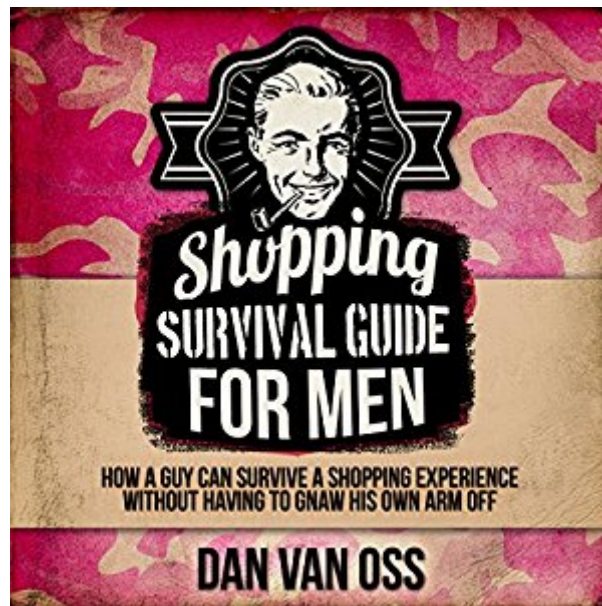


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# Shopping Survival Guide For Men: How A Man Can Survive A Shopping Experience Without Having To Gnaw His Arm Off



## Synopsis

A frank and hilarious guide to every man's mind-numbing nemesis: Shopping. Guys, spent one too many Saturdays marooned at the mall? Rejuvenate your manhood with the Shopping Survival Guide for Men. This indispensable sanity-saver exposes the hidden history and insidious psychology of shopping. Hint: it's crazy. Plus, this book cool-headedly guides you through the treacherous, credit card-melting mazes of: Shoes: "If you've ever been in the shoe section of any major department store, you now know what the gross national product of Belgium would look like if it consisted of footwear, which, for all I know about Belgium, it does." Makeup: "Egyptians used cochineal bugs to make red dye for their lips, and I don't even care what 'cochineal' means because the word 'bugs' is after it." Prom Dress Shopping: "Like most men, all you know about prom dresses is that they are more expensive than a good set of tires." Fashion Terminology: "Puckered Bodice: A banned professional wrestling move involving a lemon, a folding chair, and a car battery." Shopping History: "1687: Isaac Newton develops the law of universal gravity after his wife's shoe rack collapses on him." Don't get dragged to the mall without it!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Shopping Survival Guide is a humor book written for men who are dating or married to the girl who loves to shop. Luckily I am not one of these guys, but I was at one point. It is full of funny tidbits on how to get through and the history of shopping. The narration was done very well by Johnny Heller. He uses his tone to conjure up the humor that is written, and allows the reader to feel like he is getting his money worth while listening to this. The book is short, but there were no issues in

production quality at all. This is one of those books you could listen to while you and your shopaholic other half were out | shopping of course. It's a quick 2.5-hour audiobook that doesn't leave much to the imagination. Starting off the author explains his reasoning behind writing this book, and explains the way it's going to go. It's a pretty simple and easy to follow book. But, I'm glad that I got the audiobook, humor books always have a little more to them when they are read. Normally I'm listening to a memoir by a comedian read by the comedian, but this was similar enough that I enjoyed it. This book will not be for everyone, it's funny, short and to the point. The stories and tales from within conjure up a good chuckle of days past when I was dating a girl who just loved to shop. She would spend a hobo's money if she could (I don't miss her at all, can you tell). Needless to say, Van Oss's writing style reminds me of a Dave Berry and a little bit of Ray Romano. It was a quick painless read that helped me get through this week. Now... off to go shopping! Just kidding.

In one word, hysterical. I chuckled and outright laughed my way through this book, and even read selected passages aloud to my husband - "who, lucky for me, doesn't mind shopping at all. While not a survival guide (as you might get from Homeland Security or The Sierra Club), it does poke some serious fun at the art of shopping, covering everything from getting roped into going shopping, to navigating the various sections of a department store including terms to remember, to the trip back home | plus returns and more shopping. The author offers specifics for each section (with special attention to the shoe department), and even provides quizzes to make sure you're learning what you need to know (answers provided). It's humorous - well, OK | it's downright funny - with abundant use of double-meaning words, and even made-up words. It made me think of Norm Crosby (the "Master of Malaprop"), the stand-up comedian whose fractured English conversations who entertained us for many years. If you have friends or family where the husband would do almost anything to get out of going shopping, but gets dragged along anyway (to carry the bags and watch the purse, among other things), this would make an excellent fun gift - both the husband and wife will see shopping in a whole different light. I enjoyed this "change of pace" book, but found that the very reason it's so funny and entertaining is the reason why I'm only giving the book 4-stars - The misuse and fracturing of the English language makes it sometimes difficult to read. By Dayna Leigh Cheser, Author

"Hilarious" is a word that makes me cringe. It brings to my mind comedy clubs filled with anything but laughter and films where the only funny thing about them is how you were duped into paying to

see them. And yet, what other word can I use to describe the Shopping Survival Guide for Men? I read it on an airplane, which was embarrassing as it caused no end of concerned looks by those sitting next to me. How could I not chuckle or, indeed, laugh out at Van Oss' cheeky factoids and over-the-top criticism of shopping malls? He has so much fun with gender stereotypes (and I honestly felt that men came out worse), that one can't help but laugh at his irreverent humor and, well, hilarious observations. Just don't read it on an airplane!

A very humorous, close to home, non-fiction tome about the never-ending fight for survival many men have endured over the eons. In a way it was a trip down memory lane for our society as I think the life-style depicted is a little less common today than, say, in the 60s - but that's just me. As I have aged, I find it still useful and enlightening to infrequently visit a Kohl's or Macy's or one of the other haunts to see how little I know about the current female fashion. I am usually concurrently: shocked, amused, frightened and bewildered. I have yet to resolve how someone would actually buy a pair of jeans that are "pre-ripped". I guess that must save the buyer the anguish of actually wearing them while doing work that would cause eventual wear and tear. There are thousands of other examples, but you guys all have your favorites I am sure. I truly enjoyed Van Oss' writing style especially when he would lapse into extended sentences that had subsequent thoughts included as if you can take that to Dillard's and expect them to honor your year old two for one coupon for a chenille house coat that you would not even wear to go out and get the morning paper. No, I'm not as adept as Van Oss, but you get the idea. I used to think that we could provide the contrary experience by insisting our wives join us for a shopping expedition to a sporting goods store, but even there they are devoting more and more floor space to "fashion"; so even our caves are no longer safe. Anyway, great book which every male should read especially before matrimony.

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