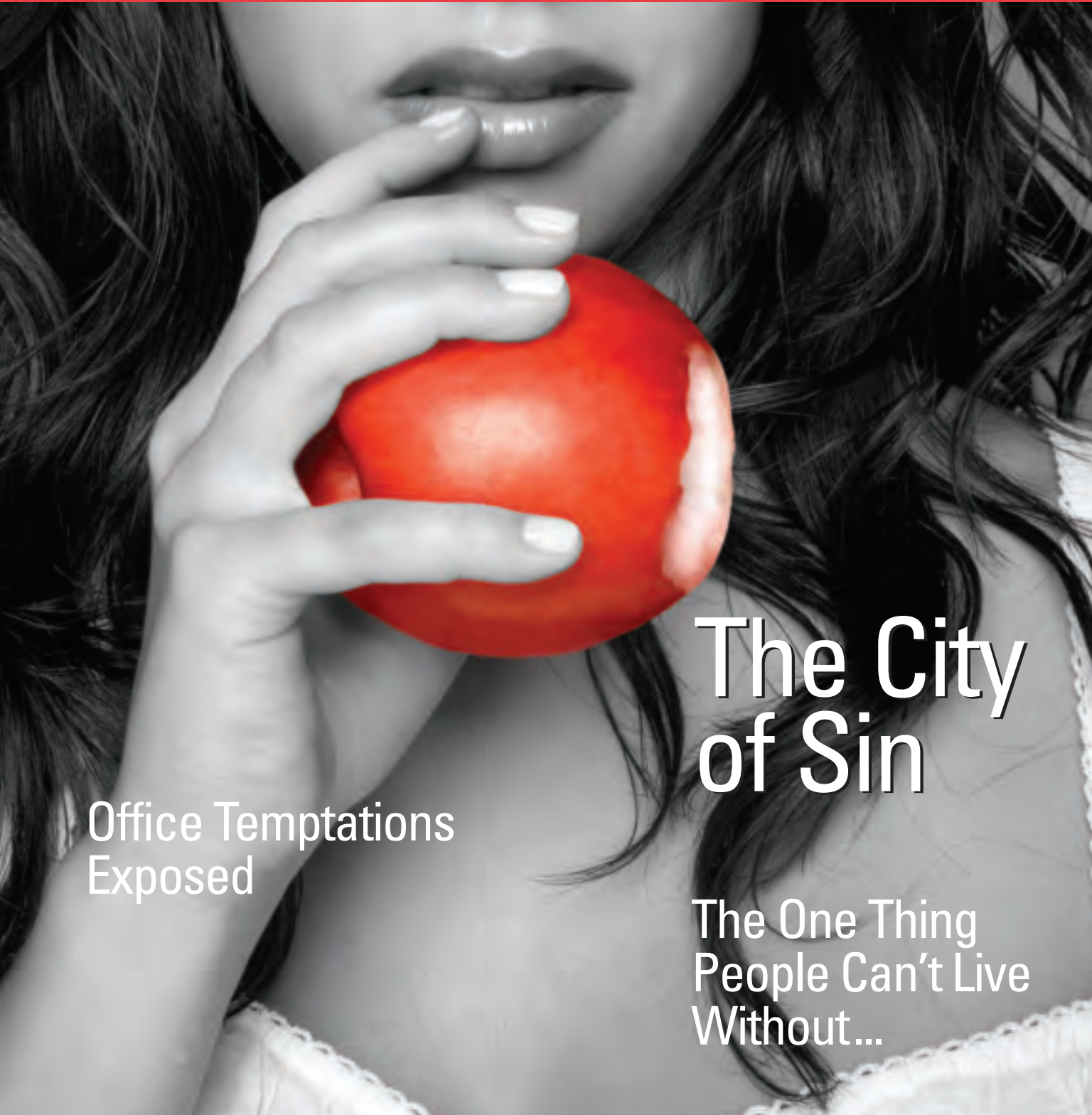


HARLEQUIN

Romance Report 2010



Office Temptations
Exposed

The City
of Sin

The One Thing
People Can't Live
Without...

