

Tekst 2

Girt for a flirt alert

Tony Bradman (aged 43³/₄) surveys a selection of advice books for teenagers

- 1 **D**EAR DIARY – nice lady from The Daily Telegraph rang to ask if yours truly would review books that explain mysteries of life, relationships, and so on, to teenagers. Said yes, as own family contains (just) several adolescents, and yours truly realises teen years can be difficult and angst-filled. Have dim memory of going through it, and feel advice books might be useful.
- 2 Large parcel arrives and yours truly thinks of cunning wheeze: order offspring to read books. Alas, 13-year-old son engaged in permanent phone conversation (to Mars, judging by bills); 17-year-old daughter last seen leaving house on platform-soled trainers – estimated time of return, early hours of morning; their 19-year-old sister is now costing family a fortune at university. So thrown back on own middle-aged resources.
- 3 First book off pile strikes instant chord. Scan pages of **Help! My Family Is Driving Me Crazy! A Survival Guide for Teenagers** (Piccadilly, £5.99), by Kathryn Lamb, for tips on how to get son off phone, but no luck. Annoyingly, said book written from teenager's point of view, and includes excellent advice for adolescents on how to handle parents and siblings by using flattery, bribery and diversionary tactics. Have buried Kathryn Lamb's book
- 4 in garden.
- 4 **Friends or Enemies?** (Hodder, £3.99), by Anita Naik, very like reading magazine articles strung together to make book. Not surprising, as author is agony aunt of Just Seventeen, publication own 17-year-old subscribes to, and whose letters page tackles things even yours truly has never heard of. The book, however, not so hair-raising, but deals with friendships, and is full of sensible advice on subject close to every teen girl's heart.
- 5 Not quite sure how to take **Boys Behaving Badly** (Piccadilly, £5.99), by Jeremy Daldry. At first glance, said volume appears to be a handbook for teenage boys, with advice on puberty, looking cool, dating, and so on, all set out in a rIoT of wILd tyPOGrAPHY. Also thought son had scribbled badly spelt, unfunny comments throughout, but suddenly realise this supposed to make book seem rather *sUbvERsiVe*.
- 6 Still cannot get son off phone, so forced to rely on own judgment. Feel this book has plenty of good advice and information, but am deeply irritated by presentation of same, although as yours truly is by now (according to offspring) well past use-by date, this may simply be a function of age.
- 7 Feelings regarding young Mr Daldry's book very mild, however, compared to righteous indignation prompted by next book off pile. **Enter the Boy-Zone: Sport Sorted for Girls** (Piccadilly, £5.99), by Caroline Plaisted, turns out to be a bluffer's guide to sport for girls eager to impress teenage males with their understanding of the offside rule. Feel this is obscurely patronising to both sports-crazed girls and boys with brains.
- 8 Reach bottom of pile and find Victoria McCarthy's **Body Talk** (Hodder, £3.99), another magazine-style volume aimed at helping teen girls in the quest for "Lurve" by reading "body signals" as they go on "flirt alerts" and try to "snare" their men. Feel less said the better on this one, and am reaching saturation point with prose dominated by interjections of the "Aargh! I'm so depressed 'cos I can't get a boyfriend" variety.
- 9 Finally decide to come up with pithy conclusion on books under review. Feel some are good, many mediocre, and some not worth the paper printed on. No matter, as most adolescents, like son, on phone so much they have no time to read them. Things looking up, though, as good lady wife seems interested in **A Complete Guide to Kissing** (Macmillan, £3.50), by Nick Fisher. Perhaps yours truly not past use-by date after all.

'The Daily Telegraph'

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- 1p 2 Welke combinatie van twee woorden gebruikt Tony Bradman door het hele artikel heen om zichzelf aan te duiden?
- 1p 3 How does Tony Bradman begin his survey?
A By describing his own problems as a father of three teenagers.
B By explaining how he came to write this article.
C By quoting a passage from someone's personal diary.
D By writing about his own experiences as a teenager.
- 1p 4 "Have buried Kathryn Lamb's book in garden." (alinea 3, laatste zin)
Welke reden zou Tony Bradman hiervoor hebben, te oordelen naar alinea 3?
- 1p 5 "am deeply irritated by presentation" (alinea 6, tweede zin)
Welk bezwaar heeft Tony Bradman tegen de presentatie in *Boys Behaving Badly*, afgezien van de wilde typografie?
- 1p 6 How does Tony Bradman conclude his review of *Boys Behaving Badly*?
By stating that
A he may not really appreciate the book because he is too old for it.
B the book is so trendy that it may soon be out of fashion.
C the contents of the book may be shocking to a lot of parents.
- 2p 7 "some are ... not worth the paper printed on" (laatste alinea, tweede zin)
Over welke twee boeken is Tony Bradman al met al het meest negatief?
Noteer het eerste woord van de titels van deze twee boeken.