

CHAPTER 28

THE INNERMOST SECRETS THAT A.C. MEN AND WOMEN WISH EACH OTHER KNEW

I. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS BASED ON MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN COUNSELLING YOUNG SINGLES AND AMBASSADOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.

A. These are feelings and thoughts about dating and personal relationships that multiple scores have privately expressed.

B. It is my earnest desire that these secrets will strengthen and enhance your social life.

II. THE INNERMOST SECRETS OF AMBASSADOR CO-EDS.

1. Please learn how to properly ask for a date and I'll be more eager to accept.

a. First of all, some common mistakes that are frequently made:

1) "What are you doing tonight?"

2) "I didn't have anything else to do, so I thought I'd ask you out."

3) "I can't find anyone to go to the beach with me, so I'm asking you."

4) "So-and-so backed out on me and I need a date."

5) "You're the tenth girl I've asked to go to the dance — I hope you can make it."

b. Other wrong approaches.

1) Asking a girl for a date in the presence of others, such as at meal time in the Student Center.

2) Singling one girl out in a group, thus catching her off-guard.

3) Hurriedly asking while rushing to class.

c. The proper way to ask for a date is approach her privately and then give her a way out.

1) For example: "My parents have just arrived in town and would like to go to the Velvet Turtle for dinner. If you're free, we would very much enjoy having you to go with us." If she accepts, explain that Sabbath dress will be fine and you'll pick her up at 6 o'clock.

2) "May I have the honor of escorting you to the Sophomore Ball?"

3) "A week from Sunday a group of us is going to Disneyland. If you're available, I'd be delighted to have you go with me."

d. The key to remember is never put the girl in an awkward or compromising position.

Always leave her the option of declining gracefully. She may have other plans or reasons that she may not want to reveal.

2. I know that leading the conversation may be difficult, but I really admire you when you try.

a. Don't force her into an uncomfortable role where she must take the initiative.

1) Some girls are more verbal and will naturally fill in if there's a gap.

2) Later, they feel guilty and are afraid they've made a bad impression of being too talkative.

b. It's your God-given responsibility to take the lead.

c. The main thing to avoid is long periods of silence.

d. Try always to have in mind four or five subjects to fall back on in case this happens. In other words, always be prepared.

e. Use questions to help draw her out, but don't get too personal.

1) Avoid close-ended questions that require only one-word answers.

2) Try to establish topics of common interest.

f. Endeavor to insure that the conversation is equally balanced, with give-and-take between you.

3. I would rather you encourage, console and comfort me than lecture or preach.
 - a. When a fellow quotes a lot of scriptures and corrects a girl, she becomes upset and defensive.
 - b. She doesn't resent helpful counsel, but recoils when treated like a child or put down and made to feel inferior.
 - c. She basically already knows the cause of her problems and doesn't need to be dissected and analyzed.
 - d. Sometimes the best thing a man can do for a woman is to make her feel safe, sheltered and secure.
 - e. She doesn't need an intellectual tongue-lashing, but rather tenderness and understanding.

4. I wish that you'd be more observant and aware of my physical comfort and well-being.
 - a. This kind of polite and courteous treatment lets her know that the man feels responsible for her welfare.
 - 1) Here is a major reason why the ERA was started — women have been neglected, treated with indifference and left to fend for themselves.
 - b. Typical examples in everyday life.
 - 1) Loaning her your coat when she's shivering and cold.
 - 2) Closing the door if the wind is blowing and chilly.
 - 3) Rolling up the car window so her hair won't become disheveled or windblown.
 - 4) Making sure that your date keeps up with you in a crowd, even if she has to take your arm.
 - 5) Opening and closing doors for her.
 - 6) Realize that it's difficult for her to walk long distances in high heels.

5. I'm very impressed when you're original or creative when planning a date.
 - a. Girls don't enjoy duty dates where the men feel obligated to take them out.
 - b. What pleases them is when special thought and planning have gone into the occasion.
 - c. They're impressed when he has given attention to all the necessary details.
 - 1) Location and type of date.
 - 2) Transportation arranged.
 - 3) Proper dress to wear.
 - 4) Etc.
 - d. If the date was made days or weeks in advance, follow through with a reminder so she will know you haven't forgotten.
 - e. This kind of leadership indicates you're fully in charge and will dispel all her worries.

