



# The Smart Girl's Guide to God, Guys, and the Galaxy: Save the Drama! and 100 Other Practical Tips for Teens

*Susie Shellenberger , Kristin Weber*

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**Smart girl, this guide was created just for you! . . .**

*The Smart Girl's Guide to God, Guys, and the Galaxy* melds spiritual and practical advice with humor—a winning combination as you're trying to navigate the ups and downs of life with grace and confidence.

101 tips including. . .

Save the drama!

Be trustworthy

Memorize scripture

Make your bed

Dream big

Wear comfortable shoes

Honor God

Ask forgiveness

Serve

Be a good listener

Rejoice in the Lord!

and dozens more

You'll be encouraged and challenged with sound, biblically-based advice equipping you to stand up for your faith and live the Christian walk every day. . .plus, you'll encounter some fun, common-sense tips along the way.

## The Smart Girl's Guide to God, Guys, and the Galaxy: Save the Drama! and 100 Other Practical Tips for Teens Details

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**Drama! and 100 Other Practical Tips for Teens Susie Shellenberger , Kristin Weber**

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## From Reader Review The Smart Girl's Guide to God, Guys, and the Galaxy: Save the Drama! and 100 Other Practical Tips for Teens for online ebook

### **Kelci Knirnschild says**

Susie Shellenberger's book The Smart Girl's Guide to God, Guys, and the Galaxy: Save the Drama! is full of wonderful tips for teenage girls that is also fun to read. I enjoyed the book and I am giving it to a friend to read!

I won this book from a Goodreads Giveaway

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### **Kathy says**

The Smart Girl's Guide to God, Guys, and the Galaxy: Save the Drama! and 100 Other Practical Tips for Teens this book is a great book.it has humor and great advice.thank you for the book I have enjoyed it and I have a few friends and teens I know who might enjoy it as well.This book is practical for the teens.Well done![author:Susie Shellenberger and i recieved this book for free from goodreads first reads. thank you.

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### **Sarah says**

This book is full of lots of good advice for teen girls, but I didn't like the writing style. It felt like the authors were trying too hard. (5/22/14)

I won this book from NetGalley! (3/5/14)

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### **Jennifer Madero (Boricuan Bookworms) says**

#### **More Reviews At Boricuan Bookworms**

*eARC Provided by Publisher Via Netgalley in exchange of honest and unbiased review*

I really enjoyed reading this book. It had tons of great advice and tips from getting to know God, to help the people around you, the usual teen life, your own health, and every day stuff. This is the type of book you read periodically, I suppose. I started reading it about two months ago, picking my phone to read it from time to time, usually between other books I read. I would read five to ten chapters a day, and the next would be in another week.

There are tips like like to be confident about yourself, how gratifying it is to participate in missions with your Church, how cool it is to raise a chicken (bet you didn't see that one coming!), to write letters and communicate in the old-fashioned way, to read books, watch classic movies, memorize scripture, etc.

Each chapter is a tip from one to maybe three pages tops, depending of the subject. These were written by Susie or Kristin where they shared personal stories and told the perks of doing the tip. After that, there would

be maybe two or more verses from the bible that are related to the subject, and a note from the same author or the other one as an after thought.

Since I began going to Church recently, I've found this book very useful on this.. weird path where I have no idea what to do some times. I'm not much of a Bible reader, and the verses here have helped me a lot too. They're encouraging, inspiring, and make, somehow, my faith grow. I'm a science chick, and there are times where I feel like doubting and other related stuff, but books like this one help a lot to guide you in a path that'll bring you closer to God.

In general, a good read to girls out there to read from tie to time. You don't have to follow all the tips, but they're good.

Rating: 5 stars

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### **Raven Rose says**

This was horrible. Horrendous. A gargantuan mistake. I asked for this for my birthday. First mistake. Before reading it, I had some expectations. Second mistake. So this is what is in the Guide to God, Guys, and the Galaxy:

God: pray, read your Bible, trust God. (The boring, common sense basics taught in Sunday School).

Guys: don't date, put as many guys as you can in the friend-zone. (They literally only did ONE page on "guys". And that was all it said!)

