



# Thoughtless male survival guide

## The Guide

By Christian Finnegan & Lance Romance A Lot

Men. Have you ever forgotten your girl's birthday or called her by the name of your ex? Has she ever caught you oogling her best friend's posterior or glancing at the TV for sports scores during an intimate moment? Did she ever find one of her old love letters in your trash can or catch you web surfing on [www.naughtynurses.com](http://www.naughtynurses.com)?

If so, then you are what millions of American women, and we in the gifting-giving business, call a "Thoughtless Male."

The "Thoughtless Male" doesn't intend to hurt; he just seems to do it—repeatedly—through his innate forgetfulness and inbred clumsiness! And once he's done something to offend the one he loves most, he finds it nearly impossible to manifest the right words and actions to get him back in her warm loving arms.

Now, thanks to 1-800-FLOWERS.COM's *Thoughtless Male Survival Guide*, men of all ages will have the knowledge and tools needed to get out and stay out of the dog house of love—forever!

Just in time for Valentine's Day, we present 20 of the most common dicey domestic situations created by thoughtless male behavior. Then, we provide dos and donts for each—the sure-fire methods to use, and those to avoid at all costs, if you want to get back on her sunny side!

After you've committed these rules to memory, head to our "[Thoughtless Male Registry](#)." Here you can register to receive automatic reminders of all the important gifting occasions for your mate, so you'll never again be known as that "forgetful, thoughtless guy!"

# 01.

**Scenario:** In the midst of an intimate moment, you're caught trying to watch SportsCenter out of the corner of your eye.

**Here's what to do:** Claim that what you were really looking for was the remote control, so that you could turn off all that "distracting" noise. Shut off the TV, and immediately go and run her a luxurious bath, making use of the [Cucumber Luxury Spa Basket](#).

**Here's what NOT to do:** Tell her that the two of you can make love anytime, while a divisional match-up between the Vikings and Packers only happens a couple of times a year. Trust me, she doesn't need to know that you're out \$300 if the Vikings don't cover the spread.

# 02.

**Scenario:** In the midst of an argument with your girlfriend, you dare to mention those three dreaded letters: PMS!

**Here's what to do:** Enroll in a respected institute of higher education, preferably M.I.T. Spend 15-20 years studying advanced scientific engineering. Design and build time machine. Travel back in time to the moment when the argument with your girlfriend began to get heated. Slap the old you in the face and remind him that invoking PMS is a no-win proposition, even if it's true. Especially if it's true. Cram a [Rose Lover's Bouquet](#) in the old you's hand and then vanish back into the future.

**Here's what NOT to do:** Immediately turn to the person closest to you and yell, "Yo, ladies be crazy at that time of the month! Am I right, my man? High five!"

# 03.

**Scenario:** You mistakenly call your loved one by an ex-girlfriend's name.

**Here's what to do:** Immediately stub your toe and slam your fingers in a door. Yell loud enough that your girlfriend has no choice but to attend to your injury, causing her to forget that you just referred to her as "Charlotte." Don't go easy on it, though—only noticeable swelling will take her mind off of your screw up. However, make no mistake: your faux pas will eventually come to light, so you'd better have a box of chocolate covered strawberries ready.

**Here's what NOT to do:** Attempt to morph your ex-girlfriend's name into an innocuous statement that makes absolutely no sense in the context of the conversation (for example, "Listen, Charlotte...s Web is a really underrated novel!"). That only worked on *Three's Company*.

# 04.

**Scenario:** For Valentine's Day, your girlfriend buys you an antique pocket watch with a heartfelt inscription on the back and you buy her...an Xbox! And hell, since she stays at your place most of the time anyway, why not just leave it at your place?

**Here's what to do:** Remember, Valentine's Day isn't officially over until midnight. So when the look of shock and faint disgust on your girlfriend's face lets you know in no uncertain terms that you've screwed up (again), calmly excuse yourself and make an emergency call to 1-800-FLOWERS.COM<sup>®</sup>. By midnight, her "real" Valentine's Day presents will arrive and you can have a nice chuckle about her thinking you would ever be so inconsiderate as to buy her an Xbox for Valentines Day. How preposterous!

**Here's what NOT to do:** Offer to send the Xbox back...if she can defeat you in a best-of-seven Mortal Kombat tournament!!

# 05.

**Scenario: You're asked to take care of your girlfriend's goldfish while she's out of town. Due to overfeeding, you wind up sending her beloved pet to that great underwater castle in the sky.**

**Here's what to do:** When she gets home, give her a long hug and then ask her to sit down. Take her by the hand and then calmly, lovingly tell her...to say hello to her new kitten! Once "Petunia" starts purring and licking her face, your girlfriend will be saying "Goldfish schmoldfish!" Of course, if your girlfriend happens to be allergic, an [I. Luvyalots](#) teddy bear may elicit a similar response.

**Here's what NOT to do:** Go out and buy another goldfish, thinking she'll never know the difference. To you, that fish may be nothing more than a mindless swimming blob. But to your girlfriend, he's Arturo the Goldfish, faithful friend and companion. She'll be devastated when she finds out you've murdered him, and even more so when you admit to giving him a "burial at sea".

