



It's a guy thing

June Bowen

Women, you think you know what guys want. But according to the guys, not so. It's time to get a clue. Walk through these relationship secrets, gathered from psychologists who study gender roles.

Men Will Talk About Feelings

It may be easier for your man to talk about feelings indirectly. Ask what he'd do during a romantic weekend. Or what he thought the first time he met you. His answers will reveal how he feels and bring you closer.

Men Say "I Love You" With Actions

Some men prefer to express their feelings through actions, rather than words. Your guy may say "I love you" by fixing things around the house, tidying up the yard, or even taking out the trash - anything that makes your world a better place.

Men Take Commitment Seriously

Men have a reputation for being afraid to commit. But the evidence suggests men take marriage seriously. They may take longer to commit because they want to make sure they are onboard for good.

He Really Is Listening

When you're listening to someone talk, you probably pipe in with a "yes" or "I see" every now and then. It's your way of saying, "I'm listening." But some guys don't do this. Just because a man isn't saying anything doesn't mean he's not listening. He may prefer to listen quietly and think about what you're saying.

Shared Activities Form Bonds

Men strengthen their relationships primarily through shared activities, more than by sharing thoughts or feelings. For many men, activities like sports and sex make them feel closer to their partner.

Men Need Time for Themselves

While shared activities are important, men also need time for themselves. Whether your guy enjoys golf, gardening, or working out at the gym, encourage him to pursue his hobbies, while you make time for your own. When both partners have space to nurture their individuality, they have more to give to each other.

Men Learn From Their Fathers

If you want to know how a man will act in a relationship, get to know his dad. Some say men learn about their relationship role by watching and listening to their fathers. How they are with each other and how the father relates to the mother can predict how a man will relate to his wife.

Men Let Go Faster Than Women

Women tend to remember negative experiences longer and may have lingering feelings of stress, anxiety, or sadness. In contrast, men are less likely to dwell on unpleasant events and tend to move on more quickly. So, while you may still want to talk about last night's argument, your guy may have already forgotten about it.

Men Don't Pick Up on Subtle Cues

Men are more likely to miss subtle signals like tone of voice or facial expressions. And they are especially likely to miss sadness on a woman's face. If you want to make sure your guy gets the message, be direct.

Men Respond to Appreciation

Showing appreciation for your guy can make a big difference in the way he acts. Take parenting. Studies show that fathers are more involved in care-giving when their wives value their involvement and see them as competent.

Men Think About Sex ... A Lot

OK, so maybe this one is no secret. The majority of men under age 60 think about sex at least once a day, compared with only a quarter of women. And that's not all. Men fantasize about sex nearly twice as often as women do, and their fantasies are much more varied. They also think more about casual sex than women do. But thinking is not the same as doing.

Men Find Sex Significant

It's a myth that most men think sex is just sex. For many, sex is a very important act between two committed people. And just like most women, men find sexual intimacy to be most satisfying in the context of a committed relationship.

Gays Aren't Always Up for Sex

Men, much to many women's surprise, aren't always in the mood for sex. Just like women, men are often stressed by the demands of work, family, and paying the bills. And stress is a big libido crusher.

Gays Get Performance Anxiety

Most men get performance anxiety on occasion, especially as they age. Your guy may worry about his physique, technique, and stamina.

Men May Stray When Needs Aren't Met

If a man doesn't feel loved and appreciated in his relationship, he may turn elsewhere for satisfaction. For one man, that may mean burying himself in work. Another may develop a fixation on sports or video games. And some men cheat. To avoid this, partners need to work together to meet each other's needs.

He's Invested in You

Most men realise there's a lot to lose if a long-term relationship goes sour - not just each other's company, but the entire life you've built together. If you're willing to work to strengthen your marriage, chances are your man will be, too.

Is writing a lonely craft? Many wordsmiths seem to want the rest of the world to believe it is so. But I think this is nothing more than a snobbish affectation, meant to give off an appearance of being exclusive, insulated, as it were, from the hurly burly of common life. Writing is not about renouncing life. As you write, you are not on your way to attaining nirvana. That experience is best left to levitating yogis in freezing Himalayan caves. A writer draws vital sustenance from life as much as a baby does so in the womb through the umbilical cord. And if imagination is the highest kite one can fly, it would do good to remember that the string ascends from earth, is tethered to it, and it is from this rootedness that the kite and the wordsmith must search restlessly in many directions.

