

99
thoughts
about
guys

for
girls'
eyes
only

insights to what
teenage guys are really like

a book for girls
by kurt johnston
with katie edwards

99 Thoughts About Guys: For Girls' Eyes Only
Copyright © 2008 Simply Youth Ministry

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher, except where noted in the text and in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

Simply Youth Ministry
26981 Vista Terrace, Unit C
Lake Forest, CA 92630

www.simplyyouthministry.com
www.simplyjuniorhigh.com

ISBN 978-0-7644-6233-7

Printed in the United States of America

about kurt johnston




Kurt Johnston has been working in junior high ministry since 1988 and right now is the junior high pastor at Saddleback Church. He loves providing resources for junior high ministry almost as much as he loves junior highers themselves. Kurt loves surfing, dirt bike riding, and hanging out with his family.

about katie edwards



Katie Edwards has been involved in junior high ministry for more than 15 years, and is currently serving at Saddleback Church in Southern California. She has a passion for helping teenagers grow in their relationship with Jesus and equipping them to make wise choices. Katie enjoys life with her husband, Ron, and their daughter, Abby Jane.

thank you from kurt

An illustration of a hand holding a pen, positioned as if about to write. The hand is rendered in a simple, stylized manner with a dotted pattern on the wrist area. The pen is dark with a lighter grip section. This illustration is located to the left of the main text block.

It seems like every author who has ever written a book did so with the help of others, and this little book is not different! Besides a few of my good buddies, the main people who helped with this book are the youth workers who read my blog (www.simplykurt.com) and added their suggestions and ideas. I hope their thoughts, combined with mine, have created a little book full of stuff to help girls understand guys a little better.

99 thoughts about guys: for girls eyes only

table of contents

1. Guys 101 1
2. Most of the Time, Sometimes,
or Always 5
3. How to Be Friends With a Guy 9
4. What Guys Really Like..... 13
5. So... You're Looking to Date a Guy? ... 16
6. So... You're Dating. Now What?..... 20
7. I Apologize, But... 25
8. Random Thoughts About Guys 28

read this introduction... or you're grounded

(That's not true, but it should be)

I have no idea how you ended up with this book in your hand, but I'm glad you did. Chances are you are a girl (guys, put this book down NOW!) who is hoping to get a little insider information about guys. I hate to say this, but a little book like this will never give you everything you need to know about us guys. I'd like to think that's because we are too deep, too complex, too sophisticated – but it's really just because we are too random to be figured out in 40 little pages. BUT this book will give you some words of wisdom to help you understand us just a little bit better and hopefully set you on the road to healthy, lifelong friendships with the guys God brings into your life.

Oh yeah, it's also super important to know that not every thought in this book fits every guy because no two guys are alike. One of the greatest parts about being handcrafted by God is that He made each of us unique. Don't assume every thought is an accurate statement about every single guy out there; these are tips and thoughts, not necessarily scientific facts. However, the tip you'll read later about guys loving to fart out loud is a scientific fact.




Kurt Johnston



guys 101

This book has **99 thoughts about guys!**



I hope you will read all 99 because each little thought has some valuable insights into what makes us tick. But I thought it might be a good idea to start out by listing

some fundamental guy stuff. Some really basic, but really important stuff about guys that will help you out even if you don't read anything else in this book – which would be a MASSIVE mistake because the smart girl wants to know as much about guys as she possibly can!

1. Guys are way different than you.

Kind of obvious, I know. But when I say we are way different I mean WAY different! The truth is that most of the differences are a really good thing and part of how God designed us. It's important to understand and appreciate this fact, because while there are some things we can change or learn to control about ourselves, there is a whole bunch of stuff that can't be changed at all – it's stuff that can only be understood and appreciated.

2. Guys tend to turn everything into some sort of competition.

I'm not exactly sure why this is, it just is. Lots and lots of guys see almost everything through competitive lenses.

Want to bet on it? The good part about this is we can take even the most boring situation and figure out how to make a game out of it. How far can we spit? Who can blink the most times in a minute? How many times can I flick your ear before you flinch? – which is kinda fun. The bad part about it is that our competitive nature tends to leak into other areas of our lives that aren't always as harmless. Lots of friendships between guys and other guys and between guys and girls have been messed up because we don't always know how to turn off the competition button. We play games with girls, too. Sorry.

3. Guys like to be the hero.

It may be because we read too many comic books or watch too many action movies, but when we see stuff that doesn't seem fair we like to swoop in and try to save the day. Usually nothing really needs to be saved and we just end up looking dorky. But hey, at least we tried, right?

4. Guys want to feel important.

I don't mean important like the president of the United States is important, or even like the principal at your school is important. I just mean that something in the way guys are wired makes us want to feel needed and helpful – especially to the ladies.

5. Guys tend to see things in “black and white” not “gray.”

We usually just see one side of an issue, we think problems should have simple solutions, we tend to see things as

“right” or “wrong,” and we have a harder time with things like compromise than you girls typically do. Because of this, we have a tendency to jump to conclusions pretty quickly.

6. The world is kinda confusing to most guys.

Are we supposed to be rough and tough or gentle and sensitive? Are we supposed to pay for the date or let girls pay their own way? What makes a real man these days? The world we live in has changed a lot and most guys (especially younger ones) are trying to figure out how exactly a guy is supposed to act manly while wearing skinny jeans.

7. Guys really, really care what their friends think of them.

Girls do, too, but for guys it's different. We will do or say almost anything if we think it will get the approval of our friends, or make them laugh. Unfortunately, this means that sometimes guys will treat girls really poorly if it helps them save face with their friends.

8. Guys like to brag.

Because we care what our friends think, we brag, exaggerate, and sometimes even make things up that aren't true. And sometimes we make stuff up about girls. Sorry.

9. Guys don't understand you.

Seriously, we are way too simpleminded to understand the complexities of females. You confuse us. Think of us as cavemen wearing jeans and a T-shirt.

10. Guys are **bad listeners**.

The sooner you understand this, the better. It's not because we don't care, it's just because we don't care enough to listen well. Unless your story includes explosions, car chases, or sports, we lose interest quickly. I heard once about this ONE guy in a small town in the Midwest who is working at being a better listener – but I forget the details, I really wasn't listening.

comment from katie

Girls, I know this is extremely difficult for us at times. We have a lot to say and we want someone to listen. And sometimes we really want our guy friends to be the comforter and listener when things get crazy for us. However, we can't expect our guy friends to be the same kind of listeners as our girl friends. They are not the same as your girl friends. As girls we can sit and listen to each other's drama for hours at a time. Guys can't do that – and we can't expect them to. Adjust your expectations of guys in the area of listening. When something crazy happens in your day, talk to your girl friends first – give them the long version. Then go to your guy friends and give them the three-minute version. I really believe that guys want to know what is going on with us – but they just want it packaged in a really short and to-the-point version.