6. I truly enjoy going for walks.
 - a. Almost without exception, every girl shares this desire.
 - b. She'd like to take a break, get out of the dorm and go for a stroll under the stars.
 - c. Such walks don't have to be romantic, just a time to enjoy wholesome fellowship and good conversation.
 - d. Some have remarked that simple, spontaneous walks mean more to them than elaborate, formal occasions.
 - e. These walks can be brief — around the block, or a stroll through the campus.
 - f. The conversation need not be heavy or overly serious, but fun-loving, enjoyable, and refreshing.
 - g. Picking a little flower along the path is a symbol of your thoughtfulness — she often packs it away. (One girl confessed that she has a two-year-old dead rose in her office!)
 - h. A word of caution — don't overdo this or make a nuisance of yourself.

7. Please realize how important a sincere compliment is to me.
 - a. A woman wants to be beautiful to a man. A compliment from him means twice as much as from another female.
 - b. When she's taken extra pains to look nice, she'd like to know that he notices.
 - c. The man, therefore, should thoughtfully take note of the time and effort she spends to look attractive and beautiful.
 - d. Don't flatter her — she can readily see through this.

- e. A sincere compliment is spontaneous, but if your remarks are belabored, drawn out and icky sweet, then it's flattery.
8. Please don't force me to be curt and defensive by coming on too strong.
- This tendency can show itself in a number of ways.
 - Getting physical.
 - Dogging her around campus.
 - Making a general nuisance of himself.
 - Getting serious on the first date or two.
 - Becoming possessive and jealous.
 - Asking for too many dates.
 - Wanting to sit with her at every meal.
 - Make it a goal to develop solid friendships and don't get carried away.
9. Being a leader doesn't mean macho or domineering, but rather being responsible, mature and caring.
- For a man to throw his weight around, give orders and act self-righteous, is a giant turn-off to the woman.
 - Such arrogance and egotism destroy her respect for him.
 - This is especially important to remember if you are a student leader.
 - Use your office or authority to protect her — not to crush her.
 - Give her credit for having a brain to think with and God's Holy Spirit to guide her.
10. Please don't misinterpret my emotional highs and lows, or changing moods — they are not intentionally directed at you.
- Men often wonder why a date can go so well, only to find the next day, she's cold, unfriendly and distant.
 - There may be several reasons for this.
 - She's afraid that if she acts too friendly, he'll mistake her motives as a "come-on" and start pursuing a relationship.
 - If she truly likes the man, she wouldn't want him to know in million years.
 - In the meantime, there may be any number of experiences that could have upset her attitude or outlook.
 - Insufficient sleep.
 - A run-in with a roommate.
 - Bombed a test.
 - Mounting pressures.
 - Hormonal changes.
11. Please try to understand that I'm terribly sensitive and can be easily crushed.
- A woman is particularly vulnerable to sarcasm and cynicism or by the negative things he says.
 - Her nature is so constructed that she innately wants to please the man.
 - Any rejection, ridicule or displeasure on his part can be devastating.
 - She is especially sensitive to remarks against her personal efforts such as her cooking, appearance, athletic ability, etc.
 - Cite the example of the men who snickered and made fun of a girl's overcooked brownies.
12. If it appears that a serious relationship is developing, please be open and honest with me.
- This would apply mainly to upperclassmen or older students.
 - The man should never leave a woman dangling on a limb.
 - If for no other reason, he should take the initiative to clear the air and relieve her anxieties.
 - He should approach her in such a way that they can continue to be friends even if she isn't serious about him.

13. Please be sensible and realistic before you entertain thought of marriage.
 - a. The man should never get carried away when there, are obvious or irreconcilable differences.
 - b. Some examples.
 - 1) She is several inches taller than he.
 - 2) Age difference.
 - 3) Cultural or racial differences.
 - 4) Maturity and experience levels.
 - 5) Educational backgrounds.
 - 6) Goals and purposes.
 - 7) Personal tastes and preferences.
 - 8) Physical attraction (chemistry).
 - c. Other considerations are:
 - 1) His career — does he have a job nailed down?
 - 2) Financial ability to support a wife and family.
 - 3) Health.

14. I stand in awe of you when you make me feel special and treat me with respect.
 - a. You are a superstar in her eyes when you tailor-make your attention to her personal needs.
 - b. This requires forethought, consideration and a sense of genuine deference.
 - c. It involves expressing true honor rather than trying to impress her with your importance.
 - d. It's letting her know that you care, that you notice and that you're concerned about her feelings and welfare.
 - e. Show that you consider her to be important and she will melt with admiration.
 - f. Examples:
 - 1) Standing when she enters a room.
 - 2) Standing when she has to pass in front of you to find her seat in the Auditorium, in a theatre, bus or plane.
 - 3) Stepping aside so that she can easily pass on a sidewalk, in an aisle, etc.
 - 4) Giving out escort cards.
 - g. All in all, recognize her presence, uphold her dignity and treat her as a co-heir with Christ.

