

Becoming the Woman
of His Dreams

Sharon Jaynes



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ONE


An Invitation to Play the Starring Role

“And they lived happily ever after.”

Wait a minute. That is supposed to be the end of the story, not the beginning. Well, my friend, I think that has been our problem in marriage all along. To have a great marriage, we must begin with the hoped-for end in mind. Every word we speak, every decision we make, and every action we take will either move us closer to or take us further away from that end.

From the time a little girl first hears fairy tales of the damsel in distress being rescued by the handsome prince, captivated by his pledge of never-ending love, and whisked away on a white steed into the sunset, a dream begins to take shape on the stage of her mind. She hopes and prays that one day *her* prince will come. And then...one day he does! Oh, he may not look like the prince in the storybooks, or even like the one from her childhood imaginings, but he is her prince nonetheless. Will the words “and they lived happily ever after” appear before the final curtain falls? My dear sister, this is not just something we hope for. It is something we work toward. It is the goal, and you, fair lady, have been invited to play the starring role.

Have you ever considered that your husband had similar notions of what his dream wife would be like? As a little boy he

probably didn't sit around reading fairy tales about becoming a prince—a warrior, maybe—but not the neat-and-tidy young man who placed his lips upon Snow White's to wake her from a cursed sleep. He most likely skipped the Barbie aisle where Malibu Ken stood with every hair in place on his plastic head and went straight for the G.I. JOEs. Our spouses probably didn't give much thought to what they wanted in a wife until their teen years. However, your husband's vision of a future mate most assuredly began to unfurl when he laid eyes on you.

Remember the courting days? That's when we ladies put our best foot forward—in hopes that the glass slipper will fit. With a smile on our lips and a sparkle in our eyes, we somehow convinced this man that we are what he's been looking for his entire life! The woman of his dreams!

So we buy the beautiful dress, gather with family and friends, and walk down the aisle to say, "I do." Then the organ blasts, and we walk out the door into reality. This is where the glass slipper meets the road. Can we do it? Can we be the woman of our man's dreams? Do we really even want to?

When I married my wonderful husband, Steve, I had no idea what it would take to truly become the woman of his dreams. Oh, he told me that I already was, but I had an inkling there would be more to having a happy marriage than the fact that I loved Steve and Steve loved me. Even on our wedding day, the most beautiful day of my life, I had a suspicion there was more to discovering what it meant to truly become *one*. It didn't take me very long to learn that I was right.

In the Bible, Proverbs 31 describes the wife of noble character. "An excellent wife, who can find? Her worth is far above jewels (Proverbs 31:10 NASB). This gal was smart, skillful, thrifty, industrious, and strong. She had a reverence for God and was a blessed mother, keeper of her home, savvy money manager, faithful friend and mentor, and compassionate servant in the community. She was a powerful force long before Helen Reddy sang "I am woman, hear me roar." And what did her husband think

An Invitation to Play the Starring Role

about all her admirable qualities? He praised her saying, “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all” (Proverbs 31:29).

What would it take for a man to praise his wife at the beginning and end of their lives together and all the days in between? In order to find the answer to that question, I surveyed hundreds of men and had countless interviews. I asked men the following questions:

- How would you describe the woman of your dreams?
- What do you wish your wife understood about you and your longings?
- What does your wife do well that other women could learn from?
- What has been the greatest struggle in your marriage?
- How could your wife help alleviate that problem?
- What is one thing you wish women understood about what a man wants in the woman of his dreams?

As I compiled the interviews and surveys, I noticed seven qualities of the dream wife that kept coming up time and time again, and I have arranged them to fit the acrostic PRAISES. The woman of your man’s dreams *prays* for him, *respects* him, *adores* him, *initiates intimate friendship* with him, *safeguards* her marriage, *encourages* him, and *sexually fulfills* him. While each man is as different as the prints on his fingertips, these seven qualities were universal.

I want you to know that I am not coming to you as an expert who knows all there is to know about becoming the woman of my man’s dreams. Rather, I am learning right along with you. I discovered so much from the men I talked to throughout this journey. What touched me more than anything was that these

men truly love their wives and want to have strong marriages built on a thousand sharings. They were very honest with me, and they felt safe to share what was really on their hearts and minds. However, most did not feel safe enough for me to use their real names. That is a commentary in itself. Because of their honesty, you may see some things you don't like, the hair may bristle on the back of your neck, and you may throw the book down in a huff. But I would encourage you to keep reading if you really want to become the woman of your man's dreams.

Sprinkled throughout the pages are glimpses of various men's hearts as they shared their responses. Who knows? You may even see yourself mirrored in a response or two.

So join me now on a fantastic journey where you are the leading lady with the starring role in the grand drama called marriage, and discover with me the joys of *Becoming the Woman of His Dreams*.