CUPIDITY





50 stupid things people do for love*

Loving her for her body only | Dressing to get attention | Looking at porn Having friends of the opposite sex Giving too much information Refusing to move forward emotionally Belleving love is a Letting technology define your feeling | Believing romance relationship | Pleasing the other person equals love | Standing on your at all costs | Disrespecting your rights | Misunderstanding significant other in public | Refusing to forgiveness (or refusing to get over it) Letting the other persons emotions control apologize | Not knowing how to break up | Making a big deal out of everything environment is a your I minimize uses surrough the strong charge opposit also I Trying to fix things | Taking charge Having unrealistic expectations Failing to provide | Feating the silence Wishing your significant Refusing to grow up | Failing to notice other were your gender him Neglecting romance | Loving who Loving someone with a different you want him to become insulad of who he ou went nern to deconvertening as what he is [Loying Who she is faith | Expecting another person to bring you hope, joy, or peace Not accepting his Talks | Walking on Playing god | Obsessing eggshells | Refusing to receive over yourself | Obsessing protection or correction | Using over them | Rehearsing the sex to get love | Using romanus to get see Believing sex will keep other person's faults them | Withholding sex to in your mind get romance | Becoming too Sharing sins comfortable with each other Shacking up | Enabling abuse Not Having friends with benefits knowing Blending finances what true before marriage love Giving up food

*and how to avoid them

HAYLEY & DIMARCO



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To all the stupid things we've done for love, thanks for nothing!

(Except for this book, of course . . .)





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What Is Cupidity?

Cupidity: where love and stupid meet.

Stupid love—ever experienced it? Ever wished you hadn't? We believe that stupid is as stupid loves. Think stupid thoughts, and end up with a stupid mind. Do stupid things, and, well, you get the picture.

But hey, who hasn't been stupid? Especially in love. We've written over thirty books on relationships and counseled countless individuals about dating issues, and both of us still do stupid stuff in the name of love. So you aren't alone if you realize that you're not the sharpest tool in the shed when it comes to the opposite sex. And even if you have a lot of experience when it comes to relationships, that doesn't mean you can't be reminded and refreshed about the fine art of opposites.

Most of the time when people experience Cupidity, it's because of the lies they've bought and the truth they've not. Stupid lies, like thinking men and women are basically the same. You assume they have the same needs, motivations, and desires, so love should be easy. Just give 'em what *you* want, and you'll get back more of the same. But then you do something like ask him what he's thinking, or you tell her that something she's worried about is "no big deal." And your idea of what the opposite sex is thinking unravels right in front of you.

Hayley: There was a time, not so long ago, when I thought that if Michael and I got into the car and he didn't start talking, he was mad at me. I was sure his silence meant anger. So I'd get all heated inside, making up all kinds of things I wanted to say about how mean he was or how I hadn't done anything to warrant his being "vengeful." I'd get all worked up for nothing, because the truth is that most guys

don't mind silence, and just because there is no talking, it doesn't mean there's a problem. Talk about not understanding the opposite sex!

But don't worry—acts of Cupidity aren't disastrous, and they are most often reversible. They're just what some like to call opportunities to "fail forward." Every failure at love is just a chance for you to learn more about what not to do. And that's not just the case in dating; the first year of marriage is often full of close-quarters Cupidity. We know a number of couples in healthy, long-term marriages who still fight the urge to love stupidly. Whether you're single or married, you can do a lot to start living on the smart side of love.

Cupidity is not love; it is a cheap imitation of love. It is often entered into as a result of desperation, selfishness, or even selfpreservation. It is an attempt to control fate and manage your own destiny through sheer brute strength. Cupidity is born out of the habit of believing love-lies and calling them the truth simply because you've seen them played out in movies or heard your friends swear by them. And because its focus is somewhere on self instead of on the other person, it ultimately leads you to lose out on love.

No matter where you are on the Cupidity scale, we believe that a sober look at some lies you might be buying into will do you some good, both personally and in your relationships. And as a side benefit, it might also give you some perspective in the form of laughter release. Because that's the thing: you've got to laugh at your relational blunders—not while you're in them, of course, but after the dust has settled. Then you can look back at your actions with an eye for change instead of with regret and remorse.