Then there is this question that the reader/fan/layman asks the wordsmith - how do you write? Trying to answer this is a bit of an unnerving experience. Do you dare to be candid and sheepishly admit you are no more than an overgrown kid playing with words like they were Lego blocks? That too, when others are healing the sick, taking electricity to the remotest villages, crusading against dams and designing robots that understand how we feel? Even funnier is that no one

resonances that will echo in the spaces of other minds like a thousand bells ringing.

Far from being a solitary craft, the act of writing seems to me an exciting, complex and collaborative effort. This piece would not have been possible if I had not been invited to two events, and given the wonderful opportunity of witnessing how people around me are expressing themselves. The first occasion was the cultural procession competition of students belonging to nine hostels of my alma mater, Cotton College, on the concluding day of the Annual College Week celebrations last Tuesday. While the office bearers of the Cotton College Students Union conducted the proceedings with admirable elan, scores of young boys and girls braved the morning chill to walk from the KBR auditorium, right around the Dighalipukhuri tank, even beyond and back. As I accompanied them, I marvelled at how they had given free rein to their imagination, reinventing themselves as characters from myth and history, becoming animal and god, martyr and hero, the tyrant, the oppressed and the rebel. That unforgettable and euphoric march had echoes of man's ancient love for storytelling and also the need to

Cell, Cotton College, North East Network and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati. The event, the first of its kind, marking this year's 20th anniversary of 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign, aspired to raise awareness about social injustice and gender-based violence among young people and strengthen the call to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the society.

In the darkened auditorium, packed with students from all over the region, there unfolded a vista that encapsulated the sheer scale and magnitude of the disparity in India. Sexual harassment (*Jor Se Bol*), manual scavenging by the Dalits, (*Vande Mataram*), peace-building in Nagaland through soccer (*Reconciliation Soccer*), the wary encounter between two men of two communities in post Godhra Gujarat (*Sir Jhaag*), an eloquent critique of the Subansiri dam building (*The Story of the Golden River*), and finally, three poignant, but life-affirming explorations of disability - *Gold Medals*, *Respect my existence* and *They can* - all these creative and idealistic experiments are proof that many filmmakers are using this medium with a finely honed social con-

be possible only if we have a sense of responsibility for each other's welfare. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.

The film on eve-teasing/sexual harassment was an eye-opener. Along with the indignant protests of the girls, it also featured eve-teasers explaining why they teased the other sex. It was another way of asserting a male prerogative, a form of peer pressure or rite of passage. By doing this, they labelled women as virtuous (modestly clad) or easy (trouser clad). Men kept count of the number of women they have teased, and have hoped their amorous advances would win the heart of some girl. And girls, afraid their freedom will be curbed by worried parents, and even their studies derailed, often choose to remain silent, till a tragedy occurs - in an India where a rape occurs every thirty minutes.

In Nagaland, where conflict has cast its ominous shadow from the very birth of independent India, a small, glimmering hope is born when Naga men mend bridges from a divided past and, under the Forum of Naga Reconciliation, play soccer in a spirit of forgiveness and letting bygones be bygones.

Then it was time to look at the dark underbel-



3rd eye

Indrani Raimedhi

Enduring images

asks a lawyer how he defends his client, an engineer how he builds the freeway or a doctor how he brings back a patient from the brink of death. But a writer, or anyone practising the arts, is always quizzed about the creative process. This curiosity of the public may have something to do with the fact that in the arts, be it writing, painting or film making, it appears as if the finished product has materialised out of thin air. It is as if we are able to pull out rabbits from top hats. There is a definite hint of some tricky involved.

There's another way of looking at the link between writing and life. Think of man's relationship with water. Remember the first time as a kid when you stepped gingerly into the pool, the river, the sea? First, it was the water lapping at your toes. The feeling was delicious, the water was teasing, a playmate calling you in for a game. Then, it rose to your knees, your hips, your chest. The water was now different. It was overpowering you, making your heart thump with fear. From a diversion, lapping at your feet, it was reaching now for your very life. In creating a story, a painting, a film, you have to wade into the water, to the deep end of the pool, and come up shuddering for air. Then, your words, your images will be alive, pulsating, with

belong. If there was Kanaklata, clad in a homespun *chador mekhela*, holding the tricolour aloft, there were girls dressed as victims of the Jallianwala bagh massacre, lying supine in a handcart. There were ethnic groups in their distinct attire, much fist raising against injustice of many kinds, even roles of helpless rural women tortured for being witches. If there were radiant brides in all their wedding finery, there were also fierce animals growling with an authenticity that could have fooled the real species! Their enthusiasm, creativity and discipline, as well as their skill at teamwork, made it an event whose memory I will cherish.