Galaxy: Watch old movies. Own lots of fuzzy socks. Never go to the EVIL MALL AGAIN! (Nothing useful, 100% boring and dumb, when you promise a guide to the galaxy, I expect more!)

I was VERY DISAPPOINTED with this book. I was hoping for a book that tackled teen issues, how to date in a Christian way, and how to be a teen girl who's got it figured out in general. Maybe I was looking for a guidebook that would tell me how to have a stronger faith, maybe I thought it would be about the real world, having faith in college, driving, balancing school and a new job, peers, how to dress up well for different events (or at least how to be classy), and how to make the most of your teen years.

Boy, was I in for the opposite of ALL of my hopes.

What I wanted more info on:

- self defense class (in this society, the victim is blamed always, and I refuse to be a victim.
- How to organize youth group projects
- What to do when your friend is sick
- Christian dating
- Balancing school, hobbies, and work
- How to dress classy
- Etc! (BASICALLY, USEFUL FOR REALITY!)

What I got:

- Make ONLY guy-friends, not boyfriends. Pretend attraction doesn't exist, and stay single until 30.
- Improve your handwriting
- Avoid the mall at all costs!!!!

- Some freaky weird unexplained short story about some guy named Wendell and a sock obsession
- Watch movies from the 50's 'cause they're cool. Movies now are cheap and bad and immoral!!!!!!
- You should really pray more. Right? Because this is a Christian book, we have to tell you this!
- Have you tried reading your Bible?
- Save all of your money in a cute piggy bank! (What the heck?)

These authors were terrible. They openly wrote that they were just writing filler because "they have a book to finish". Why?!?! Also, a SUPER ANNOYING THING they would do is have little text boxes of dialogue from one author to the other at the end of every section. Sometimes it was longer than the actual section! They would try to make corny jokes and tell weird stories, but dear reader, I was not rolling on the floor with tears of laughter streaming down my cheeks. If you are past teenage age and you want to write a book for teens:

DON'T  
INCLUDE  
JOKES!!!!!!!!!!

It comes off as a) filler b) useless c) pathetic. I rolled my eyes at the first 5, but I stopped reading their "dialogue" after they started in with PUNS!

The authors seemed really old. No one I know really goes to the mall anymore. I also think every teen girl has at least five pairs of fuzzy socks anyway. Also, what about Christian dating? Courting? Maybe it was okay years ago to just touch on not-dating, but presently, eleven year olds are dating and breaking up. Now, everybody dates like mad, and have had three boyfriends by the age of thirteen! I've never had a boyfriend, and I'm an older teen, so as college is becoming a huge focus, I wanted a guide to healthy christian relationships for teen girls. Not in this book.

I suggest you read Graceful by Emily P. Freeman. I rated it 5 stars! Definitely a book that hits home on many topics and issues, done in a fantastic way! Check it out!

Rant over.

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## **Eustacia Tan says**

As seen from the title, this book is for Christian girls who are in their tween-teen years. I'm guessing on the age thing, but judging from the content, I shouldn't be too wrong. If you're wondering why I, having left my teen years behind, requested this book, it's because I'm very partial to books that use the word "guide". And because it kind of reminds me of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and Life, the Universe and Everything (the titles I mean). I believe the version for guys is called "Guys guide to God, Girls and the Phone in Your Pocket".

This book is basically 101 short chapters, each about one piece of advice ranging from things like "Smell good" and "Wear crazy socks" to "If everyone jumps off a bridge, find out why they're jumping" and "Help keep "creepsters" away by disabling all location information on your social media" to "Go to God first with your problems" and "Study the Bible." Basically, it's a mix of sensible advice, Godly advice and just plain wacky ideas. Each chapter goes like this: advice -> Scripture verses -> questions to consider -> last note from the author of the chapter.

Personally, I liked this guide. The mix of advice was interesting and I enjoyed reading it. I really liked some

of the chapters, like having guy friends and not being crazy for a boyfriend and (my favourite piece of advice) thinking of why everyone is jumping off the bridge. The "If everyone jumps off a bridge, find out why they're jumping" piece of advice is something that everyone should know (if they don't). It's basically encouraging you to look at the reason for a phenomenon before blindly following it or rejecting it outright.