Like the other day, when we started reminiscing about our first year of marriage and how we had to learn how to apologize to each other. Hayley would never say she was sorry, only that something was an accident, or she'd blame the weight of the car door and the wind for slamming it into a pole. Michael, on the other hand, would so instantaneously say, "I'm sorry" that it felt like he was just doing it to move on to something else. Whether it was Hayley's avoidance of the "I.S." phrase or Michael checking the "I.S." box on his to-do list as quickly as possible, we both had to learn what the other person needed to hear when we individually messed up.

Spiritually speaking, Cupidity is choosing to love out of your own self-interest and casting a blind eye to what God says about love and relationships. Essentially, it's believing that God's Word isn't always conducive to love and choosing instead to make your way on your own. Any time you disobey God's Word in the name of "love," you walk right into the Cupidity Café and order up a Cupid-ccino Fail-a-latte. With extra foam.

More often than not, Cupidity is really just stupidity with the best of intentions. Love is the ultimate goal, but Cupidity is just a stupid way of trying to get to it. And what makes it stupid is most often a lack of knowledge. So where do you get knowledge the good stuff? There are a lot of places you could look. Experts,



friends, a former child actor turned reality star . . . everyone has an opinion on love, but there are so many contradictions. How do you get to the truth?

If you've read the Bible, and if you believe the words you've read, then you probably have a pretty good idea of what love is—at least from a grand die-for-you and turn-the-other-cheek perspective. But applying that kind of love to our everyday messy, stinky, and sticky lives is a challenge for us all. The way we look at it, love true love—is the ultimate removal of self from your definition of love. Love in its genuine form requires a complete focus not just on the wants of the other person but also on their mental, emotional, physical, social, and spiritual needs. Imagine how good love would be if no one ever had to search for it themselves—if it were given to each of us freely, with no one manipulating it, using it, or refusing it, and if it were given the way the author of love himself has given it. Imagine if you knew how to love without giving in to your damaged desires and experiences. That would be pretty amazing, huh?

But who are we kidding? This is earth, not heaven, and there are some broken people out there, maybe even right here, reading this book. So love isn't going to be as easy as returning a glass slipper to a perfect little foot and running off in a pumpkin carriage together. Park the gourd and call the podiatrist—there's gonna be some work involved. Smart love will require some painful changes and some refusals to wallow in the misery of it all should your Cupidity lead to heartache. But in the end, a look at the Cupidity in your own life and relationships should at the very least get you thinking and hopefully praying that things can get a whole lot better.

Cupidity Quiz

- T F 1. In every (or almost every) relationship you've had, you've heard or had the same complaint.
- T F 2. You think and act with your heart instead of your head.
- T F 3. You feel like you've "settled" in a relationship.
- T F 4. You wish you could change your significant other and make them better suited for you.
- T F 5. You've been burned in love.
- T F 6. You just can't seem to get over something a significant other did to you in the past.
- T F 7. You feel controlled or heavily impacted by your partner's emotions.
- T F 8. You don't love yourself enough to love another.
- T F 9. You think love is a feeling.

Scoring:

For every <i>true</i> you circled, give yourself 2 points:	
For every false you circled, give yourself 1 point:	
Add up your score:	

18-13: Hello, Cupid; meet Stupid.

Well, it looks like you've come to the right place. Your love life could use a little vitamin C. And *Cupidity* is here to help. Don't worry—we've all done stupid things in the name of love, but what's really stupid is to keep doing them once you've seen the error of your ways. It's time to take an honest look at how you think and feel about love and make some serious changes to get the stupidity out of your love life.

12–9: Cue the harp music.

You're definitely on the right track when it comes to this love thing. But don't put the book down, because even if you're a good student of love, we've got some new stuff for you to consider. Love is always looking for ways to improve itself, and in these pages that's just what you will find. So let's keep going and discover the subtle nuances of avoiding Cupidity.