III. THE INNERMOST SECRETS OF AMBASSADOR MEN.

1. Try to understand how difficult it is for me to ask for a date.
 - a. A man's biggest problem in asking a girl out is the fear of being turned down or rejected.
 - b. She can make it doubly hard on him when she expresses cold indifference or a lack of enthusiasm.
 - c. A harsh and cruel rejection mortifies his ego, crushes his self-respect and discourages him from trying again.
 - d. If you must refuse a date, remember to let the man down gently.
 - e. Try to give a good reason when appropriate.
 - 1) "I really would have liked to go, but I already have plans for tonight. Please call again."
 - 2) "How thoughtful of you to ask me, but I've already been invited to the dance next week."
 - 3) "Thanks for asking, but could we make it some other time?" Or, "Could we make it in the future?"
 - f. There may come a time when the woman will need to get firm and direct if being harassed or imposed upon.

2. Make it easier for us to communicate by showing an interest and being responsive.
 - a. Conversation and fellowship should be a two-way street.
 - b. The man shouldn't be expected to talk nonstop.
 - c. Get involved and show enthusiasm.
 - d. Concentrate on giving him a good time.
 - e. Pick up on his thoughts and ideas and contribute to the conversation.
 - f. If you disagree with a topic or point, don't debate or challenge, but submissively present your views.

3. Try to appreciate how difficult it is to measure up to the ideal standard and be a perfect leader.
 - a. Remember that most AC men come here to learn how to be mature leaders — they may lack experience or confidence.
 - b. In the process of learning, they will probably make mistakes and commit blunders.
 - c. Try to be understanding and give him room to grow.
 - d. Don't be comparing him to older men with years of experience and expect too much.
 - e. Compliment him on his successes and help him to save face should he fail.

4. Realize how easy it is to wound a man's ego.
 - a. You can do this by being snitty, catty and making him feel like a lowly worm.
 - b. Some examples:
 - 1) Comparing him to other men.
 - 2) Coldly ignoring him.
 - 3) Cutting him down in front of others.
 - 4) Refusing to dance with him, then immediately accepting an invitation from someone else.
 - 5) Making him feel bad about circumstances beyond his control.
 - a. Being caught in the rain.
 - b. Car breaking down.
 - c. Protect the man's self-esteem to the same degree that you want him to treat you as a lady.
 - d. Try to honor and respect his role in every circumstance where possible.

5. Please learn to be more grateful for the money I spend and the effort I invest in a special date.
 - a. Often girls feel uncomfortable and guilty about A.C. men spending money on them.
 - b. They are also afraid that an expensive dinner out means being obligated to accept future dates.
 - c. However, the men generally do not think of it this way.
 - d. It's an instinct inbred in the man to want to provide and protect the fairer sex.
 - e. Therefore, they would like for you to acknowledge that they have made a special sacrifice and effort to give you a good time and make you happy.
 - f. A follow-up thank-you note, telephone call, or some other form of feedback is not only appropriate, but your Christian duty.

6. Try to be more consistent and predictable in your reactions and day-to-day disposition.
 - a. Realize the frustration, tension and dismay you can bring upon a man by your erratic behavior and changing moods.
 - b. Try to control emotional feelings and make a concerted effort to develop a cheerful, sunny outlook.
 - c. Work at levelling out the peaks and valleys in your day-to-day reactions and establish the kind of inner poise that men can feel comfortable with.

7. Please be flexible and self-controlled when plans fall apart or you encounter a crisis.
 - a. Not every date will turn out perfectly.
 - b. You will encounter some unexpected surprises or circumstances beyond anyone's control.
 - c. Your level of maturity will determine how you handle these trying situations.
 - d. Some examples:
 - 1) Your date's car breaks down on the freeway and you miss the play.
 - 2) You discover a run in your nylons as you enter the Auditorium for Church.
 - 3) The cleaners didn't get your dress back in time and you had to choose another one.
 - e. Don't lose your balance or perspective. Always keep the big picture in mind.

