

Playboy -- Entertainment for Men: A Womans Perspective

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My boyfriend is a regular reader of Playboy Magazine. Initially, this disturbed me; I associated such reading with sleazy men in trenchcoats who exposed themselves to passerby. One day, I decided the only way to find out the truth was to check out the magazine myself.

The oft heard cliché is "I only buy it for the articles." Yeah right! We all know it is only the pictures men want, don't we?

Well, out of an average magazine of 165 pages, there were only 10 to 15 pages dedicated to "playmates". I will admit, these women are exactly what you expect -- namely, naked. It is true that the photos are graphic, but I do not think they are degrading or repulsive. In fact, the most degrading part would be the centre-fold. I am not referring to the picture itself, I am referring to the "bio-sheet" that Ms. Bunny supposedly submitted to the magazine. These bios are ridiculous. If you look at a sample, you will notice that all the women have the same clichés for turn-on's (roaring fires, sensitive men, blah, blah, blah.) Her ambitions are straight out of the Miss America pageant. World peace, saving the rainforest,

and getting married (2.5 kids, 1 dog, 1 cat, 1 sexually satisfied man.) Even the handwriting is that loopy, flouncy style with hearts dotting every "i."

The remainder of the magazine is basically the male version of "Cosmo". It has the



standard features of any magazine - interviews with celebrities, fashion updates, and entertainment reviews. There are many political commentaries, short fiction, and I particular like the opposing columns "Men" by Asa Barber and "Women" by Cynthia Heinel. These columnists comment on everything from PMS, to censorship, to Superbowl Sunday.

Another great feature is the "Playboy Advisor". This advice column claims to answer "questions from fashion, food and drink, stereos and sports cars, to dating problems, task

and etiquette." The majority of queries are sexual but others discuss the premium age for whisky and how to repair scratched cd's! Anyone who has read advice columns from "Cosmo" or "Elle" magazines will find nothing unusual. In fact it is all rather unshocking.

Throughout "Playboy" I found that sex is treated maturely and humorously. This magazine has always been the trend-setter in mens

magazines since its beginnings in the 1950's.

One you get past those 10 to 15 pages and the stigma of reading "porn" you might find that you are enjoying the magazine. There is undoubtedly a lot of sleeze out there, but I would not call Playboy porn. It is a sexual magazine, which consists of more than "dirty pictures". My boyfriend continues to read Playboy, the difference is, now I read it with him.

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