SECTION ONE

Emotional Acts Cupidity

Believing love is a feeling | Believing romance equals love | Standing on your rights | Misunderstanding forgiveness (or refusing to get over it) Letting the other person's emotions control you [Thinking that reiling him everything is a good idea | Trying to fix things | Taking charge Failing to provide | Fearing the silence Refusing to grow up | Failing to notice him | Neglecting romance | Loving who you want him to become instead of who he is | Loving who she was instead of who she is Not accepting his "kills" | Walking on eggshells | Refusing to receive protection or correction | Using sex to get love | Using romance to get sex | Believing sex will keep them | Withholding sex to get romance | Becoming too comfortable with each other Shacking up | Enabling abuse Having friends with benefits Blending finances before marriage Giving up food to get

Loving her for her body only | Dressing to get attention | Looking at porn Having friends of the opposite sex Giving too much information Refusing to move forward emotionally Letting technology define your relationship | Pleasing the other person at all costs | Disrespecting your significant other in public Refusing to apologize | Not knowing how to break up | Making a big deal out of everything Having unrealistic expectations Wishing your significant other were your gender Loving someone with a different faith | Expecting another person to bring you hope, joy, or peace Playing god | Obsessing over yourself | Obsessing over them | Rehearsing the other person's faults in your mind Sharing sins Not knowing what true love is

love

Emotional Acts of Cupidity

Sometimes love is like riding the most extreme roller coaster on the planet and falling off in the middle of the best loop-the-loop. Ouch! Love hurts, there's no doubt. If you've ever fallen into it (or off of it), then you probably have some strong emotions on the subject. And if it's something you've only imagined for your life, then you might have a great sense of excitement about it. But *some-times love isn't all it's cracked up to be*.

The things you've encountered in your love life will naturally color your feelings about the subject and thus your future experiences with it. Feelings—even those nasty little ones you push down and try to bury in the musty recesses of your heart, promising you'll never recall them again—can have a major impact on your love life. So in order to get the Cupidity out and let the real love flow, you've first got to look at your feelings and what they tell you about how you love and receive love.

Feelings are often the first line of defense for your heart. They are often focused inward, like little guards marching back and forth to ward off attack from anything that might injure or steal your heart. But they're also always keeping a lookout for hope, pleasure, and joy. By definition, a feeling is any partly mental, partly physical response marked by pleasure, pain, attraction, or repulsion. And so most often, your feelings either draw you to something or someone, or push you away. Whether you are experiencing an amazing feeling or a horrific one, it will be sent to your brain as an alert, along

with a strong recommendation for the next course of action based on its assessment of the situation.

In order to get you to act, feelings often disguise themselves as reason and thought. They defend their case based on how many times they've been experienced and how strong the previous experiences were. Even for those of us who deny our feelings or have learned to somehow shut them off, feelings will still go to extreme lengths to manage situations and future experiences. That is why many abuse victims have no memory of past abuse but continue to be affected by it, if only on a subconscious level. Feelings are a powerful force in the life of every human being, and even the lack of emotion is a force that can affect all your actions and reactions to the world around you.

Whether you revel in your emotional life or deny it, your feelings need to be embraced so they can be experienced for what God made them to be and yet guarded to manage the powerful impact they can have on your reason and actions (Proverbs 4:23).

What you feel comes from what you believe.

And for the Christian, what you feel ultimately stems from what you believe to be true about God and his Word, as well as the role God's Word plays in your life. In every situation, you must first run your reactions and emotions by the Word of God. When you do, you will know whether your

feelings on a matter can be trusted. Your feelings must have a foundation in faith; only

For as he thinks within himself, so he is. Proverbs 23:7, NASB

then can they be experienced to their fullest without sin.

When Jesus fell asleep in the middle of the storm (Luke 8:22-25), his feelings were calm and secure. But the emotions of the disciples were anything but—they feared and they worried and finally they complained to the peaceful, sleeping Jesus. So what made the difference in their emotional reactions to the same situation? Their beliefs. Jesus believed that God was his protector and that nothing could touch him except what the Father allowed.

If you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. JAMES 1:25

While the disciples might have had head knowledge of this fact, they failed to own it and make it a filter for their emotional lives.

> Emotions are not a ball and chain. They don't need to be

avoided or feared; they are a part of the life of a believer just as they were a part of the life of Jesus. While on earth Jesus wept and mourned. He was angry and joyful. He loved deeply and felt great compassion. His feelings weren't hidden, but they were holy aligned with the truth. If your emotions call you to do anything that goes against God's Word, then they are leading you to acts of foolishness. But if you can filter all you feel, and learn to participate only in emotions that have been made holy, then you can remove the Cupidity from your life and your love.

