

THE BOY BOOK

By John C. Havens

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CAST: SUE and JULIE

AT RISE: SUE and JULIE stand center stage looking intently at a book. They are staring at it with great amazement and curiosity.

In competition, the book can be mimed.

SUE: I can't believe this is real.

JULIE: Me either. My sister gave it to me and told me to only share it with my best friend. But we can't tell anyone about it, you understand?

SUE: I promise.

(They continue staring for a moment, pretending to flip pages.)

JULIE: Who would have thought that there was actually a secret book that told women everything they need to know about men?

SUE: I know. Look at the cover. "The Boy Book."

JULIE: This is so cool. Now I know why they say girls mature faster than boys.

SUE: It's because of this book.

JULIE: Cool. Well, let's read it. **(SHE takes the book from SUE)** Oh, here's a good chapter. "Phrases you have to use when turning down a guy for a date." **(SHE 'flips' pages)** "Wow, insert name, you're so nice. You're just like a brother to me" That's a good one.

SUE: Yeah. Let him down easy. Here, let me see it. **(takes book)** "I'd love to go on a date with you, insert name, but I'm hoping to get a phone call from this guy I like."

JULIE: Oooh, not too subtle, but effective.

SUE: Yeah. **(points to this one)** Hey, look at this one. It's bolded and underlined.

JULIE: It says something, too. "Only use in extreme circumstances."

(They read together)

BOTH: "I like you....as a friend."

JULIE: It says, "For maximum benefit, pause in-between 'I like you' and 'as a friend' to lead the boy on."

BOTH: Ooooooh.

SUE: This book rocks!

The Boy Book - Page 3

JULIE: Totally. Look, the book recommends doing some exercises for practice.

SUE: Like a workbook?

JULIE: I guess so, yeah. Here's the first exercise. "Playing hard to get."

Okay, do you want to be the boy or the girl?

SUE: I'll be the boy.

JULIE: Okay. You like me and I like you, Okay? But I pretend I don't like you to get you to like me more.

SUE: Is that what the book says?

JULIE: Yup.

SUE: That doesn't make sense.

JULIE: It's in the book.

SUE: Okay. All right, I'm gonna be the boy now. **(SHE turns in place and pretends to be a boy; SHE raised her shoulders and talks in a deep voice, pretends to be a dumb jock type)** What's up, Julie? Want to go out with me?

JULIE: **(reading from book)** "As if!"

SUE: **(as jock)** Well, I thought you liked me. Valerie Van Putten said you liked me during gym class.

JULIE: **(reading from book again)** "In your dreams."

SUE: But...

JULIE: **(reading from the book and putting her hand in the air)** "Talk to the hand, not to the face!"

SUE: **(back to SUE)** Wow, that was great! I felt like a total idiot!

JULIE: That's what the book said would happen! Do you want to try one?

SUE: Yeah, I'm the girl now. Okay, this next exercise is called, **(reading from the book)** "You know he's trying to ask you out, but you let him stammer on and on and suffer just for the fun of it."

JULIE: Gotcha. Okay, I'll be the geeky type. **(SHE spins around in place, becomes "nerdy")** Hi, Sue. **(sniffs, puts hands in pockets, looks around, etc.)** I was wondering if uh, you know, if you wanted to maybe...

SUE: **(reading from book)** "Are you talking to me?"

JULIE: **(as geek)** Uh, yeah. Like I said, I was thinking we could maybe...

SUE: I can't hear you.

JULIE: **(geek, a little louder)** I said I was hoping we could spend some time...

SUE: What's your point?

JULIE: **(geek)** Well, I was getting to that. I really like you, and I thought I saw you looking at me in Chemistry class yesterday, so I thought we could...

SUE: (**reading book**) "After you've made him sweat as long as possible, try to embarrass him as well." Okay. (**talking loudly**) Oh my gosh! ARE YOU ASKING ME OUT?

JULIE: (**geek**) Um, well, yeah.

SUE: (**flipping through book again**) Let's see, it says refer back to...oh yes, (**talking to geek**) Sorry, geek guy. I like you as a friend, but...

JULIE: (**as the geek guy, SHE screams**) AAAAAHHHHH!

SUE: That really works.

JULIE: Totally.

SUE: And it felt kind of good in a sort of cruel way.

JULIE: Well, girls have it tougher than boys. We have to wait until they ask us and if we don't like the guy we have to feel guilty for saying no.

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