The only one thing that's not even a proper criticism. There's a section of dressing modestly (which I agree with) and it ends with "If you're not sure something is appropriate, ask your parents, sister or trusted friend (not a guy friend)." Perhaps I just happen to have really protective guy friends, but they're normally more conservative than me. I have had separate conversations about a skirt, with the consensus from the girls as "it's ok what" and the guys going "too short, don't wear." For me, that last part would just read "trusted friend."

All in all, this is an interesting book that you can consider giving to teenage girl you know.

Disclaimer: I got a free copy of this book from the publishers via NetGalley in exchange for a free and honest review.

This review was first posted at Inside the mind of a Bibliophile

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## Jennifer says

Growing up, I read a lot of neat little books – both Christian and secular, both good and bad – advising how to dress, act, and survive the teenage years. That might have been ages ago, but I confess that genre can still pique my interest. So it's no wonder that I picked up a copy of *Smart Girl's Guide to God, Guys, and the Galaxy: Save the Drama! and 100 Other Practical Tips for Teens* (Shiloh Run Press, 2014) after stumbling across it online. Authored by Susie Shellenberger, editor of the now defunct BRIO and Sisterhood Magazine, and stand-up comedienne Kristin Weber, *Smart Girl's Guide* promises helpful advice with a dash of humor.

To be honest, I expected a lot more from *Smart Girl's Guide*. While there are a few unexpected gems, like "Take an apologetics course," much of the advice – and the reasoning behind it – is cliché: Respect your parents. Study your Bible. Dress modestly. Trust God rather than peers. In a huge market like young adult nonfiction, something unique is needed to make one book stand out from all the competitors, either in the topics covered or in how the advice is offered. *Smart Girl's Guide* appears to have neither. It's just another fish in the sea.

That's not to say that the authors didn't put a lot of effort into it. It just doesn't really show. The content is generally boring, and the jokes tend to fall flat. It would've been easily improved by organizing the hodgepodge of tips around particular themes and eliminating some of the vagueness and repetition. There's also room for expansion. I would've also liked to see lists of suggested books and classic movies that aren't limited to a few of the authors' favorites. And some of the tips require more research to actually carry them out. That might not seem like a big deal, but guides like this should aim to be comprehensive, requiring little additional work so that the kids will actually complete the tasks.

I also thought that the perspective offered was often too adult. Kids should be learning how to protect their personal information online and manage online account settings, not relying on a crutch like a junk email account to handle spam. They shouldn't be signing up for online contests anyway considering the legal age requirements. And while window shopping at a mall might be a waste of time for the authors, it's a convenient and relatively safe activity for teens. The authors' alternative – hiking in the wilderness, with no mention of getting a chaperone – might sound like a great idea to many non-parents, but it's probably one of

the most unsafe things teen girls could do.

Another part that needed work was the titled advice about dealing with the opposite sex. "Have guy 'friends,' not boyfriends" sounds like a brochure headline for a one-way trip to the "friend zone." And trust me, don't ever go there. It's lonely. I'm not saying girls can't have male friends, but they often want more than that. They want attention, love, and sex. Those are biological realities, and God's responsible for them. We need to quit pretending that these desires don't exist or that they are somehow abnormal or bad. Instead, show teens how to be more selective in whom they date. Promote group and chaperoned dates to avoid being put in compromising positions. And encourage more honest parent-teen talks about things like sexual temptation and pornography. Since dating is probably the main topic of interest to most teen girls, I think that the authors missed a huge opportunity to make a real impact on their readers' lives.

Perhaps my expectations were a little high, but nevertheless I was left disappointed. And that's rather unfortunate because, of all the books in the series, *Smart Girl's Guide* has the most potential. Teen girls eat up this kind of stuff, and their parents will often buy it for them. A book marketed to teen boys (*The Guy's Guide to God, Girls, and the Phone in Your Pocket*), their mothers (*The Savvy Mom's Guide to Sons*), or teen girls' fathers (*The Smart Dad's Guide to Daughters*) are more likely to sit on the shelf.

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### **Lisa says**

\*Thank you Shiloh Run Press and Netgalley for allowing me to review this book!\*

Smart Girl's Guide to God, Guys and the Galaxy is exactly that! I KNOW! Who knew!? And that's why I'm here for you guys!