# 06.

**Scenario: Your wife is none too pleased that you've decided to invite Mom along on your "romantic" Caribbean vacation.**

**Here's what to do:** Pay one of your siblings to come along and act as parent-sitter. If you're an only child, suggest to your mom that she bring along a friend—say, one of the women in her bingo group? If your mother doesn't have any friends, rent one. Sound expensive? Well, too bad—unless you want to spend six days and five nights refereeing a series of passive-aggressive catfights, you'll pony up some dough. Oh, and while you have your wallet out, how about a nice set of [Silk Pajamas](#), to help add to the romance?

**Here's what NOT to do:** Get rooms next door to each other. Having Mom fifteen feet away isn't going to inspire the kind of hot Caribbean passion that convinced you and your wife to plan this trip in the first place. And if it does? Well, then you may have other issues to deal with.

# 07.

**Scenario:** You spend a little bit too much time dancing with your girlfriend's cousin at a wedding.

**Here's what to do:** Act horribly offended. In as self-righteous a tone as you can muster, inform her that you are trying to get to know her family, and that if she's not interested in including you in every aspect of her life, well then maybe you need to reevaluate just where this relationship is going. Before she knows what's hit her, offer to forgive her and magnanimously hand her the bunch of tulips you've just grabbed off a nearby dinner table.

**Here's what NOT to do:** Suggest to your girlfriend and her cousin that maybe you all should "take this party upstairs."

# 08.

**Scenario:** Your girlfriend opens up your internet browser and discovers that you recently visited [www.naughtynurses.com](http://www.naughtynurses.com)

**Here's what to do:** Own up to it...sort of. Tell her you were surfing the net one day when "some porn site" popped up on your screen. Admit that you did peruse the site a bit, but tell her you eventually got bored—after all, why would you need to look at women on the Internet when you have the real thing at home? If she doesn't go for that, an Ultimate Love Bouquet probably couldn't hurt.

**Here's what NOT to do:** Deny it. Most women are willing to accept that guys look at nudies every now and then. But the operative words are "every now and then." Claim complete innocence and she'll want to really go digging. Trust me, you don't want her finding the four gigabytes of hard drive space you've devoted to the career of Jenna Jameson, you filthy dog.

# 09.

**Scenario:** In the heat of an argument, you accidentally refer to your girlfriend's mother as a "manipulative witch who would rather spend her time nosing around in our business than dealing with the fact that she'll be dead soon." Whoops!

**Here's what to do:** You said what you said—no use in denying it. Instead, shift the focus to your relationship with your own parents, telling your girlfriend how jealous you are of her close-knit family. And when her mom receives a beautiful [Yankee Candle Macintosh Gift Set](#) out of the blue, you'll come away looking like a champ.

**Here's what NOT to do:** Shift the focus of the conversation to your girlfriend's "freeloading burnout" brother.

# 10.

**Scenario:** Your girlfriend catches you checking out another woman's posterior.

**Here's what to do:** Point to the sky, yell "Oh my god what is that?!", and run away. Seriously—there's no other way to get out of this one. She'll wonder where you've gone, but all will be forgiven five minutes later, when you re-appear bearing a [Sterling Silver Heart Jewelry Set](#).

**Here's what NOT to do:** Say anything along the lines of "Wow", "Hellooooo" or, "HOLY MOLEY, WOULD YOU CHECK THAT OUT? BAM! POW! HOT-DIGGITY-DOG, I'D LIKE TO EAT MY LUNCH OFF OF THAT!"

# 11.

**Scenario:** You tell your girlfriend that you have to cancel date night because you're not feeling well. Later that evening, she discovers you at a bar, hanging out with your friends.

**Here's what to do:** Quickly put your arm around one of your friends and say, "Listen, buddy. You're going to get through this. Your grandmother was a wonderful lady, but she lived a long, fruitful life and now she's in a better place. You have to move on, man—Granny would have wanted it that way." Hopefully, your friend will catch on and commence to sobbing uncontrollably. It's probably a good idea to bring along a [Satin-Wrapped Sympathy Wreath](#), just in case.

**Here's what NOT to do:** Barf on her shoe. That's what you'd call "insult to injury," dude.

# 12.

**Scenario:** You fail to notice your girlfriend's new hairdo

**Here's what to do:** Tell her, "Sweetheart, I didn't notice because you always look so beautiful to me—almost as beautiful as a [Passion for Purple Rose Bouquet!](#)"

**Here's what NOT to do:** Tell her, "Look, I was always taught 'if you can't say something nice...'"



# 13.

**Scenario:** A friend inadvertently reveals that you've been sharing the intimate details of your relationship with outsiders.

**Here's what to do:** Act as if it's already well established that your friend knows the personal information in question. In fact, convince your girlfriend that she was actually present during the conversation. When she claims to have no such memory, subtly imply that maybe she needs to cut back on her drinking. And then offer her some delicious fruit from, say, a [Gourmet Orchard Basket!](#)

**Here's what NOT to do:** Immediately kick your friend's shin under the table and make a strange face. That just leads to more questions.

