

I Need a Man's Pants to Wash

*I Need a
Man's Pants
to Wash*

Lorie Kleiner Eckert



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*In memory of my friends,
Lori Wacksman Martin
12/11/57-8/8/96
and
JoAnn Thompson Richardson
3/1/39-1/8/99*

*No one is guaranteed tomorrow.
We have no choice, therefore,
but to make the most of today.*

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Introduction



For a writer wanting to get into print, it was a surreal experience. I was trying to convince the publisher of my local Jewish newspaper to reprint an article I had written for another publication. Instead of agreeing to my idea, he suggested a different one—that I write a weekly column. This meant I’d get published fifty-two times instead of once! The publisher wanted the column slanted toward Jewish singles and I wanted to syndicate it nationwide. We agreed and shook hands, and I went home to write.

Quite frankly, I had no idea what would make a singles column Jewish. But then I thought about the Yiddish that all four of my grandparents spoke when I was a child. And I remembered the sadness I have felt that my children were not similarly exposed to it. Before long, I realized I could sprinkle my columns with that language and include a glossary at the end of each to define terms. Thus I got excited to think I could help a new generation enjoy Yiddish.

The next problem was what the main thrust of my writing would be. Since I was forty-eight years old at the time, a giggly column about guys did not seem appropriate. Instead I decided I would function as a cheerleader with the message: *I know you don't want to be alone, but I am sure that you can handle it.* Thus I began to encourage singles of all ages to be self-sufficient as I told the stories of my life and found the lessons within them. And of course, I giggled about guys on occasion.

I began to write these articles in March 2000 and this is a compilation of the first fifty-two of them. I am proud to report that this book contains 112 Yiddish words. All of them are italicized in the text and defined in a glossary at the end of the book. I am equally proud to report that my columns have appeared in twenty-one Jewish newspapers in America. In a funny postscript to this story, however, the publisher who suggested the columns in the first place has never printed any of them. Of course, I've had to get a little distance from this writing experience to find it amusing . . . which is just one more lesson I've learned—and now taught—through my columns.

Nu? Enough kibitzing, already. Read the book, bubeleh!