HARLEQUIN

Romance Report 2010



24 Office Temptations Exposed

1 Letter from the Editors
Introducing this year's temptations.

2 North American Survey
Did you know...? Interesting stats on what tempts North Americans most.

TEMPTOMETER



6 International Survey Results
Curious about what's happening around the world? Find out here!

9 Hidden Treasures:
Unique Travel Destinations
Top travel destinations off the beaten path.

12 Sin City: the Capital of Temptation
Take a look inside the epicenter of temptation.

13 Fire & Ice: Hot/Not List
The top trends of 2010.

14 Taste of Temptation
Take a peek at what people have to say about temptation.

16 Virtues & Vices
Check out the Naughty or Nice scale to see where you rank.

18 Celebs
The top celebrity television stars of the year.

20 Lead Us Not Into Temptation
Take a look at some of the earliest temptations.

24 Office Temptations Exposed
Workplace indiscretions revealed!

26 Tempted:
How Far is Too Far?
Explore the notion of TMI (too much information).

30 The Unoriginal Sin – Convicted
Can we ever wipe the slate clean? Yes, no – maybe so.

32 Which Would You Prefer?
Need a great party game/icebreaker? Try this one.

From the Editors

Admit it. We all have temptations that we can't resist – no matter how much self-control we exercise. Whether it's a decadent piece of chocolate cake, the cute guy in the cubicle next door or that book you just can't put down, there is something exciting about desiring the forbidden.

So tell us, what tempts you?



Michelle Renaud and Katherine Orr
Editors-in-Chief, Harlequin Romance Report 2010

Discovering what tempts us most and celebrating our urges is what the **Harlequin Romance Report 2010: Tempted** is all about. **Tempted** explores the secret temptations of men and women around the world by way of our North American and international surveys. This year we set out to uncover what people find most tempting about their partners and co-workers, as well as the temptations that they find irresistible. The results will shock you!

Each year, we host an annual survey on our interactive Website, www.HarlequinRomanceReport.com. In addition to completing the survey, visitors to the site were encouraged to post their greatest temptation on a live forum. The comments shared on our Website have helped shape our understanding of temptations and many of them can be found in this year's Report.

For more than six decades we have made romance our business, and we know it better than anyone else. At Harlequin, we have a book to tempt every woman's mood, and we consider it our mission to measure the world's romantic pulse by staying in touch with the hottest romantic trends. Within the pages of this year's Romance Report you'll find the results of our annual survey, as well as useful tips and advice to help stir your temptations and awaken your hidden wishes, cravings, needs and desires.

We hope you will use the content of this year's Romance Report in your editorial, and that you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed writing it. If you have any questions about the contents or would like more information, please contact Lauren Haralson at 212-614-4192 in the United States or Tiffany Shiu at 416-848-1702 in Canada.

Handwritten signatures of Michelle Renaud and Katherine Orr.

Michelle Renaud and Katherine Orr
Editors-in-Chief, 2010 Harlequin Romance Report



NORTH AMERICAN SURVEY

WHAT DO NORTH
AMERICANS WANT?

They want
the **TRUTH**
and nothing
but the truth



Eighty percent of men and 69% of women agreed that in relationships, they want a partner who reveals the truth about what tempts them – even when the truth hurts. Despite the consequences, where relationships are concerned, ignorance is not bliss... Information is!

To better understand today's romantic environment, we asked North Americans to tell us how inclined they are to act on their temptations. When it comes to temptations, we wanted to explore our deepest, darkest wants and desires while answering the age old question: how far would you go if you thought no one would ever find out?



A BOOK TO TEMPT EVERY MAN AND WOMAN...

Imagination is a powerful tool that has been helping all of us through the recent economic downturn. We discovered that more than 75% of male and female respondents (three out of four North Americans) agreed books were one temptation they refused to give up during the recent recession. Dining out, vacations and shopping sprees were sacrificed instead.

RISKY BUSINESS...

Thanks to the economic downturn and increased tension in the workplace, it's no surprise that some co-workers are getting feisty at work. While 15% of male and 10% of female respondents admitted to having sabotaged a co-worker, colleagues aren't the only ones who should be worried. Twenty-three percent of men and women have revealed a boss's mistakes to their boss's superior in the hope of furthering their own careers.

With pay cuts and layoffs looming, we've become more curious than ever about how our colleagues are being compensated, but how far are we willing to go to find out? Interestingly, more than half of women, (56%) and 39% of men have peeked at a colleague's paycheck. Beware, you never know who's looking over your shoulder...

Employers, take note! If an interviewee looks too desperate to land that position, call the references. Twenty-one percent of women versus 14% of men think it's acceptable to embellish their résumés. Remember ladies, think twice about what you write down – your reputation is on the line.

Though women are more likely to lie on their résumé in order to secure their dream job, men are more likely to use others to get ahead – 15% of North American male respondents admitted to taking credit for someone else's work, versus 8% of female respondents.

LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES...