When it comes to relationships, most of us have a set of principles or ideals we live by, either consciously or subconsciously. Those ideals affect how we react to and treat others who are in relationships with us. Not only that, but they also affect how we are viewed by others and ultimately treated by them. In the life of a believer in love, it is important to understand God's commands regarding relationships here on earth. We are setting ourselves up

The Emotional Life of Jesus

ANGER

"He looked around at them angrily and was deeply saddened" (Mark 3:5).

"He was angry with his disciples" (Mark 10:14).

GRIEF

"He was deeply troubled. . . . Then Jesus wept" (John 11:33, 35).

"As he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep" (Luke 19:41).

ANGUISH

"I am under a heavy burden" (Luke 12:50).

"He became anguished and distressed" (Matthew 26:37).

COMPASSION

"His heart overflowed with compassion" (Luke 7:13).

"Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him" (Mark 1:41).

'n

"Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit" (Luke 10:21).

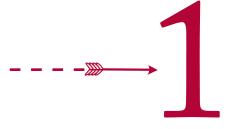
"I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy" (John 15:11).

TEMPTATION

"This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin" (*Hebrews 4:15*).

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for utter disaster if we do anything else. So let's dive into a few emotional acts of Cupidity so we can learn to run our emotional lives through the filter of God's truth instead of the world's.



Believing Love Is a Feeling

One of the biggest acts of Cupidity is to believe that love is a feeling and nothing more. While certainly it is true that love elicits some strong emotions, *love itself isn't a feeling*.

Let's say someone makes you feel amazing. You can't quit thinking about the person, and you are sure that it is love. So you confess your undying love to the object of your affection. Then a few days, a few months, or a few years down the road, that amazing feeling goes away. Does that mean you never loved the person or you stopped loving them? Or does it mean that feelings of love can't be an indicator of the existence of love? It has to be one or the other. Which one you choose says a lot about your core beliefs about love.

Early on in a relationship, it is easy for things other than love to mimic love and cause people to believe they have found their dream come true. There are so many other things that feel just like love. Take jumping out of an airplane, for example. The rush, the adrenaline, the fear, and even the pleasure of that specific moment can have the same emotional reaction and payoff as love's first expression. But obviously, jumping from extreme heights is more

about fear and adrenaline than eternal commitment. A guy can feel the same kinds of emotions for his car as he does for his girl. And a woman can feel the same kind of euphoric rush when she buys a pair of shoes as when her man brings her flowers. But that doesn't mean it's accurate to call those passions love.

In two different relationships before I got married, I committed to making it work based on the feeling that this was the only "good guy" who would love me. Fear was my compelling emotion—I was afraid I couldn't do any better. I saw the warning signs in each relationship, but out of fear I chose to overlook them instead of doing a faithful

inspection of the problems.

Hayley:

A lot of single people commit Cupidity when they get so wrapped up in the emotion of love that they neglect the truth about love. They ignore red flags, concerns of friends and family, and even warnings from the very object of their love. A well-known Christian counselor once said, "Don't marry the person you think you can live with; marry only the individual you think you can't live without." And while he is no doubt a smart man and that sounds like romantic and sound advice, have you ever considered how many people marry someone they "can't live without," and then four years later they divorce the same person they no longer can live with? Did things fall apart because their way of choosing, based on a feeling, was wrong? Or was it because their definition of love as needing to feel a certain way was faulty? We could answer

that for you, but we're not going to. Let's just say that no matter what the answer is, judging the presence of love based on how you feel is a dangerous, er, proposal.

If you are honest with yourself, would you say that you feel your way through love? Did you (or would you) choose your mate based on how they make you feel? Have you rejected someone because your feelings changed? Do you consider feelings the best indicator of success or failure in a relationship? Though feelings should be noted, they can't be followed blindly, because when they are, they overshadow God's commands.

Many women can be heard to say things like, "He just doesn't love me anymore." And what they often mean is, "He doesn't make me feel the same way anymore." We've considered that idea a lot. Because we were head over heels in love when we were dating and got married, and since then there have been fewer and fewer of those emotional highs. In fact, we've gone weeks, even months, without them. And the questions that keep lurking are, Does he love me anymore? Did she ever love me? But then, being the practical souls we are, we thought about how hard life would be if we permanently felt the same emotional high that we felt in the beginning of the relationship. How would we get any sleep, living in the same house together? When would we remove our lips from each other long enough to eat? How would we concentrate at work when all we could do was imagine being with the other person? That initial feeling of love that is so fantastical is also distracting—nay, all consum ing. It's your soul's occupation, and while a busy soul is a happy soul, it's also a pleasure-driven soul, finding little strength or focus for things other than true love. We aren't dissing the amazing sensation of "love's first kiss," as our three-year-old fairy tale-loving daughter puts it, but we are saying that it can be a bit of an obsession.



