. What women like Trespicio want to know is this: Can a woman retain her independence and still be traditionally feminine? Can she be strong in her own right yet still be vulnerable and even—yikes—be a nice wife who takes care of her man?

Yes and yes.

But to make it happen, you must navigate the world using two sets of skills: one for work, and one for love.

Let me say that again because it really is the whole enchilada.

You must navigate the world using two sets of skills: one for work, and one for love.

But first you'll have to let go. Of your desire to lead. Of your desire to be in control. And of your desire to have the last word.

Then you'll need a new set of tools. Work is about making money or having power and influence—marriage is about love. If you want to be successful in both arenas, you'll need to be able to switch gears. You need to take off your “I'm in charge” hat and surrender to love at home. (This holds true whether you're the boss at work or the boss of your kids.)

The reason so many successful career women are single or divorced is because they never mastered this delicate balance. And mothers at home are just as susceptible to becoming alpha wives since that role is a position of leadership too.

Where Have All the Good Women Gone?

You will also need a whole new attitude—a new way of thinking about men and marriage that will empower you to get what you ultimately want: lasting love.

You've no doubt heard women in the media lament the dearth of good men. And by “good,” they mean marriageable. Perhaps we should turn that concept on its head and ask where all the good women have gone. Because here's what most marriage-minded men want: an attractive, kind, confident and maternal woman who likes sex.

Here's what he too often gets: an attractive, self-involved, overly confident, strong-willed career woman who loves sex until she gets married. Then her sole focus becomes her work and the kids.

So when women ask, as a nation, where all the good men have gone, they need only look in the mirror. It is they who've created this mess.

Men who've been repeatedly told women “don't need a man” tend to lack purpose and either retreat from society altogether or marry and hope for the best. But if they continue to feel superfluous, I guarantee you it will lead to risky behaviors and/or a complete lack of ambition.

Risky behaviors such as alcohol and drug abuse, gambling, porn addiction, etc. are relationship killers. So is a man's lack of drive.

It is a fact of human nature, grounded in evolutionary biology, that women want to marry men who are at least, if not more, more successful than they are. There's even a name for it. Hypergamy.

Ten years ago, *Forbes'* staff writer Michael Noer took a lot of heat for identifying this phenomenon in an article entitled “[Don't Marry Career Women](#).” He writes, “A recent study

in Social Forces found that women—even those with a feminist outlook [italics mine]—are happier when their husband is the primary breadwinner.”

Anthropology professor John Townsend published similar findings in *What Women Want—What Men Want*. After completing a copious amount of research on gender preferences and the effect of employment on marriage, Townsend himself was surprised to learn (having grown up in the heyday of feminism) this fact:

The happiest marriages are those that are more conventional in nature.

A conventional marriage, by today’s standards, does not mean the wife never works outside the home or the husband never does the diapers and the dishes. All it means is that the wife doesn’t compete with her husband for the role of primary breadwinner and the husband doesn’t become Mr. Mom.

When husbands and wives attempt this full-on role reversal, when they swim *against* the tide rather than with it, most wind up frustrated and angry. There are exceptions to this rule, but it is still the rule.

Yes, wives want their husbands to be involved on the home front; and yes, many husbands like it when their wives earn a living. But most men have no desire to *rely* on their wives’ incomes. And a husband who’s overly domestic, particularly if it translates to earning less money, is by nature a turn off for women. There [have even been studies that show an egalitarian marriage translates to less sex](#).

Two Kinds of Power

In 2009, The National Bureau of Economic Research published a finding from a paper entitled “[The Paradox of Declining Female Happiness](#)” that befuddled many writers and journalists. Here is that finding: **“As women have gained more freedom, more education, and more power, they have become less happy.”**

That may sound counterintuitive, but it isn’t.

Women have been living with a false paradigm. A paradigm is the lens by which you view the world and the people in it. It’s the attitude you carry with you, which in turn governs your choices and behavior. If the paradigm is flawed, your life will be flawed too.

There are two kinds of power a woman can wield in the world. The first kind offers prestige and a paycheck, but it also means a lot of burnout. That’s what happened to Erin Callan Montella, who was once the highest-ranking woman on Wall Street as CFO of Lehman Brothers.

In her book *Full Circle*, Erin recounts her path of achievement and explains how she allowed the demands of her career to become the center of her life while sacrificing all other priorities and relationships along the way.