Who knew we could be so easy to please? While one in two male respondents (50%) are tempted most by sex, a little more than half of North American women (56%) revealed that they are tempted by food first and foremost! It looks like life's greatest pleasures are the simplest ones. Next time you're craving sweets in the sack, grab some whipped cream from the fridge and spice up your bedroom repertoire.

CHANGE, CHANGE, CHANGE...

Need for greed? The obsession with money and power contributed to a difficult year, but where do we stand now? According to our survey, there has been a paradigm shift. Only 15% of men and women were enticed by money while 95% thought power was a temptation they could live without.

STICKY FINGERS...

We don't know if it's the adrenaline rush or the inability to control our desires, but the temptation to take something that isn't ours is age-old. Check your wallets, everyone – 20% of women versus 13% of men admitted to taking money from their significant other's purse/wallet without their knowledge. According to our survey, 33% of men are also most tempted to shoplift. Warning – the activity may be exhilarating in the heat of the moment, but when you get caught, it's not much fun.

Our survey also revealed that twice as many men (27%) versus women (12%) are tempted to steal something from a friend. If you're still looking for that favorite golf club or cashmere scarf, ask around – chances are someone knows exactly where it is.

TEMPTOMETER

Throughout the recession, what has been the one indulgence you would **not sacrifice** for savings?



Source: *Harlequin Romance Report 2010: Tempted*

THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH...

We may not like what we hear, but we will certainly go to great lengths to uncover the truth. Sixty-six percent of male and female respondents have been tempted to snoop around in their significant other's personal belongings to find out what they might be hiding.

Both men and women agree that lying on your income tax return is wrong (95%), but is flirting with someone you know, whether it's your boss or best friend's significant other, off limits? Apparently not – 29% of North American male and female respondents think it's completely harmless.

Believe it or not, one in two men (50%) and 33% of women surveyed believe that lusting after someone other than their partner is completely harmless. Our survey also revealed that one in five women (20%) and, shockingly, almost half of the men (43%) surveyed have been tempted to hook up with their friend's significant other. We wonder how much of that desire their partners are aware of . . .

I DO...

Don't worry, ladies – your partner may be further ahead of the curve than you think. While half of female respondents (50%) chose to leave bridal magazines out in the open to ensure their significant other gets the hint that they're waiting for a proposal, a surprising number of men (33%) have actually placed a ring on hold at the jewelry store long before an engagement was even discussed.

*The survey was conducted online at www.HarlequinRomanceReport.com (the "Web site") by Harlequin Enterprises Limited ("Harlequin") between September 17, 2009 and October 31, 2009. The survey was open to all adults over the age of 18. The Web site was visited by more than 3,000 men and women from around the world. Survey results reflect the opinions of respondents and do not necessarily reflect those of Harlequin or its affiliated companies.

INTERNATIONAL

Survey Results

Scandals at work... • More than 40% of people from the United States and Canada said they have been tempted to wish for the failure of more successful friends or colleagues. • Sixty-six percent of Italian women admitted that they are tempted to misuse a corporate expense account. • Men (20%) and women (14%) from the Netherlands are more tempted by power than sex, money, alcohol, or food.

Men from Canada (54%) and Brazil (50%) are most tempted to hook up with a friend's significant other.

A touch of temptation... • German men (93%) and women (75%) are tempted to have one-night stands. • Swedish men (91%) and women (60%) have more fun role-playing in bed. • Men from Canada (54%) and Brazil (50%) are most tempted to hook up with a friend's significant other. • French women (43%) and men (87%) revealed that they are most tempted by food. • More than 50% of Swiss women think lusting after someone other than their significant other is harmless. • Americans (75%) are more tempted to buy books than those from other countries.

Beautiful shoes, mouth-watering food, and drop-dead gorgeous colleagues – it's no wonder we spend so much time fantasizing about our temptations.

We asked men and women from more than 30 countries to tell us what tempts them most. You'll be shocked to learn who craves fraud, cheating, marriage proposals and more.

We've pulled together the highlights of our survey results, so read on to learn which countries will tempt you more with food, love, money – or maybe something a little naughtier...

Timeless temptations... • Seventy-two percent of Swedish men and 60% of Swedish women are tempted to look through their significant other's belongings to dig up secrets. • Ninety-eight percent of Japanese women see no harm in lying about their age. • Men and women in Spain (97%) and the U.K. (95%) say cheating on a diet is harmless. • More than 50% of Australian women have used their friends as conversational bait to gauge their partner's interest in marriage. • Ninety-five percent of Greek women want to know it all – including whether their significant other is tempted by other women.



