



HUSBAND UNIVERSITY

The Field Guide

From first dates to happily ever adapting



A word from the Registrar

Being a husband is an important title. Curiously, it is often awarded after an event whose main practical training involves choosing a suit and standing in the correct place.

This book fills a little of the gap. It contains useful ideas, fictional mishaps and small examinations. Read it in order or open the chapter that fits your current difficulty. You are not required to have the same life, family plans or personality as any character.

The jokes belong to the situations. Neither partner is the permanent fool or the permanent examiner. The useful work is mutual, even when we address the husband who picked up the book.

Answer the questions in your own words. The notes offer guidance, not a diagnosis or a score for your marriage. Try one practical idea before collecting another ten.

And please: never begin an argument with “According to Chapter Eighteen...”

Admissions

First dates, clear intentions and the questions before the ring.



A SMALL MAP FOR REAL LIFE

Be yourself

Invite clearly

Stay curious

Choose freely

Illustrative process, not a scientific scale

CHAPTER 01

Before You Apply for the Position

You are not a renovation project

Oliver prepared for his first date in three years by buying a jacket and researching interesting facts about octopuses. Neither was a terrible idea. The difficulty was that he had also decided to become an entirely different man by Thursday.

He would enjoy hiking. He would understand wine. He would have strong but approachable opinions about architecture. His actual hobbies were cooking, watching football and repairing things that had not asked to be repaired.

The jacket fitted. The personality did not.

Dating goes more easily when the person who arrives resembles the person who will still exist in November. Present your good qualities, certainly. Wash. Make an effort. But do not advertise a lifestyle you would need a production crew to maintain. Someone who likes your real company is a better prospect than someone who loves your remarkably convincing trailer.

CHAPTER 01

Know what you are offering

Before asking whether someone meets your standards, consider what an ordinary week with you feels like. Can you keep a plan? Hear a different opinion? Manage your own meals, washing and appointments? These are not dazzling achievements. They are the floor on which the dazzling achievements will stand.

You need not have every part of life arranged. Most adults are running at least one department on a temporary system. Be honest about yours. A busy job, a disability, caring responsibilities or a recent change of circumstances may affect what you can offer. Explain what matters without turning the first drink into a complete audit.

Readiness is not perfection. It is enough self-knowledge to say, 'This is where I am,' and enough responsibility not to make a stranger the solution to everything you dislike about it.

CHAPTER 01

Curiosity beats a casting brief

A useful list of hopes might include kindness, compatible plans and feeling comfortable together. A less useful list specifies height, wardrobe, preferred holiday temperature and an uncanny resemblance to a person who has already declined your application.

Ask what you need rather than what would impress an audience. Do you want children? How important is location? What kind of relationship are you looking for? Some answers may be uncertain, but uncertainty is worth acknowledging.

Leave space for surprise. A quiet person may be hilarious once relaxed. A sparkling first impression may conceal a spectacular inability to ask a follow-up question. Attraction matters, but so does how you feel after spending time together. Look beyond whether you performed well. Did you actually enjoy being there?

CHAPTER 01

Leave the sales department at home

A dating profile can be clear without sounding like a kitchen appliance listing. Choose recent photographs. Describe things you genuinely enjoy. Write something another person could reasonably ask about. 'I make a very good curry and a deeply average playlist' gives more to work with than 'Work hard, play hard.' So does almost anything, including a bus timetable.

Avoid complaining about previous dates, issuing warnings or announcing that people must earn your attention. You are introducing yourself, not drafting conditions of entry to a private car park.

Your practical task is small: replace one impressive but vague statement with something true and specific. Then ask a trusted friend whether the profile sounds like you. If they ask who this interesting stranger is, revise it.

CHAPTER 01 / EXAMINATION

The short examination

1. Name one quality you can offer consistently, not just on a first date.
2. Which relationship hope is essential to you, and which is merely a preference?
3. Rewrite 'I like having fun' as a truthful detail someone could ask about.

Registrar's notes: Reliability counts. Essential needs deserve honest discussion; preferences can remain flexible. Specific details invite conversation. No extra marks for claiming to enjoy mountains you have only seen on packaging.

Field assignment: Make one practical improvement to your ordinary week before improving your dating profile. The successful applicant will eventually meet that week.