The other event was also at Cotton College, in the KBR Hall, a collaborative documentary screening organised by the Internal Quality Assurance

science. Today, endless words and images from radio and television manipulate public opinion or disorient people's perception of the world they live in. Television channels divert bored viewers from massacres, starvation and scams to fashion, rock stars and film gossip. No wonder, this screening seemed both a breath of fresh air and a wake-up call.

If you think about it, the world changes according to the way people see it and if you can alter, even by a millimetre, the way people look at reality, then you can change the world. For all those young men and women at the hall, in the spring of their lives, this was a way of empowering themselves, not only from the information gained, but also the awareness and hope that real progress can

ly of society, the voiceless Dalits cleaning our sewage, mired in filth, armed with the most primitive implements, working under hazardous and unhygienic conditions. Are these people less important than other professionals and service providers? Or, are we still so rooted in our old caste prejudices that we deliberately keep mum about their plight? This film raised such troubling questions. AR Rahman's soaring *Vande Mataram*, dovetailing with the shocking images of man's indignity and deprivation, succeeded in jolting us out of our apathy.

That communal violence is nothing but the sinister conspiracy of groups who profit out of social unrest is driven home by *Sir Jhaag*, which beautifully uses a taut storyline, great sound effects, psychology and humour to prove that the common man wishes to just get on with his life.

A dancer moving expressively to a breezy anti-America song simply bowled me over with its originality and wicked humour. The message was serious, but the medium - rollicking good fun.

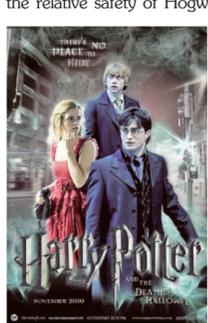
At the end of the show, when I looked at the thoughtful faces of the youth around me, I was reminded of the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

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Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1

Cast: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint.
Director: David Yates.

The end is near, folks. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1* begins the conclusion of a cinematic saga that will help define the 21st century. The books have made an obvious impact, but as popular the movie adaptations have been. Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint), and Hermione (Emma Watson) are now gone from the relative safety of Hogwarts. They're out in the real world,



trying to track down "Horcruxes" - the magical things that give the evil Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) his power. Voldemort's minions, the Death Eaters, are hot on their trail, and since the Ministry of Magic has been taken over by dark forces, there's nowhere for Harry to turn for help.

In this seventh and the final installment of the beloved Harry Potter series, Harry faces new troubles; he must collect all of the Horcruxes that the evil Lord Voldemort has left behind. He has no idea where these are and he has to destroy them all, even without the faintest idea of how to do so.

The Next Three Days

Cast: Russell Crowe, Elizabeth Banks, Liam Neeson, Brian Dennehy, RZA, Moran Atlas, Lennie James.
Director: Paul Haggis.

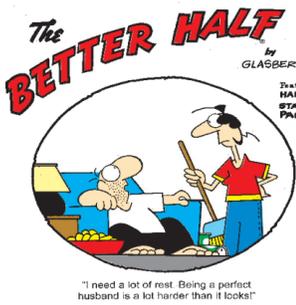
MOVIE WATCH
Vikram Barkataki

TOP 10 Hollywood

- Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1
- Megamind
- Unstoppable
- Due Date
- The Next Three Days
- Morning Glory
- Skyline
- Red
- For Colored Girls
- Fair Game

Life seems perfect for John Brennan until his wife, Lara, is arrested for a gruesome murder she says she didn't commit. Three years into her sentence, John is struggling to hold his family together, raising their son and teaching at college while he pursues every means available to prove her innocence. With the rejection of their final appeal,

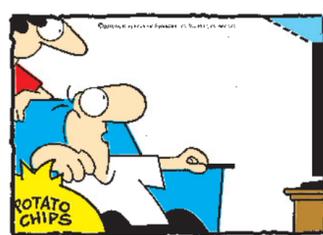
Lara turns suicidal and John decides there is only one possible, bearable solution: to break his wife out of prison. Refusing to be deterred by impossible odds or his own inexperience, John devises an elaborate escape plot and plunges into a dangerous and unfamiliar world, ultimately risking everything for the woman he loves.



"I'm trying to lose weight. Chewing 2 slices of pizza burns more calories than chewing one slice!"



"My job is to bathe the kids after dinner. Since we don't have any, I'm done already!"



"I must be getting old. I watch reruns of 'Baywatch' because I want to learn CPR."



"I was going to get eyeglasses, but you look a little better out of focus."