95% of Greek women want to know it all – including whether their significant other is tempted by other women.

40% of women and 90% of men from the U.K. are watching to see their country's athletes compete.

Olympic aspirations... • Forty percent of women and 90% of men from the U.K. are watching to see their country's athletes compete. • Spanish women (50%) are more interested in watching the sexy athletes.

New York Times and USA TODAY bestselling author

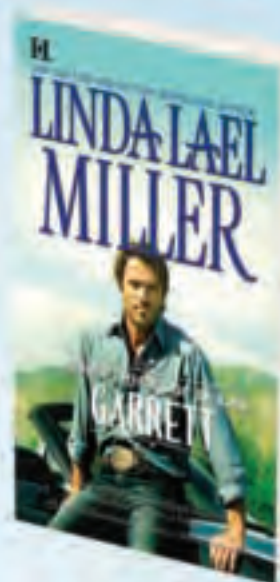
LINDA LAEL MILLER

returns with a brand-new trilogy featuring three brooding
McKetterick cowboys and the feisty women who lay claim to their hearts.

McKETTRICKS OF TEXAS



Available now!



Available in June



Available in July


TAKE A
COWBOY
HOME

Visit TakeACowboyHome.com
to enter into an exciting new sweepstakes
and to watch an exclusive behind-the-scenes
video on the sexy McKetterick cowboys!

Visit TakeACowboyHome.com





Hidden Treasures

Suzhou, China

Alaska, United States

Isla Grande de Chiloé, Chile

Bora Bora, French Polynesia

Bordeaux, France

Ko Lanta, Thailand

Sunshine Coast, British Columbia





Been there, done that?

Tired of the same old routine vacation and tempted to step off the beaten path? While traditional romantic destinations are meant to be lovey-dovey and relaxing, they may not always hit the spot. Let your imagination run wild and break free from the typical tourist traps.

Whether you're a history buff or simply addicted to adventure, we'll help you narrow down the top vacation destinations that are sure to bring out the daredevil in you. These hot spots will not only get your adrenaline running, but you'll re-discover that sense of adventure and excitement buried deep within.

Suzhou, China

Architecture addicts need to pay attention to this 2,500-year-old "city of gardens." Bridges, pagodas and meticulously designed gardens, are works of art found on many of the city's streets. With a breathtaking canal running through the city and lotus gardens aplenty, expect the unexpected in Suzhou.





Alaska, United States

Mush, mush. Renowned for dog sled racing, ice fishing and its abundance of resources, Alaska has a lot more to offer than you might think. While you view the pristine Arctic landscape of tidal glaciers, take a moment and breathe in the unspoiled, crisp air. As well as the incredible landscape, you can also take on adventurous activities like panning for gold in Moose River or visiting Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in North America.

Bordeaux, France

A wine tour in the south of France is as romantic as you can get, but rather than drinking the wine, why not immerse yourself in it? Bordeaux has one-of-a-kind vinotherapie spas featuring barrel and merlot wine bath soaks, crushed cabernet scrubs and sauvignon massages. Not only will you be trying something unique, but you'll feel great doing it.

Isla Grande de Chiloé, Chile

Ghost hunting may be too intense for some, but why not feed your curiosity? Rich folklore and a fusion of myths, mystery and legends are blended to perfection on Isla Grande de Chiloé. Rumors swirl around the island that some people have caught glimpses of ghost ships and witches.

Ko Lanta, Thailand

Lions and tigers and bears – oh my! If the idea of roughing it a little bit doesn't scare you away, then Ko Lanta is your destination of choice. With numerous opportunities for animal sightseeing – elephant trekking, bat cave tours and jungle expeditions – through the island's extensive labyrinth of underground river systems and caves, this island is ideal for any animal lover.

Bora Bora, French Polynesia

History connoisseurs, look no further. One of the most famous islands in the world may have a secret just for you. Known for its lagoons and white sand beaches, Bora Bora, a former military supply base, also boasts remnants of old cannons and war monuments scattered around the island.

Sunshine Coast, British Columbia

Nature enthusiasts: we have the ultimate secluded spot for you. Located on the threshold of the Pacific Ocean and only accessible by ferry, the Sunshine Coast promises more than four to six hours of sunshine a day and is the dream destination for all outdoorsy types. You can take a chance at the tidal marine rapids at Sechlet Inlet, or paddle your way into the serene wilderness. If you're lucky, you may be able to catch a glimpse of whales swimming as the sun rises.