In relationships—especially at the beginning—it is easy to take the incredible emotions another person brings you to as *a sure sign that love is in the air* ... when all it might be is the thrill of the chase or the excitement of a mystery waiting to be unraveled. So that brings us back to the original premise that love isn't a feeling but an action. How do we know? Because God commands it. All over Scripture God commands us to love. Love God, love our neighbors as ourselves, even love our enemies. But if love were a feeling, then God couldn't

Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!...If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Matthew 5:44, 46 command it. No one can order you to feel something. Emotions don't work like that—you don't turn them on and off, on command. But actions can

be commanded: "Share your toys." "Don't hit back!" "Don't touch that" (not to be confused with, "You can't touch this").

But maybe there's more to it than even that. Have you considered why God gave us the command to love in the first place? If love came naturally to all of us, if it were always our first response to all people, in all situations, then God wouldn't have had to make it the focus of his instructions to us (1 Corinthians 16:14). God sees the need to command us to love, because love isn't usually our first response, except when we are deep in it. In those situations, love is easy, natural—like second nature. Love is your "soul" focus: that person gets all the best of you. You are patient, kind, caring, and selfless, and you overlook faults. You are the perfect picture of love in human form. Wow! But God knows us better than that. He knows that love, in order to prove itself true, must be tested. It must

stand in the face of opposition (Matthew 5:44); it must give of itself even when it gets nothing in return (Luke 6:35); it must be a conscious choice and not an emotional response (Matthew 5:46).

According to a poll taken in March 2008 by the Barna Research Group, the divorce rate for Christian couples is statistically identical to all other faith groups, as well as atheists and agnostics. Whether or not the Christians polled truly lived biblical lives is questionable—we have no way of knowing their hearts or their basis for calling themselves Christians. But as a random poll of people who consider themselves "saved," this seems to be confirmation that feelings, not faith, most profoundly affect the actions of those who consider themselves faithful.

When you feel your way through love, you are apt to ignore the warning signs that signal a future of difficulty, if not pain. They might even be signs from God that this person is not *the* person. So emotions can't be allowed to have the final say on who you choose.

For the married person, trials and emotionally difficult experiences are part of the pattern of love. These trials—these tests of faith and love-are what

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. I PETER 4:8

lead to sanctification, the purification of your faith. Every time a trial rears its evil head, your first question should be What does God want me to learn about my sin from this? not What is my spouse's sin in this? According to pastor and teacher James MacDonald,

"God's goal is not to make you happy; it's to make you holy."

When love is based on a feeling, you have Cupidity: stupid, stupid actions taken to try to get more love. But when love is based on actions, you actually get amazing feelings *after* you give in fully to the kind of self-sacrificing love that Jesus taught us through his life. See, when love is patient, kind, humble, meek, and all the other things Jesus taught, it is at its best. And the most amazing thing is that it isn't based on what others do or fail to do. It isn't dependent on situations but on an immovable and perfect God. In short, it's heavenly. Harp music, please!

So we've established that love is an action, not a feeling. But what does that look like? Love is an action not in the sense of "start the film rolling" but in the sense of "it's not what you feel; it's what you do." When you look at it like that, suddenly love becomes less about how people make you feel or what they do to you, but what you do in response to them.

Wait a minute . . . you mean love isn't about how a person makes me feel but about how I treat them? Yep, that's it in a nutshell—good job. So if love is lacking in your life, it isn't because of the other person; it's because of you. Ouch, that hurts even as it's coming out. Let's walk through this together—it's too scary alone. According to Scripture, you aren't going to be judged based on the love you feel but the love you give: "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). Can't speak for you, but we speak for ourselves when we say that most of these things—like patience, humility, not insisting on getting our own way, never giving up, and enduring all things—ain't



The Way to a Man's Heart Is through His Left Ear

When it comes to helping your beloved know how much you love them, make sure you speak into their left ear. According to research in the Times (April 25, 2008), we remember emotional messages best when we hear them through the left ear. On the other hand (or the other side of the head), the right ear is the one you want if you are teaching, giving directions, or sharing nonemotional information. It all has to do with the different functions of the right and left hemispheres of the brain—the left side controls the right side of the body, while the right side of the brain controls the left side of the body.