8. Girls don't seem to realize how they physically affect man.
 - a. A woman is the most beautiful creature on earth to a man.
 - b. But, unless she is circumspect in her dress and conduct she can be a distraction and stumbling block to him.
 - c. Things to watch for and avoid:
 - 1) Plunging necklines.
 - 2) Unbuttoned blouse near the top (this is especially distracting when leaning over).

- 3) Tight skirts and sweaters.
 - 4) Contoured, snug-fitting jeans.
 - 5) Shorts worn in open and public places.
 - 6) Bikini bathing suits.
 - 7) Slit in skirt — knees exposed when sitting.
 - 8) Putting her head on the man's shoulder or nudging up too close.
 - d. The key to remember is to be modest and discreet in all circumstances of your life.
9. My attraction for you heightens when you dress like a lady and take pride in your appearance.
- a. What you wear and the way you wear it does count with a man.
 - 1) Don't be exotic, but keep up with the fashions of the day.
 - 2) In this regard, quality of clothing is of greater importance quantity.
 - 3) Your apparel is a reflection of your self-image.
 - b. Watch your weight.
 - c. Adopt a becoming hairstyle.
 - d. Simple jewelry and subtle perfumes are appealing.
 - e. In a man's opinion you are far more feminine and attractive when you wear a dress or skirt.
10. Realize that you are truly beautiful and feminine when you show inner charm, refinement, and culture.
- a. This has to do with having a high sense of values, inner confidence and being able to conduct yourself in a graceful charming manner.
 - b. It's another way of describing the Proverbs 31 woman.
 - c. It involves having a keen sense of awareness of others and being tuned into their needs.
 - d. This quality gives evidence of the woman's conversion, her fear of God and the way she views her role in society.
 - e. Such a lady will not be boisterous and clamorous, but rather gentle, kind-spoken and courteous.
11. Please realize that I'm deeply flattered and honored when you call on me for help.
- a. It's instinctive for a man to rescue a maiden in distress.
 - b. He secretly desires to be her hero — her knight in shining armor.
 - c. So please feel free to call on him — but don't abuse the privilege.
 - d. Some examples:
 - 1) Studying for tests.
 - 2) Qualified help with homework.
 - 3) Escort service.
 - 4) A friend to talk to when discouraged.
 - 5) Ideas for table topics or a speech.
 - 6) Move heavy objects.
 - e. Remember to be fair-minded, balanced, and considerate.
12. I highly respect you when you're up-front, genuinely, honest and don't play games.
- a. First of all, be yourself.
 - b. Don't try to impress the man or be hypocritical.
 - c. Let your true feelings and personality sincerely come through.
 - d. Don't lead a guy on if you're not really interested in him.
 - e. Give him feedback — what you like, or didn't like about a date.
 - f. Don't keep him guessing or left in the dark if you're upset about something.
 - g. If he's offended you, he would much prefer that you tactfully tell him the truth, rather than give him the cold shoulder.
 - h. Play the role of a true Christian sister and he will deeply appreciate it.
13. You have found the way to my heart when you understand true submissiveness.
- a. This is not meant to suggest or imply that you're to let him run your life or be his slave.
 - b. It has to do with an eager willingness of wanting to help him and to see him succeed in his efforts.

- c. It means standing beside him and being enthusiastically supportive — taking an interest in his goals and purposes.
- d. True submissiveness is expressed in your attitude toward the man and his God-given role.
- e. Learn how to show it in your day-to-day relationships and note how his attitude of respect toward you increases.

14. When contemplating marriage, physical beauty is not as important to me as conversion and radiant Christian character.

- a. To a deeply converted, sound-thinking man, your relationship to God is of supreme importance.
- b. He knows that if this is right you will be loyal and true to him throughout life.
- c. He will also know that you'll make a loving and responsible mother.
- d. Strive to let your light shine and become the right kind of example.
- e. Realize how important it is to a man when you show an interest in spiritual subjects.

IV. DEVELOP FRIEND-TO-FRIEND, BROTHER-SISTER RELATIONSHIPS.

- A. The best method of overcoming your tensions, conflicts and fears is to quit worrying so much about yourself and concentrate on helping the other to grow.
- B. Lose yourself in concern for the other.
- C. Put aside self-consciousness and resentments — be patient, tolerant and forgiving.
- D. Strive to be a sister or brother to each other in caring, serving and being helpful.
- E. Make it a goal to be a top flight Christian in your constant, daily life.
- F. First learn to express true agape love and you will be loved.

-END-

