

ManSpeak

What He Says...What He Really Means

HE SAYS:

"I never lie."

HE MEANS:

"I omit."

MARNIE WINSTON-MACAULEY

Manspeak

What He Says and What He Really Means

by *Marnie Winston-Macauley*

Andrews and McMeel

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Manspeak

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And of course . . . to "the source"—my husband, Ian.

DEDICATION:

To all those who provided me (alas) with firsthand experience in the art and "craft"-iness of "Manspeak." They include (but are not limited to):

Howie . . . my third-grade boyfriend, whose nails I buffed so he'd pass hygiene inspection—and who passed me a note the last day of class, saying, "I meant what I said in gym about loving you always, Kim."

All the "swingle" guys in the sixties at Maxwell's Plum who wrote my number on matchbook covers and swore we'd catch a Grand Funk concert "next Saturday." I'm still waiting.

Jesse . . . the "actor"-waiter in the Borscht Belt whose lessons (and nose-job) I financed in 1975—who still won't throw in an extra pickle when he serves me at Deli King.

Every lawyer, agent, and network executive (male and female)—for elevating Manspeak to a wildly successful linguistic alternative.

But most of all to my son, Simon, who after reading this book will know the difference between Manspeak and Truthspeak . . . and will put Mommy out of business.

—Marnie

INTRODUCTION

Why can't men and women communicate? Choose one.

- A) We're smarter.
- B) We're more honest.
- C) We're able to speak our native language.
- D) We're not genetically defective.
- E) All of the above.

If you chose "All of the Above," you may actually have a shot at a two-line chat with a member of the male species without courting a nervous breakdown.

For starters, realize that while there are some males out there who are indeed, lying swine, most actually believe (more or less) what they're saying. They suffer, however, from a sex-related language disorder, called "Manspeak." Since Manspeak, which consists of up to two short grunts, comes from the lower half of their bodies, most men aren't aware that what comes out of their mouths has little or no connection to their brains.

INTRODUCTION

Now, to crack the "Manspeak" code, you can either:

- 1) Spend thirty years studying the species—and wind up ranting their strange mumblings like, "Me want nookie," as they wheel you away to a padded room.
- 2) Spend your days (and nights) complaining to your therapist, your mother, and the lady who spritzes perfume on you at the mall... "But he *said/ promised/ swore*, he would: _____ (FILL IN THE BLANK) *love me only, remember our anniversary THIS year, finish painting the ceiling, put the toilet seat down, have a vasectomy.*"
- 3) Spend your life on the planet "unmanned." However, blissful as this may sound, they DO have a vital part or two that makes coupling more fun than quilting comforters or reading *Moby Dick* to your cats. (Usually.)

– OR –

- 4) Read on and learn how to decipher **What He Says...and What He Really Means!**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marnie Winston-Macauley, a.k.a. "Cyber-Sadie" on-line, is a writer, therapist, and advice columnist. In addition to *Manspeak: What He Says...What He Really Means*, she is the author of *The Ultimate Sex, Love & Romance Quiz Book*, *The Ultimate Sex, Love & Romance Quiz Book II*, *Men We Love to Hate: The Book*, and its companion calendar, *Men We Love to Hate 1997 Calendar*, and co-author of *He Says/She Says*, all of which are also published by Andrews and McMeel. Ms. Winston-Macauley, as Cyber-Sadie, is the advice mavin-plus on ABC Love Online (America Online), and offers up her wit and wisdom on America Online's Entertainment Channel twice weekly. Her quizzes have appeared on ABC Love Online and HomeArts, Hearst's on-line network. In addition, she has written hundreds of articles for magazines and newspapers around the world, and was a writer for the daytime drama *As the World Turns*. Her scripts were chosen for submission to the Emmy Blue Ribbon panel following the Best Writing nomination and for the Writer's Guild Award. Her other fiction works include science fiction novelettes for *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* and *Realms of Fantasy*. Ms. Winston-Macauley has been a guest on hundreds of radio and television shows, including, among others, *Charles Perez*, *The Mark Walberg Show*, *USA LIVE*, and *Mike & Maty*.

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Is It an Artichoke...Or Is It a Man?

HE SAYS: "How can you say I don't care about your birthday?"

HE **MEANS**: "Didn't I buy you a *Buns of Steel* tape?"

Manspeak

HE SAYS: "Of **course** I'm listening to you."

HE **MEANS**: "Should I get a lube job or just go for a car wash tomorrow?"

.....

HE SAYS: "You know I'm interested in your feelings."

HE **MEANS**: "When you *feel* like sex or getting me a beer."

What He Says...What He *Really* Means

HE SAYS: "I'm giving you cash for Christmas this year, darling, because I want you to be happy and get exactly what you want."

HE **MEANS**: "And so I don't have to get within twenty feet of a store—or make a decision."

Manspeak

HE SAYS: "It's a damn shame you and your family aren't speaking."

HE **MEANS**: "Yes! Ten-dollar phone bills!"

.....

HE SAYS: "You deserve to be treated like royalty."

HE **MEANS**: "I'm taking you to the Dairy Queen."

What He Says...What He Really Means

HE SAYS: (In your new \$500 gown) "Yeah...you look fine, babe."

HE **MEANS**: "Did you change...?"

.....

HE SAYS: "Your poem? Hey...I keep it right by my bedside."

HE **MEANS**: "Under the pizza box in the waste-paper basket."

Manspeak

HE SAYS: (After you've dyed your hair blonde)
"Of course I see a difference."

HE **MEANS**: "Could it be a nose job...or an
artificial leg...?"

.....

HE SAYS: "I try to be a sensitive husband."

HE **MEANS**: "I try not to call out my girlfriend's
name when I'm in bed with my wife."

HE SAYS: "Sure I appreciate the hours you spent on this mushroom soufflé with truffles."

HE **MEANS**: "But I'd appreciate a bottle of ketchup a hell of a lot more!"

.....

HE SAYS: (When you've been running a 104-degree fever, while doubled over in pain and shivering under the blankets for three days) "Hey...everything okay, babe?"

HE **MEANS**: "If I ignore it, maybe she'll have sex—since she's in bed anyway."