Sin City: the Capital of Temptation

If you'd prefer to skip the adventure and stick to a more familiar vacation spot where you can indulge your every whim, consider Las Vegas, Nevada – the Capital of Temptation. In the city of sin, you'll marvel at the free-flowing cash, the larger than life parties, the risqué entertainment and the seemingly endless supply of glitter. Las Vegas is the ultimate vacation destination to let loose and escape, without that pesky feeling of guilt getting in the way. For those seeking 24/7 pleasure and excitement, just head to Sin City – you'll find more than you ever thought to look for.



FIRE & ICE

We watch trends roll in and out each year and it can be difficult to keep up. The Harlequin Romance Experts have put together a quick list to help you stay trendy in 2010.

Exhibition openings	Clubbing
Dance workouts	Pumping iron
Slow food	Fast food
Touch-screen phones	Flip phones
100 Mile diet	Foreign cuisine
On-screen vampire relationships	Off-screen vampire-actor relationships
Volunteering together	Shopping together
Joining work sports teams	Uninspired gym routines
Theme parties	Having friends over to watch TV
Turning phones off during alone time	Arguing over text and Twitter interruptions
Adventure dates	Dinner and a movie
Sweet texts/emails	Over-the-top PDA (public displays of affection)
Exploring temptations together	Denying pleasure and possibilities
Sharing the cooking and cleaning	Eating out every night
Feathered hair accessories	Hair bows
Turning off the lights... (to conserve energy)	Rolling blackouts
Flickr photo sharing	Facebook photo tagging
Book clubs	Gossip sessions



Taste of

Is giving in to temptation a loss of self-control, or an adventure worth fulfilling? Are we looking for instant gratification, or long-term happiness? And, can we surrender to temptation without consequences?

When it comes to temptation, there are no clear answers. What we do know is that sometimes just being tempted can be as exciting as acting on a temptation.

We asked men and women around the world what tempts them most in life and love. We've compiled a list of your temptations and found that we're not alone in wanting that extra slice of cake, fantasizing about our dreamy neighbor, or wishing revenge on our scene-stealing colleague. Read on to see what readers can't resist.

TEMPTATION



I was tempted by...

...His **confidence**. He marched right up to me and asked me out. It was the sexiest thing because he knew what he wanted and he went for it. – *Shygirl*

...Those whisky **eyes** and kissable lips. – *Quicksilver*

...His smile, his hair, his eyes, his **body**. Everything about him turned me on! He was exactly what I was looking for. – *SexToyLady*

...Her **smile** is crazy beautiful! Every time I see it I have to focus to get my mind out of the gutter. – *Anonymous*

I can't say "no" to...

...**Red wine**. I have a glass at the end of each day before bed. – *Anonymous*

...**Chocolate**. It's a daily indulgence. I'd love to say sex, but there just doesn't seem to be time for it every day. – *Anonymous*

...**Retail therapy**. I would much rather go shopping than ANYTHING else. – *Anonymous*

...**A sexy voice**... So that even when they read a children's story, you have wicked thoughts. – *tempting_lust*

I would do anything for...

... **Shoes**. When I see a pair I like, I imagine the glorious moments I'll have wearing them. It's not just a purchase, it's a temptation and it's always a promise.
– *Olga*

... **Candy**, and I wish I could resist it but I can't!
– *Candy machine*

... A **promotion** over my colleague. I fantasize about ruining her reputation daily but don't have the guts to do anything.
– *Climber*

... **Tattoos** and a sly grin. You know you'll be hurt, but the pure pleasure before the pain makes it worth it every time. And who knows, maybe this time, "you" will be the girl to tame the bad boy.
– *Michelle C*

“I fantasize
about **ruining**
her reputation
daily”

There was no turning back after...

... She **helped me through** a really miserable break-up and taught me how to love again.
– *J.J. Jones*

... He seemed to want **to be with me** even though I wasn't sure at first. Sometimes his humor thrills me.
– *Debbie*

... She stood up to me in front of my friends. Her **confidence was sexy**. Even though my friends haven't let me live it down, I can't get enough of her.
– *Told*

... We met at a club and, so all my friends told me there was no hope with a guy from a bar. I couldn't stop thinking about him and **how well we clicked** that night. We kept running into each other and finally went for coffee – we've been together ever since.
– *Bar Star*



Virtues & Vices

We all have habits that we should kick, but obviously some are worse than others.

