



211 Things a Clever Girl Can Do

Bunty Cutler

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Anything boys can do, girls can do better.

The hysterical, cheeky, female counterpart to the smash hit *211 Things a Bright Boy Can Do*.

If you've ever wanted to walk on stilts, make sloe gin, ride an ostrich, or forecast the weather like your grandmother used to, this is the book you've been waiting for.

This surprisingly handy and delightfully amusing guide includes instructions for:

EVERYDAY SURVIVAL SKILLS:

How to manage an umbrella in the wind, escape a swarm of vicious bees, spot a love rat, get out of a cab without exposing yourself, and make a little black dress out of a garbage bag.

HANDY HOUSEHOLD ADVICE:

Learn 17 uses for spare fishnet stockings, how to remove any stain, rescue a meal that's gone wrong, and enforce toilet seat procedure in a shared dwelling place.

TOOLS FOR THE HOBBYIST IN THE KNOW:

How to groom a horse, read tea leaves, force a cucumber, and bellydance.

211 Things a Clever Girl Can Do Details

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Author : Bunty Cutler

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From Reader Review 211 Things a Clever Girl Can Do for online ebook

Juli Hoffman says

Hilarious and Informative

From advice on how to change a flat tire to advice on how to Feng Shui a boyfriend out of a studio apartment, this book is both witty and fun. For some reason, I kept imagining the woman from the Poo Potpourri commercial giving the advice, the author's voice is similar, adding to the fun and charm.

This book is more for entertainment purposes than detailed information, although I did learn a few things. It is not a children's book. It is written with adults in mind. This book is good for light reading and would make a great birthday gift.

Aimee Hyndman says

This review may contain spoilers

What's it about?

"211 Things A Clever Girl Can Do" is the female counterpart to the smash hit "211 Things A Bright Boy Can Do." If you've ever wanted to walk on stilts, make sloe gin, ride an ostrich, or forecast the weather like your grandmother used to, this book will tell you how. This handy guide includes instructions for: managing an umbrella in the wind, escaping a swarm of vicious bees, removing any stain, rescuing a meal that's gone wrong, grooming a horse and reading tea leaves.

Who's the author?

Bunty Cutler has no online presence. Some readers of "211 Things A Clever Girl Can Do" propose that Bunty Cutler is not a real author, but a name made up by a marketing department. Regardless, this book is Bunty Cutler's only book to date.

Was it any good?

Absolutely not! I despise this novel, mainly for the damage it does to the gender stereotypes; the pink cover for the 'girls' book and the blue cover for the 'boys' book being just one example. The book, also, attacks men at great length with some very derogatory remarks throughout. I can't comment on whether the 'boys' book does the same to women, but even if it does, I still don't feel the attacks are necessary, justified or needed. Not only that, but the majority of the "how-to" guides were useless or simple things that don't even need instructions! And, from the start, it was obvious that the author was trying too hard to be funny, and so came across as desperate, inane and humorless. Overall, this book comes across as aggravating, vapid, tedious, uninteresting and offensive to both men and women!

Would I recommend it?

No! I can't stress this enough; this book is not funny nor clever. I can't imagine anyone finding this an

enjoyable read.

Jared Della Rocca says

A very quirky read. I don't know how often I'll find myself riding an ostrich, but somewhere in all of human history at least ONE person must have escaped danger on an ostrich. And if I'm going to be #2, after reading this book I'll be well-prepared. Of course, not all the tips were as helpful as how to ride an ostrich. I pray I'll never find myself doing my own Brazilian wax, but surviving an airplane crash or getting away from a hive of bees are CERTAINLY helpful! More seriously, these and the other 200+ things are really cool to learn, regardless of gender, and the instructions are mixed with a good bit of humor. An enjoyable little romp :-)

Talia says

I was pleasantly surprised with this book. This is an adult version of "Daring Book for Girls", where we are taught 211 handy tricks. From the useful (how to replace an electrical socket, how to get out of a car without flashing everyone), to the pointless (how to make a little black dress out of a garbage bag, how to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel), to the just plain fun ones (how to walk on stilts, how to make Turkish Delight)!

