

Contents

1. Girlfriend! The FROU

Being in a Woman's Fun Club—I Can Dig It!	3
Ready for a New You? Try a Wig	6
Two-Ply TP and Paper Towels in the Bathroom or Else!	9
The Flip-Flop: Shoe Du Jour for This Hip Ipock	12
Capris with Side Zippers Pose a Dangerous Trap	15
Test Your FROU IQ	18

2. Sharing Worlds, But from Distant Planets

What's Mine is Mine and What's His is Mine (Or is It?)	23
Training the Remaining 80% of Men to Clean	27
The Thrill of the Hunt—for Him and Her	29
I Can't Abide by a Man "In Touch with His Feminine Side"	32
Oscar & Prissy: The Original Power-Struggle Couple	35
All About Russell, a Wannabe Boy Scout	38
From Teen Idol to OB/GYN: Dr. Barbie Sure Gets My Attention	41
Rainy Days and Birthdays Always Get Him Down	44
Iron and Steel (Not Russ's Aluminum Can) Make My Kitchen Complete	47

3. Hardly the Norm: Accidents & Sheer Wonders

Good Night, Sleep Tight, But Beware—the Bedbugs May Bite!	53
Changing Light Bulbs Can Be Hazardous to Your Health	56

Eight Days in July That Went Awry	59
The Name Game is One I Can't Remember How to Play	62
Stick Around for Mistakes, Misery, and Mayhem	65

4. Food Fit for Foodies & Kitchen Capers

Sushi in the South	71
Secret Recipes Have No Place in My Kitchen	73
“Gerbil Food” Leaves Me Hungry	76
Southern Traditions: Boiled Peanuts and Blueberry Cobbler	79
Lobster and Collards, the Poor Things!	82
Kitchen Table Holds Power for Friends Who Gather 'Round	85

5. Feelings, Oh, Oh, Oh, Feelings

Survey Says: “Sorry, Ma'am, You Don't Qualify”	91
Clear and Present Dangers Almost Halt Yard Work	94
Saving and Savoring Family Christmas Cards	97
Leaving Plane Phobia Behind	100
Independence is a State of Mind, Not a Promotion	104
New Year's Resolutions? Not When Chocolate Rules!	107

6. Let's Get Physical, or Perhaps Metaphysical

When You Travel and Your Luggage Doesn't, SHOP!	113
Where Am I Going to Lie When It's All Over?	116
Keep Your Eyes on the Road, Keep Your Hands on the Wheel	118
Opening Impossible Packages (Plissors to the Rescue!)	121
When Shopping for Shoes, Mine Disappeared	124
“The Blog” is “The Blah”	127

7. Family Zoo & Pesky Relatives

Today's Grandmothers: Daring Divas and Cool Chicks	131
Hand-Me-Down Clothes: Tacky for Teens, But Awesome for Adults	134
Family Competition: In Search of the Great, White Teeth	136
Mama is Styling in Her Hibiscus Capris	138
Who is Number One on Your Speed Dialing List?	141
"Granny Camp": An Education in Grandmotherhood	144
Oh No! Mama Has Become Me	147