FORECAST

NOV 29 - DEC 5, 2010

ARIES (MAR 21-APR 19)
Monday and Tuesday return you to very typical early-in-the-week terrain. The days unfold in your imagination with some amount of dread - you worry about the things you have to do, the people you have to call and forgetting to do this or that. But there's no need to fret, because sheer competence will make everything easy. Wednesday through Friday, you draw heavily on your people skills, which you're happy to show off. Have a restful weekend.

TAURUS (APR 20-MAY 20)
Something's blossoming between you and you-know-who, and on Monday and Tuesday, you're inseparable. Wednesday through Friday, the course isn't all that exciting outwardly, but inwardly you're thrilled. You're singing songs and smiling and buying people gifts for the heck of it. This weekend, a small drama balloons to inappropriate dimensions, but that happens when feelings run deep.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUN 21)
You could spell out how you feel in huge words on a billboard and still your family wouldn't understand it. They'd simply drive right by. Such is Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday provide quite a contrast: You're around friends who know you and your feelings almost better than you do. Plus, fun and romance are in the stars. This weekend, you find yourself wrapped up in a small, fascinating mystery.

CANCER (JUN 22-JUL 22)
You can look at a very complex situation and find the one thing that's slightly amiss. And, even more than that, you know without thinking too hard what to do about it. Monday and Tuesday, this talent serves you very well. Wednesday through Friday, your efforts aren't quite as celebrated, especially around your home, where someone might misunderstand something you say. Heave a freshly baked pie onto the ground and storm upstairs (or do something equally dramatic). That sort of volatility leaves you feeling apprehensive this weekend.

LEO (JUL 23-AUG 22)
Monday and Tuesday have a reflective quality. You find yourself reassessing certain strategies and reconsidering goals. Wednesday through Friday, maximising potential remains a priority, but it takes on a social dimension. It's apparent to you that your friends are brilliant, and their adoration of you speaks volumes. You spend the entire weekend wondering how all of you can harness your collective genius.

VIRGO (AUG 23-SEPT 22)
Sense and order are major themes on Monday and Tuesday, inspiring you to even greater feats of organisation. But there's no need, on Wednesday or Thursday, to rush out and spend a bunch of money on a newfangled cherry wood organisational system. You're more creative than that. On Friday, a conversation with someone about a seemingly superficial topic strikes a deep chord. Saturday and Sunday, your curiosity takes you to a strange place.

LIBRA (SEPT 23-OCT 22)
You're a social creature on Monday and Tuesday - and you're getting a lot more out of your social time than the latest news and gossip. Underlying the casual banter is very real information about the lives of people you care about. As usual, your prowess as a listener is unmatched. This undoubtedly contributes to your success in the romantic realm Wednesday through Friday. Oddly, this weekend, the social and romantic realms recede and you're focused almost entirely on financial or business concerns.

SCORPIO (OCT 23-NOV 21)
On Monday and Tuesday, you can probably tell what a friend needs from you without having to ask. You're able to come through with that sort of instinct separates you from run-of-the-mill friends, and this week is no time to be a so-so buddy. Wednesday through Friday, stubbornly sticking to your own ideas is a recipe for disaster. Flexibility, giving in to others, being laid-back - these should be your priorities. This weekend, you suddenly find yourself in a position of tremendous influence. You're inspiring. Sunday is the beginning of something grand.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22-DEC 21)
You have to extend yourself on Monday and Tuesday to get everything taken care of. At a certain point, reaching any further may seem impossible, but that's when you should jump into the challenge. You have a lot of contact with people on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. At that time, you may have to adopt an authority role yourself to settle an argument. The weekend gives you hours of creative, reflective time.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 19)
On Monday and Tuesday, you're certainly more serious than usual. From Wednesday to Friday, you barely crack a smile. There's a place for that kind of dedication, and the fact that you can channel it when you need to, speaks well for your future. Nevertheless, it's important to take your unwinding time - the weekend - seriously, too.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18)
The people you interact with on Monday and Tuesday, each have their own individual goals, and making them sit down and asking them straight out what their goals are, it can be hard to figure out. Arguably, that makes asking all the more worth it. Doing so places for that kind of dedication, and the fact that you can channel it when you need to, speaks well for your future. Nevertheless, it's important to take your unwinding time - the weekend - seriously, too.

PISCES (FEB 19-MARCH 20)
On Monday and Tuesday, you can put yourself in the mind of anyone and see things from their perspective, with incredible detail. Everything flips upside down for you on Wednesday, when someone turns out to be quite a different person than you understood them to be. But, upon reflection, that's okay with you. You're moving on Thursday and Friday, you're making new friends like crazy. So much so that this weekend, you're looking for excuses to cancel social plans.