Smart Girls Guide isn't a fiction read; there's no main character, there's no plot, and there isn't a cliff hanger! Lame, right? NOOO! This book is a guide, it's filled to the brim with advice, quotes from God, and even humorous commentary.

The book is separated into different sections, and each section discusses a tough situation, that a teenage girl might find herself stuck in the middle of, or trying to overcome. A couple examples of the topics this book covers includes, having guy friends instead of boyfriends, confidence, avoiding drama, and forgiveness.

This is the perfect book, for anyone who doesn't really have a parent or adult they can fully open up to or talk about this issues.

I know this was a short review, but this will be a book I will always go back to and re-read different sections! The topics were relevant, each section got right to the point, and it gave REAL advise, and wisdom!

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### **Lizzy K says**

This was the wierdest book that I've ever gotten. There were several chapters on why you should buy funky socks and there was even a chapter titled, "If people are jumping off bridges, find out why". Did ot like this book at all.

### **Janet says**

Excellent book with lots of awesome christian advice 4 teenagers . I won this book from Goodreads and I will be gifting it 2 my teenage niece who will cherish this book. A must for all teenage girls to help have a christian guideline 2 follow. Lots of GODLY advice:)

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### **Fiona says**

I bought this on the strength of having read Kristin's blog a bit, and liking her writing style. My two girls both read it very quickly, and have asked that we read it together (one chapter a night) and talk about it. Parenting win!

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### **Renee says**

Here is my bottom line. For my full review, please visit us at Mother Daughter Book Reviews (You can read about one issue I had with the book.)

The Smart Girl's Guide to God, Guys and the Galaxy is a treasure trove of good advice for girls navigating the teen-age years (and tween years). From "Wear crazy socks" to "Be kind with your words" to more practical advice such as "Learn to be a good steward of your money", this book contains a discussion about each issue, as well as Bible quotes and questions to ask yourself in order to help girls make good decisions in their life. I highly recommend this book to Christian teens (and older tweens) as a spiritual guide as they navigate through some of the most challenging years of their life. Ages 10 to 18.

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### **Maryann Skaritka says**

This light hearted devotional for tween and teen girls contains 101 devotionals on subjects that are relevant to girls today.

Each devotional is divided into four parts - a short story/lesson, 2 bible verses to go along with the main devotion, go-ahead-answer which are thought provoking questions for the reader and then comments from Susie and Kristin. Many of these comments have lots of humor.

Some of the subjects are funny such as wear crazy socks and raise a chicken and think really hard before you get a tattoo or seventeen facial piercings.

Spiritual topics are addressed with devotions such as Memorize Scripture, learn to know Gods will for your life and honor God with your time and talents.

Life subjects are covered with such devotions as take responsibility for your actions, dont drive and text and be a blessing to others.

This is a great book that tweens and teens can grown and learn from in a humorous way. It can also help to be a good conversation starter with girls and their families.

I received this book from a Goodreads First Reads Contest.

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## **c h e l s e a says**

*Thank you NetGalley & Barbour Publishing Inc. for letting me review this book!*

*The Smart Girl's Guide To God, Guys, and the Galaxy* is a book composed of advice for christian girls on how to deal with modern-day issues that teens face.

Honestly, I fell in love with this book while I read the first few pages. I haven't even read the whole entire book yet, but this book is kind of a devotional, and I want to keep it that way and not to eat it all up. Every page is filled with advice that I would actually do if I were to face the situation stated. The author gave out scenarios that go along with the advice and how it would result. Every topic also goes with Bible passages which shows how their advice are mostly inspired from the scriptures. They also mention people who serve as inspirations and role models with each subject.

Overall, I really enjoy and adore this book. It's almost like a Bible for me. The authors really understand problems we teens face and how to deal with them in a Christian-like way. I also picked up lessons I wouldn't have learned yet since I didn't face some of those situations yet, but as my teacher says, "*A wise man learns from his mistakes, but a wiser man learns from other people's mistakes*"

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## **Maria says**

This is one of the best book I ever read! It show in this book how live to live your life according to Bible. Every chapter their is bible verses to memorize. I really enjoying read this book!!

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