

THE BOY BOOK

TEN MINUTE PLAY

By John C. Havens

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SYNOPSIS: Sue and Julie have discovered a mystical book that reveals all of the secrets women know about men. From how to turn them down on a date to getting them to notice you, *The Boy Book* is a miraculous find for these two friends. An insightful comedy.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(2 WOMEN)

SUE (f)
JULIE (f)

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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: Oooooh.

SUE: This book rocks!

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.

SUE: (*Reading from book.*) Wait, no you don't. (*They read together.*)

BOTH: "Don't feel guilty for saying no."

JULIE: I LOVE this book!

SUE: Me too! Let's keep going!

JULIE: Okay.

SUE: (*Reads.*) "Body language is essential with a guy. Let him know how you feel with a touch or a look."

JULIE: That makes sense. Want to try it out?

SUE: I'll look at you or touch you and you pretend you're a guy. Tell me what signal you think I'm sending.

JULIE: Okay. (*SUE leers at JULIE.*)

JULIE: You want to have my baby?

SUE: Too much?

JULIE: Unless you're on the Jerry Springer show.

SUE: Okay, I'll tone it down. How's this? (*SUE gives JULIE a coy look.*)

JULIE: Very nice. Coy, flirtatious, but subtle.

SUE: Great. Now you try one and I'll be the guy.

JULIE: Okay, I'll try the touch thing. Tell a joke and I'll pretend I like you.

SUE: Okay. (*In a guy's voice.*) What'd the snail say while he was riding the turtle's back?

JULIE: (*Very flirtatious.*) I don't know, what?

SUE: Whoopee!

JULIE: (*JULIE puts her arm around SUE and laughs a little too hard.*) That is SO funny. You are SO funny!

SUE: (*As SUE.*) Calm down there, Chuckles.

JULIE: Too much?

SUE: Unless you're trying to steal his wallet. Try again.

JULIE: Okay.

SUE: (*As a guy again.*) So the snail says, "Whoopee!"

JULIE takes a quick look at "The Boy Book" and then turns to Sue. SHE gives her a big smile and chuckles huskily. Then SHE tilts her head back and sexily pulls a strand of hair out of her eyes.

SUE: (*As SUE.*) That was great! Did you come up with that hair thing?

JULIE: No, it was in the book. (*Reading.*) "Guys love it when girls play with their hair."

SUE: Is that true?

JULIE: That's what it says here in the "Flirting without words" section.

SUE: Gotta remember that one. What else does it say?

JULIE: "When walking with a boy you have a crush on, stay silent and stare at him until you've passed him by. Then whisper something to your friends, giggle, and look back at him."

SUE: (*Reading.*) "This will drive boys crazy."

JULIE: Silent, stare, whisper, giggle. Got it. What's next?

SUE: (*Reading.*) "Calling the boy you like, but pretending you didn't."

JULIE: That's a good idea? Can I be the girl?

SUE: Yep. I'll be the guy. (*Pretends to be the boy again.*)

JULIE: Ring, ring. Ring, ring.

SUE: (As boy.) Yeah?

JULIE: Oh...Steve?

SUE: Yeah?

JULIE: Oh, I'm sorry, Steve, I must have the wrong number. I meant to call my friend Stephanie and I must have gotten you. This is Julie, I'm in your algebra class.

SUE: Yeah, hi. What's up? Did you stare at me today, then whisper and giggle?

JULIE: Why, yes I did.

SUE: That was really cool. Do you want to go out with me?

JULIE: Sure!

SUE: Oh, here's a good reminder. (*Reading.*) "If one of his parents picks up, always be extremely polite to make a good impression. Brown nose all you can; exaggerate and lie if necessary." Let's try that. This time I'll be the girl and you be Steve's mom.

JULIE: Okay. (*JULIE pretends to be Steve's mom.*)

SUE: Ring, ring. Ring, ring.

JULIE: (*In high "mom" voice.*) Hellooo?

SUE: Oh, hello Mrs. Steve's mom. This is Sue from Steve's algebra class.

JULIE: Why hello dear.

SUE: Hello ma'am. I wanted to let you know that I bought some of your chocolate macadamia nuts at the bake sale and they were delicious.

JULIE: Why thank you, Susan, how sweet.

SUE: And you have a beautiful house. My dad used to be a landscaper and he says your shrubberies are the best in town.

JULIE: Really? Well I must tell my husband, he'll be thrilled.

SUE: Okay, I'm gonna go now and have another one of your delicious cookies. And oh, by the way, could you please tell your son, Steven, that I called to say hello.

JULIE: Certainly, dear. (*SHE hangs up the phone and pretends to yell to Steve.*) Steven! That lovely girl Susan from your algebra class just called! She seems very sweet. Why don't you ask her out? (*Pretends to listen.*) What was that? No, I'm sure she doesn't think "you're like a brother to her".

SUE: Good reaction.

JULIE: Yeah, well done. Well, what else does the book say? Skip ahead.

SUE: Whoa.

JULIE: What is it?

SUE: This is huge.

JULIE: What? Tell me!

SUE: *(Reading in a tone of awe.)* "Getting him to say, 'I love you' first"

BOTH: Ooooooh.

JULIE: That takes up two whole chapters. *(They read in silence for a moment.)*

SUE: Do you think a couple of guys from school are off somewhere reading from "The Girl Book?"

JULIE: You mean is there another book like this one for guys that says stuff like, "Never call a girl right after a date or you'll look like a wuss"?

SUE: Yeah, something like that. Do you think guys might be able to get one step ahead of us girls somehow? *(Pause.)*

BOTH: Naahh.

THE END