When you consider that the left part of the brain is the logical side and the right side is more imaginative, it all starts to make sense. Want to capture someone's imagination or emotions? Then whisper into their left ear.

In fact, further research suggests that the best cheek for kissing is the left one, and women tend to favor the left side for holding babies. (No research yet if conservative candidates kiss babies on the right cheek while liberals smooth on the left!)

what we originally had in mind when we thought about what love should *feel* like.

Finding Fabio Unshaven in a White T-Shirt

Hayley:

Let me just jump in here. One day I was bemoaning the fact that the romance was gone from our marriage. Because romance is how a woman knows for sure that a man loves her—crazy, I know, but blame it on Disney. Anyway, that day I took to heart God's command to love regardless of what I was getting. I took the time to notice that God is love (1 John 4:16), and my thoughts and actions of love given to my "undeserving" husband transported God's very presence into my life. It was as if my act of obedience produced love and romance, right then and there (1 Thessalonians 3:12; 1 John 4:11-12). And suddenly I thought that Michael was the dreamiest man on the planet. His unshaven face, white T-shirts, and holey socks were all just as they should be. Poor guy—he had no idea what I was going through or why I was so difficult to live with. It was my own misguided ideas of how things should be that made me crazy and caused me to consider him "undeserving" of my love. But when I saw things from God's perspective, all the smoke cleared and I could see true love. It wasn't what I was feeling about Michael but what I believed about God and who he commands me to be that counted. (BTW, Michael is currently editing this unshaven in a white T-shirt.)

If you base your love on how you feel about the other person, then stop the Cupidity now and absorb this truth into your pores. Steam over it. And let the truth set you free. Love, when given God's way, is better and more lasting than any visceral reaction to your dream girl or guy.

Of course, it would be a potential act of Cupidity for a single person to determine that there need be no sensation of love that comes out of interacting with the future Mr. or Mrs. Perfect, whether physically, mentally, or spiritually. There needs to be some kind of chemistry in order to seal the deal and proceed around the proverbial bases, but once you've slid into home (and by that we mean walked down the aisle), how you feel can't determine how much love you give your spouse. But until you marry, you are free to say, "I'm not in love with you, so I'm walking away." You just can't do that once you say, "I do."

So let's just say, enjoy the feeling of love when it comes, but know that *love doesn't have to feel good in order to exist*. Consider Christ on the

cross. Certainly this
perfect act of love
didn't give him the
amazing feeling that
we associate with true love. In

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. Philippians 2:4

Christ's life, love hurt, to put it mildly. But thank God he knew the hurt that had to be endured in order for love to become available to all of us.

Love demands a lot of us. It demands an end to asking, "What about me?" and requires a search for the answer to "What about the other person? What do they need that I can give?" Anything that doesn't agree with the way God's Word defines love needs to be



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deleted from your memory. Then you'll be able to start over with a fresh motherboard of love. When you learn to love God's way, you learn to love without Cupidity, and that's a pretty amazing thing.

About the Authors

Hayley DiMarco is the best-selling author of more than thirty books, including *Dateable*, *Marriable*, *Mean Girls*, and *The Woman of Mystery*. She spent the early part of her career working for a little shoe company called Nike in Portland, Oregon, and Thomas Nelson publishing in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 2002 Hayley left Nelson and founded Hungry Planet, a company intensely focused on feeding the world's appetite for truth by producing books and new media, taking on issues of faith and life with a distinctly modern voice.

Shortly after founding Hungry Planet, Hayley successfully completed a nationwide executive search for someone to run the company so she could focus on writing. She describes her husband, Michael, as her most successful business acquisition! In addition to the nine books he has authored or coauthored, Michael also created The Hungry Planet Bible Project, a ten thousand—mile road trip designed to give a voice to the hungry and homeless.

Hayley and Michael are the proud parents of dozens of Hungry Planet books—including eleven best sellers, four ECPA Christian Book Award finalists, and one ECPA winner—and one amazing human, their daughter, Addison.

Find out more about Hungry Planet at www.hungryplanet-books.com and The Hungry Planet Bible Project at www.hpbp .org. And join in the Cupidity conversation at www.babbleofthe sexes.com!