

He Said, She Said

Are men really from Mars and Women from Venus, as author Dr. John Gray states in his bestselling book? Do men and women really see things that differently? If given the same question could their answers really be so different? At San Diego Woman we wanted to explore the differences between “them” and “us”. Read our first installment and find out how the sexes differ when it comes to “housework,” and then share your thoughts with us. Who do you agree with? What topics would you like to see us duke it out over in upcoming issues? No topic is off limits, so write me at editor@sandiegowoman.com. I can’t wait to hear from you!

He Said...

Men and housework – an oxymoron? Most women would tell you yes. I don’t think so. In my circle of friends men do chores (as dubbed by you) regularly. We don’t even get the courtesy of having what we do called what it is; housework. To be clear, there are a quantifiable number of men who don’t have a clue. Unfortunately, the same thing applies to you ladies. I have seen this too many times not to add it to the equation.

We (men) don’t clean and tidy the way you do. Are we

came more involved with raising our families in the eighties - the whole gamut from diapers to strollers to stay at home dads and tutors: And you tired of it! We’re doing more and more of the housework and you’re still...

Dr. Laura said a mouthful when she stated “If you give a woman everything she wants, she will lose respect for you.”

What started this rant was two recent books by the Cambridge Women’s Pornography Cooperative and Susan Anderson, ‘Porn for women’ and ‘Porn for New Moms’ (No,



wrong? No. But it seems that no matter how much we do (around the house) we get the ‘you missed that’ or ‘let me show you the RIGHT way’ attitude (Actually, you won’t say ‘let me show you the right way,’ it’ll be more like you’ll FIX it when we leave and smile at the results).

I’ll give you the laundry caveat: Delicate and soak modes are roadblocks to progress. If I don’t hear the washing machine humming and draining I think it’s either broke or finished. Move on – next step! So here’s the rule: I’ll do 90% and you do the “delicates.” Fair enough?

Vacuum, dishes, dusting, bathrooms, floors, we can get it done. My men friends get it done. And what do we get? “Oh, he tries.” You wanted us to cry in the seventies: We did and you tired of it. You wanted us to be sensitive in the eighties: We did and you tired of it. You wanted us to be more than just the man around the house in the nineties: We did and you tired of it. I still haven’t found out what you want in this new millennium - and you’re still tired of it. We be-

they’re not pornography). They speak to the issue of men doing chores (there’s that word again) around the house and that it is (can be) a turn on for their wives/significant others/girlfriends, et al. She even dubbed the term CHOREPLAY as a precursor to sex. Replete with beefcake pictures and calendars we’re being objectified as sex objects! Balderdash! I will grant you that if men knew that housework turned you ladies on, you would ALWAYS come home to a spotless castle complete with wine, soft music, a babysitter, and dinner. We have our priorities.

Fact is that a large amount of men have been doing chores (your words, not mine) for years. The division between yard/garage and house has long ago been breached. It became a necessity when the single income home begat the dual income we-need-two-people-earning-money-to-make-it household. We were slow on the uptake but times have changed and we deserve some credit.

By the way, how do you like your eggs and bacon?

She Said...

Okay you got us...we don't call it housework, we call it chores. Why, you might ask? Because as hard as it is to get you guys to do anything around the house, calling it housework would make it virtually impossible. What man - when called upon by his friend to play a game of golf on a Saturday - would be able to turn him down by telling him "I'm sorry I have housework to do?" The laughing would be heard across the county. Instead we try to help you out by giving it a manlier name..."Chores." How many of you men out there haven't had to tell a friend that you were unavailable because you had a "Honey do" list to attend to. There was definitely no laughing since undoubtedly they too have had their share of similar lists. But I think what antagonizes women even more...or maybe just this woman, is the attitude that when you do housework, we owe you for helping us with "our" job. Don't get me wrong, but in the times of two career homes, vacuuming does not clearly belong to those of us with a uterus. And who said it was our job in the first place? If you were bachelors all of the jobs would belong to you, and perhaps the key question here is...would you then tell your

will have any energy for nighttime activities...yes sex. So... even those altruistic men out there who claim to share in the housework and take an equal role in the care of the kids may have ulterior motives. But I think we can forgive you for that because after all, we enjoy the evening activity as much as you men do and if you truly think it takes your doing housework to put us in the mood....well you go on thinking that and maybe consider going to see the "sex in the city" movie. No wait, don't! It might give us away and we will be back to handling all of those chores ourselves.

Let me speak up for all the lucky women out there who have men who do actually share in the workload and don't complain about it, and don't do it so it has to be redone, or because they think we will be more in the mood, we do appreciate you. And we promise not to tell your golf buddies.

By Robert Tussey & Judith A. Habert
Photos by Lisa K. Miller



friend inquiring about a friendly game of golf that you couldn't because you had "housework" to do?

The question as to whether you don't "clean or tidy up" as we do is simple and you know it! Of course you don't clean and tidy up as we do. But the reason for that is simple, you are smarter than us! You have figured out that if you do a half-assed job of cleaning up, and we are therefore forced to redo the job, then eventually it will occur to us that rather than cleaning up the mess you made of it, we should just do it ourselves. Bingo, you won, and out the door you go to play golf.

Okay, so maybe some of you out there are different. Perhaps you are doing your share of housework and truly doing it the best you can....but why is that you may ask? Because you have probably realized if your wife has to work 9-5 and take care of the kids, prepare meals, clean the house, shop and attend to everything, there is no chance in hell that she

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