

# WonderSpirit

Growing people outside in

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## Men Just Want to Make us Happy

I was talking to my dad on the phone not too long ago. "What are you up to these days?" I asked him.

"Just trying to stay out of trouble," he replied.

"Trouble? What gets you into trouble?" I queried.

"Everything." Came his glum reply. "If I don't talk at dinner, I get in trouble. If I talk about the wrong thing at dinner, I get in trouble. If I talk too much, I get in trouble."

"Poor Daddy." I sighed gently. "Sounds like married life is hard."

"I just try to stay out of trouble," he muttered.

I got off the phone and was thinking about what my friend Allison Armstrong told me about marriage. "Our men really do want to make us happy. But if they can't make us happy, they will settle for not making us upset." I could see living proof of this in my dad's relationship with my stepmother. He loves her dearly and would do anything to make her happy. He just can't figure out what it is. Since he can't seem to make her happy, he settles for just trying not to make her upset.

Allison is a very wise woman, and she has learned a lot about men, both from her single life and in her married life. She says, "Too many women want their men to be mind readers. "If he loves me, he should know what I want!" we complain. Wrong! Men aren't mind readers. You can save yourself and your man a lot of headache by simply telling him what will make you happy. Don't make him guess, because if he guesses wrong too many times, he'll finally just give up. If he can't make you happy, he'll give up and settle for not making you upset."

BJ Gallagher

*Everything I Need to Know I Learned from Other Women*