Mélou says

Ce livre, était vraiment très plaisant à lire. On apprend plein de chose et en même temps on rit de comment le livre est ridicule. Le vocabulaire était incroyable, moi qui croyais bien connaitre ma langue... j'aimais beaucoup aussi le fait que l'auteur nous explique quoi faire, mais nous explique aussi pourquoi on doit le faire, et le résultat que ça va donner (avec des explication très sympathique et scientifique). Le seul et unique problème, c'était des pages entière à sauter car: on le savait déjà et la lecture se faisait lente et ennuyeuse, le sujet ne nous intéresse pas, ou encore, plein, mais alors plein, de truque qui ne va certainement jamais nous servir... jamais.

Aussi bien sur, les titres ambarassant à lire en classe. ;)

Karina1818 says

This was quick and easy to read. I felt like most things that were written in there as things to do were outdated for the current time. It was also due to the tips and advice that it had (as it could have been advice for women in Britain in the 50s or 60s) the potrayal of women at that time as overall being housewives and women which were there only for the pleasure of men. It annoyed me that in this book they were trying to potray women as actually being independent and badass while they actually weren't.

Carol says

My version is titled: Das Lieblings buch aller Frauen

I was excited to find an easyish-to-read book in german, that i actually understood the humor. Ok, then I looked at the title page and realized it was written by an American, and she must be southern, with a name like Bunty Cutler. So far, the tips are not really useful, but are really funny!

Ok, it's in German, and i didn't finish the book.

Jennifer says

Trying to be funny but is really a silly thing full of silly things. Maybe I am just too old?

Andy says

Do you think Bunty Cutler is a real person?

NO, I am convinced. This book sounds to me like the product of a publisher's marketing department. No picture anywhere, no interviews, no author website, a fictional bio, a supposed brother who, conveniently, also writes a best-seller... Come on!!!

I can just picture a production team combing ehow.com for fun questions and slapping these books together. Incidentally, the copyright page of my book reads Bunty Butler (not Cutler!) A clue that they couldn't keep the name straight?

My female companion who has a good sense for "voice" says there's no way a woman wrote this book. And the dedication mentions someone who provides the "background voices" to the author's "girlhood". Enough said, the author is a man or a group of editors working together.

Nice work on the layout, though! :)

But in this age of non-stop advertising assault, we didn't need another marketing trick, however clever.

A question for the professional book reviewers who went along with this: Did you buy the story, or are you out to trick your readers?

Heather says

This is a clever little book. Lots of great ideas- some more than others. I did think it was a funny addition to add 'how to build a log cabin- abe lincoln style' as one of the clever things to do. I don't think I am going to try that one or use my panty hose to make homemade cheese (cheese strainer) but it's a great use! This is a fun read and you might actually learn something- like how to descend a spiral staircase in 6 inch stiletto heels. Yep, that's in there. Clever writing with some wit from the author- like how to pas gas (fart) in public with tact and without embarrassment. I laughed out loud on that one.

Jolly Jenny says

La présentation est soignée et agréable. Il y a sept « chapitres » à ce livre et chaque séparation est apprêtée d'un cadre, d'une calligraphie et d'une citation. Chaque chapitre se divise en plusieurs « articles » et des illustrations sont disséminées aux endroits appropriés, ce qui en fait un plus visuellement.