1 Giving in to another piece of chocolate cake

2 Calling in sick for work “just because”

3 Plumping up with Botox

4 Sending flirty text messages to an old fling

Virtuous alternative:

It's necessary to spoil yourself with something sweet every once in a while, but the key is not to overindulge. Not only is it unhealthy, but it also takes away some of the excitement when you really do want to indulge. Instead, keep a few chocolate mints close by to quell those unexpected chocolate cravings.

Virtuous alternative:

Experiencing exhaustion from the everyday grind is completely normal, but if you need a break, don't lie to your boss. Instead, try speaking to them openly and discuss your options, like leaving earlier one day and making up the hours on another day when you're feeling more refreshed.

Virtuous alternative:

As time passes, it's inevitable that we will all age, but we should look forward to embracing our changing looks. Instead of trying to look younger and going overboard with Botox injections, stay out of the sun and pile on the SPF to ensure your skin is healthy for years to come.

Virtuous alternative:

A little flirting never hurt anyone and it's definitely fun to relive what you once had – but you're probably not with them anymore for a reason. Instead of dwelling on the past, why not use that energy and find a new prospect to flirt with... and maybe more!

To gauge where your vices rank in comparison to others, take a peek at the **Naughty or Nice Scale**, which ranges from the boiling point to lukewarm at best – the boiling point being the ultimate shady vice. Your temptations may not be as off-limits as you think, but if they're beginning to cross the line, we've got some virtuous alternatives to each of your vices. Read on to see if your steamy temptations are reaching the boiling point.



5 Sabotaging a colleague at work

6 Trashing your BFF to another friend

7 Indulging in outrageous spending sprees

8 Sleeping with your married boss

Virtuous alternative: Having drive and being ambitious is key to a successful career, but it's hard to enjoy it when you take things too far. It's no fun getting ahead by cheating, so instead, learn to work with your colleagues and appreciate that each team member brings something unique to the mix. Collaboration will bring out the best in everyone.

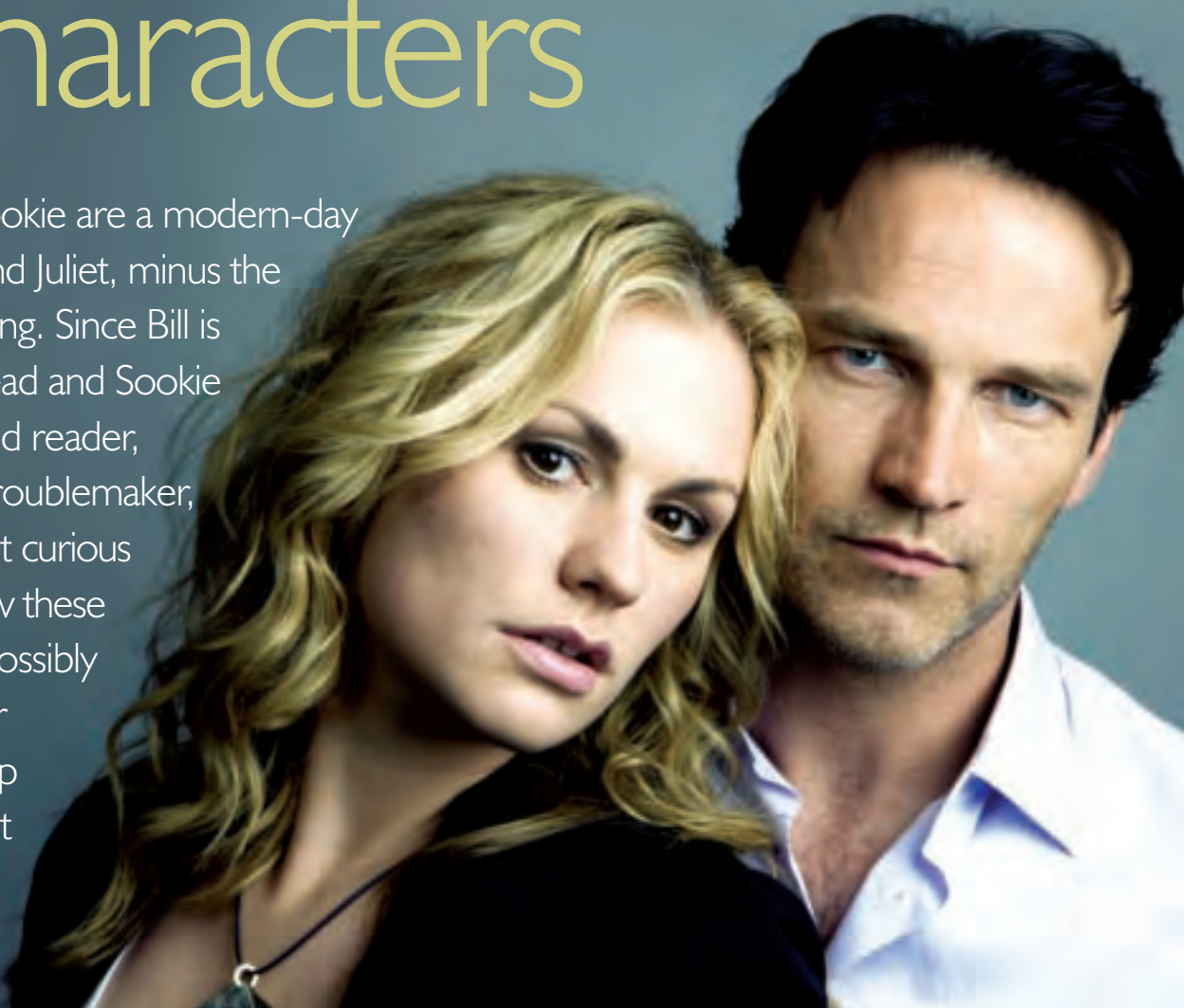
Virtuous alternative: They've always been there for you; do you really want to hurt the one true friend you have? Instead of trashing your BFF behind their back when they've done something you don't agree with, talk it out. It's best to clear the air instead of spreading gossip.