# 14.

**Scenario:** Your girlfriend asks you a question and it becomes suddenly obvious that you haven't heard a word that's come out of her mouth for the past twenty minutes.

**Here's what to do:** Stare deep into her eyes and say, "Wow, I cannot believe how beautiful you look right now." Before she has the chance to call you a phony, take her face in your hands and kiss her like Tom Cruise kisses Kelly McGillis in *Top Gun*—no woman who came of age in the 1980s can resist that.

**Here's what NOT to do:** Say anything along the lines of, "Oh, I'm sorry—were you saying something? I was busy thinking about... well, anything other than whatever nonsense you're babbling about." That rarely goes over well.

# 15.

**Scenario:** Ignoring the 'Dry Clean Only' tag, you throw your wife's favorite cashmere sweater in the laundry, to less than spectacular results.

**Here's what to do:** No tricks here, dude—go out and buy your wife a new sweater. In fact, buy her two or three, just to be safe. As for the one you ruined, think of it this way: now it's a perfect fit for the [Happy Bearwish](#) teddy bear you bought her last month.

**Here's what NOT to do:** Put it back in her drawer, thinking she won't notice. There's nothing a woman is more attuned to than how her clothes are meant to fit. A shrunken garment may trick her into thinking she's suddenly gained fifteen pounds, sending her into an emotional tailspin that's guaranteed to cost you far more than the price of a cashmere sweater.

# 16.

**Scenario:** Your girlfriend takes a gander at your trash can and there, peaking out from underneath an old newspaper and some fast food wrappers, is a love letter she wrote you on your anniversary.

**Here's what to do:** Explain that you didn't throw her letter in the trash; you lovingly placed it in the "recycling bin." Talk passionately about the environment, the destruction of the rainforests, etc. Assure her that the love you share isn't represented by mere words on paper—it's Mother Nature herself bringing two kindred souls together. And really, what's more fitting than returning this small token of love back to the earth from whence it came? Why, it's almost as natural as this [Reflections of Love](#) arrangement!

**Here's what NOT to do:** Say, "How did that get in there?" and yank the card out of the trash. After all, you don't want her to know you've used the back of her heartfelt declaration of love for a shopping list, do you?

# 17.

**Scenario: A night of heavy drinking renders you temporarily unable to perform your manly duties.**

**Here's what to do:** Fall asleep. Yes, you heard me right: roll over and immediately slip into an alcohol-induced coma. And no matter how hard she tries to wake you, do not stir—you're "asleep." While this may seem like a horrible idea, cutting your losses is really the only option here. Because if you were sober enough to talk your way out of it, you'd probably be sober enough to...well, you know. All will be forgiven the next morning, when your beloved wakes to breakfast in bed and a beautiful [Pink Perfection](#) bouquet. After breakfast? Time to get to work, my friend.

**Here's what NOT to do:** Drunkenly suggest to your girlfriend that if she only took care of herself a bit more, this wouldn't be a problem for you. Bad, bad move.

# 18.

**Scenario: At your wife's corporate holiday party, you take full advantage of the open bar and end up calling her boss a "complete moron" for thinking *Dark Side of the Moon* is a better album than *Led Zeppelin IV*.**

**Here's what to do:** Before the awkwardness sets in, ask your wife to weigh in on the controversy. If she's like most women, she won't have strong feelings one way or the other. Use your wife's indifference to meaningless rock trivia as a way to bond with her boss. You and he will soon become "buds," giving your wife the inside track on that big promotion she's been counting on. Before you know it, she'll be buying you the [Godiva Deluxe Oval Tin](#)!

**Here's what NOT to do:** Drop your pants. I know, you're thinking, "Hey, it's a party! This will help lighten the mood!"

It won't.

# 19.

**Scenario:** Your wife tells you about an argument she's having with her friend Amy and, like an idiot, you mention that Amy "kind of has a good point."

**Here's what to do:** Repeat after me: "No sweetheart, I'm not trying to sleep with Amy. No honey, I don't find Amy attractive. No baby, Amy has never come on to me." Commit it to memory, pal, because you're going to be repeating it all night long. It might also be appropriate to send Amy an anonymous [Sympathy Fireside Basket](#), considering all the trouble you just sent her way.

**Here's what NOT to do:** When your wife asks if you find Amy attractive, reply, "Why, did she say something?"

# 20.

**Scenario:** Your wife tells you about an argument she's having with her friend Amy and, like an idiot, you mention that you also find Amy "kind of annoying".

**Here's what to do:** Repeat after me: "No sweetheart, I'm not saying that you're annoying. No honey, I'm not trying to insult your friends. Baby, I think Amy's great—in fact, how about I treat the two of you to a [Mama Moore's Bakeshop Bakery Box](#)?"

**Here's what NOT to do:** Say, "No sweetheart, I'm not saying that you're annoying. No honey, I'm not trying to insult your friends. Baby, I think Amy's great—in fact, she kind of has a good point..."

(Uh oh...)