Pour les cuisinières, il y a tout un chapitre consacré à quelques recettes de cuisine, mon don de cuistot s'étant perdu à la naissance, j'ai carrément sauté ce chapitre. Néanmoins, le reste est plutôt sympathique. Chaque article se finit par une citation ayant un rapport avec le sujet. Parfois à tendance ludique, j'ai appris quelques trucs intéressants ! Que « La plus vieille pince à épiler que l'on ait retrouvé date du IIIe millénaire avant Jésus Christ » par exemple, pas très utile dans la vie courante, c'est sûr mais, c'est bon à savoir pour la culture G. Et parfois, juste pour faire rire. Dans l'article « Comment péter avec grâce et élégance à une réception chez l'ambassadeur », on trouve la citation : « Alfred Nobel inventa la dynamite en 1867 ». L'auteur raconte pas mal d'anecdotes, c'est ce qui mène à ces réflexions et ces conseils, on apprend des expressions intéressantes pour peu qu'on ait la curiosité d'en chercher la signification. Personnellement, je suis restée perplexe face à « peigner la girafe ». Quelqu'un connaît ? Eh bien, j'ai appris que cela signifiait ne rien faire de son temps ou effectuer en vain une tâche très longue.

Le second degré est très présent et fait beaucoup sourire. Un extrait :

« Et là, vous êtes brutalement réveillée par un bruit hallucinant, digne du rugissement d'un morse qui joue de la guimbarde dans une baignoire remplie de flan à la vanille. Eh oui, encore une fois, l'homme allongé à vos côtés est en train de ronfler et tout le quartier peut l'entendre. » p.84 (Que faire quand votre homme ronfle).

Donc, ce livre contient des conseils bons à prendre ou un peu démodés mais, la couverture justifie ces derniers. D'autres sont carrément loufoques et prêtent à sourire de bonne grâce. Le ton humoristique est très rafraichissant.

Mes petites idées chouchous :

- Comment descendre de voiture sans montrer sa petite culotte
- Comment recycler un bas résille
- Comment perdre trois kilos en trois heures [« Enlevez votre maquillage. » « Otez tous vos bijoux, même les petites boucles d'oreilles, les piercings et votre alliance » « Epilez-vous »].

Des petites infos bonus pour la culture G

« Le premier grille pain électrique a été inventé en 1905 »

« Le sac poubelle a été inventé en 1950 »

Donc, très bonne découverte ! J'espère que la demoiselle à qui il est destiné appréciera autant que moi ! Mais le but recherché en ouvrant ce bouquin est atteint : j'ai bien rit. A découvrir pour décompresser et passer un bon moment.

Yaaresse says

This was my "easy to pick-up/put-down" read for February, a little fun to break up all the serious stuff I was reading.

It's clearly meant to be amusing and quirky, so I'm amused by all the vitriolic negative reviews. At the same

time, there was some surprisingly accurate information included. I would never build an indoor fire using coal because I have this thing about not getting black lung, but the people certainly did for ages. I *have* built many outdoor fires using coal, courtesy of my brief time in the Girl Scouts, and the instructions for how to build a fire will definitely make for a hot, long-lasting, very satisfactory fire.

Honestly, one of the most humorous things in the book is the publisher's disclaimer, which appears to be Perigee's standard "how to" and cookbook disclaimer. I don't think they intended it to be funny, but when applied to this book, it was hilarious.

Do you want to understand bra sizes (because they are nonsense), French braid your hair or braid a horse's mane, make an ice cube necklace, walk down spiral stairs in heels without killing yourself, or balance a beverage can on its edge? Look no further. Need to press a cow tongue or determine if a pearl is the real thing? You're covered. Need to row a boat in a full skirt or walk on stilts or make a proper pot of tea? All in here and, while presented with a lot of snark and humor, are doable.

Other things, like building a log cabin or changing an electrical outlet are vague at best and in there just to be silly. (Seriously, you wouldn't really rely on a humor book to change a wall outlet, would you? Sigh. I guess someone, somewhere probably would, hence the publisher's note.) Most of us will never wonder how to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel or need to write a Dear John letter, but it makes for light entertaining reading.

Abigail says

More amusing than helpful.

Alanna Fowler says

This is actually really funny and surprisingly has some really useful information

Bert says

This is a nice informative, yet tongue in cheek, follow up to 211 Clever Things Boys Can Do. It is written by the female persona of the original author. If nothing else, it gave me a quick chuckle and some fun items to add to bucket list.