Virtuous alternative: Shopping is certainly fun, especially when you make that purchase you've been longing for. However, it starts getting dangerous when those purchases happen more often than you can afford. Try setting aside a small budget every month and use it either to treat yourself to something small, or wait until the end of the year to make a bigger purchase.

Virtuous alternative: Your boss may be irresistible, but it's best to stay away from anyone who's married, ESPECIALLY your boss. Mixing business with pleasure is never a good idea. Not only are you hurting yourself, but you're also hurting your boss's spouse – and potentially their family. Make sure all your friends know that you're open to being set up and then distract yourself with a steamy romance novel!

Celebrity Characters

Bill and Sookie are a modern-day Romeo and Juliet, minus the tragic ending. Since Bill is already dead and Sookie is part mind reader, and part troublemaker, we are just curious to see how these two can possibly make their relationship last, against all the odds.



Each week we escape into the lives of our favorite television characters to see what life might be like if we were surrounded by vampires, singing our way to high school sectionals, or working with mad men. Rather than ask about your favorite celebrities, we wanted to know which television characters keep you tuning in each week. Given the recent fascination with vampires, it's no surprise that Sookie Stackhouse and Bill Compton, from the popular show *True Blood*, were voted the most tempting television characters in 2010. Keep reading to see who else scored high in our survey.

THE WOMEN

Katherine Mayfair – Desperate Housewives

She's just what Wisteria Lane needed – another drama queen. Now, on the verge of a breakdown, Katherine Mayfair has woven a web of trouble so tangled we're not sure how she'll escape. Watching her spiral out of control is like witnessing a car wreck – we just can't look away.

Leslie Knope – Parks and Recreation

Come hell or high water, Leslie Knope will (one day) build a park. Her awkward social and business interactions generally move the project further backwards than forwards, tempting us to jump through the screen and solve her problems. Each week we tune in to watch Leslie create her own worst-case scenarios.

Betty Draper – Mad Men

We've seen Betty Draper's sweet and demure personality tempt every man she meets. Now she sees it too. No longer content playing the scorned housewife, Betty has taken the pursuit of happiness into her own hands as she grows into a leading lady modern women can relate to.



Katherine Mayfair
Desperate Housewives



Leslie Knope
Parks and Recreation



Betty Draper
Mad Men



Will Schuester
Glee



Damon Salvatore
Vampire Diaries



Jack Donaghy
30 Rock

THE MEN

Will Schuester – Glee

If we were in high school, we'd have a crush on Mr. Schuester too. Although the cards are stacked against him, he remains determinedly upbeat and cheerful. It doesn't hurt that he has a killer voice and moves we can't help but be envious of – in addition to that Justin Timberlake hair!

Damon Salvatore – Vampire Diaries

Perpetually dark and brooding, this vampire has a softer side more obvious than he'd like you to think. Damon Salvatore followed his brother Stefan back to Salem, Massachusetts to stir up trouble and, avenge his girlfriend's death. Let's face it, we just love it when he takes his shirt off.

Jack Donaghy – 30 Rock

As the Vice President of East Coast Television for General Electric, and self-proclaimed mentor to Liz Lemon, he certainly keeps himself busy, but not out of trouble. So tempted is he by power and money that he'll do almost anything to continue his climb up the corporate ladder. His antics often have us laughing out loud.