Erin's story reveals the ugly realities of a work-centric existence. And yet, by all accounts, she is considered a success story. That's because the culture we live in encourages women to follow a path like Erin's and to ignore not only the fallout of such a lifestyle but the inevitable despair it can bring.

By prioritizing work over love, twenty-something women walk away from perfectly good men—making it hard to find what they're looking for later—and often postpone motherhood until they can literally no longer conceive.

Ergo, women are living with the consequences of a false paradigm.

Men too are susceptible to putting work before love, but the realities are less harsh for them. Men don't have a biological clock and can always marry a much younger woman. Call it unfair if you will, but there it is.

The second kind of power that exists in the world does not offer prestige or a paycheck. But what it does offer is far richer in value.

It's your feminine power.

Feminine power isn't fleeting, nor is it something that can be taken from you. On the contrary, it's just sitting there for the taking! Not using it is like flushing a million dollars down the toilet.

What does it *mean* to be feminine? Primarily, it means being soft on the outside and strong on the inside.

As a man named Chuck once wrote my website: "A strong woman is awesome. But she must be inviting and be able to mesh into an actual relationship. Needing to dominate and overpower, that is a no go."

And from Jim: "Successful women are not intimidating to me. The problem is that many women are becoming too manly. I'd rather have an independent woman who is not clingy, but I usually find women who think I need a boss, thus negating my own independence."

And from Jonathan: "Be careful of trading any femininity to compete in the world. Surely needed, yes. But you're paying a price for it."

A woman's true power rests not in her ability to earn but in her ability to love. If you can master it, you'll be the richest woman in the world.

How to Shift Your Paradigm

So how do you do that? You begin by changing the way you think. Here are the three most important principles to help get you on your way...

1. **Recognize and accept that men and women are equal but different.** Love isn't nearly as complicated as you've been led to believe. There's the masculine, and there's the feminine. Feminine energy is the receiver of masculine energy. It's the dance men and women do.

It's our sex differences, our sexual *inequality*, that makes love work. Understanding how men and women differ from one another makes conflict avoidable. You no longer ask why your man does what he does. You know why he does it. He does it because he's a man.

That approach to love is far more liberating, and more fruitful, than the message about so-called equality. Men and women are as different as night and day, and these differences become magnified once people marry. The sooner you accept this fact, the happier you will be.

2. **Find your feminine.** Being feminine simply means being soft, flexible, vulnerable and kind. It means being soft on the outside and strong on the inside.

Being soft on the outside doesn't mean being a mouse. Men love women who are fun and feisty and who know their own mind! But they don't want a fire-eating dragon.

Men like women who are nice.

That sounds simple, but it isn't—not today, anyway, since women have been taught that being nice means being a doormat. That is not what it means.

Being nice is just being nice. The same way you're nice to your friends or to your coworkers. Why would you treat your man any different?

Men also don't like to argue with women.

What men want more than anything is peace. If you are hard, argumentative and dictatorial, you will never have love in your life. It's that simple.

3. **Change your definition of love.** The culture has failed you in this regard as well. To truly love someone and to be "in love" are two different things. We use the concept of being "in love" all wrong.

We aren't "in love" at the beginning of a relationship—we're enamored with someone, or we're infatuated with him or her. That's not the same thing as loving that person.

Feeling enamored with someone never lasts, as much as we'd like it to. (It's fun! It's new! It's exciting!) But this feeling can lead to love over time, which in the end is much better because, unlike the infatuation period, love lasts. Or at least, it has the potential to last.

Love isn't something that happens *to* you. It is something you do. Love is nothing more than a giant exercise in getting over yourself and focusing on someone else for a change.

The pro-feminist culture in which we live is antithetical to love because its focus is exclusively women: women's needs, women's wants, women's desires, and women's rights. Love can't possibly be sustained with an attitude like that.

When the focus is on you and not on him, love is unsustainable. Make *him*, not you, the focus.

If you want love in your life, you *must* change the way the culture has taught you to think about men and marriage, life and love.

"If you want to be loved unconditionally, writes *New York Times* bestselling author Dr. Wayne Dyer, "practice loving unconditionally. Be what it is you're seeking."

Instead of waiting for your man, or for any man, to be who you want him to be, *be what it is you're seeking*.

And then see what happens.

Thank you for reading this guide. I wish you luck with your romantic endeavors!

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