Lead Us Not Into TEMPTATION

**Seductive, exciting, and a little bit dangerous:
temptation is timeless.**

History's greatest tempters and temptresses, both real and fictional, teach us lessons about the pitfalls associated with acting on our temptations. We've paired these classics with modern-day tempters and temptresses.

Read on to see how little temptation has changed over time.



PANDORA

More *tempted* than *temptress*, Pandora opened a box and unleashed the world's evils. Her innocent curiosity not only released wickedness, but it kept hope locked away. Our survey shows that curiosity remains a strong temptation – more than 65% of men and women have snooped through their significant other's personal items to uncover their secrets.

Our modern-day Pandora's Box | **The Internet**

Over the years, people have gone to great lengths to hide their secrets in boxes under floorboards, under beds, and tucked away in closets. With the invention of the internet and mobile phones, stealth went right out the window. We now use the internet to access many deep, dark and sometimes naked secrets. Can you blame us for snooping?

HELEN OF TROY

Oaths were made to defend her honor, and a war was waged to win her beauty. Helen of Troy found herself caught between two of the most powerful men of the time, who battled relentlessly for her hand in marriage. In our survey, we found that 50% of men believe lusting after someone outside of their relationship is harmless. Surprisingly, women weren't far behind at 33%.

Our modern-day Helen of Troy | **Megan Fox**

Will Megan Fox be the next face to launch a thousand ships? Already, she has won the affection of men and women alike, inciting paparazzi riots wherever she goes, and gracing the cover of tabloid magazines every week. Her seductive allure and piercing green eyes make her beauty irresistible – and potentially dangerous.

COUNT DRACULA

It's no secret that we've developed a strange fascination with vampires. The first tempting vampire, Count Dracula, has been featured in approximately 160 films since the early 1900s. So tempting was he to women that he kept three vampire brides and made a habit of luring women with his hypnotic stare, dark and dangerous surroundings, and mysterious charm.

Our modern-day Count Dracula | **Edward Cullen**

Edward Cullen's sensitive and mysterious character keeps women begging for more. His love affair with human Bella Swan has taken popular culture by storm and left women around the world wishing for their own eternal Prince Charming without a pulse. Edward quickly dispels any notion that garlic and wooden stakes can ward off and kill vampires, bringing the mythical being into the 21st century.

NARCISSUS

The incredibly beautiful Narcissus was tempting to all – and most tempting to himself. As punishment for rejecting the love of others, Narcissus was no longer able to recognize his reflection. When he saw a beautiful face reflected in a pond – himself – Narcissus was unable to avert his gaze and so perished.

Our modern-day Narcissus | **Gerard Butler**

Although we don't wish the fate of Narcissus upon Gerard Butler, he does have a quality that makes him narcissistic. He chooses roles in which he is able to show off his perfect physique and good looks, allowing himself (and us) to stare for hours. He has also been involved in a series of ill-fated relationships, claiming "... there's a bit of a wildcat still in me."

THE MEDUSA EFFECT



People knew that looking directly at Medusa would turn them to stone, so why did they look?

What drives us to act on temptations that we know might have undesirable consequences? Well, generally we do it because it feels great and we enjoy something positive before the experience turns sour.

We've put together a list of common temptations, why we act on them, and why we shouldn't. Do any of these sound familiar?

THE TEMPTATION...

WHY WE DO IT...

WHY WE SHOULDN'T...

Spending Spree
Bad Boys/Girls
Junk Food
Extreme Sports
Horror Movies
Partying Hard
Cheating
Gossip
One-Night Stand
Stealing

Full closet
Excitement
Fulfillment
Exhilaration
Adrenaline
"Memories"
Achievement
Popularity
Desire
Free loot

Credit card debt
Heartbreak
Weight gain
Broken bones
Sleepless nights
Hangover
Getting caught
Drama
Guilt
Incarceration




OVER 15 FREE BOOK DOWNLOADS TO FUEL THE
IMAGINATION

Through our annual survey we discovered that more than 75% of the respondents (three out of four North Americans) agreed *books were one temptation they refused to give up* during the recession.

Well, at Harlequin, we've got a book to *tempt* every woman...

ON TRYHARLEQUIN.COM, WE'RE OFFERING OVER 15 FREE BOOKS* to choose from and download. From romantic suspense to heartwarming stories, every romance will stir the imagination.

 HARLEQUIN® A Romance FOR EVERY MOOD™

*Approximate retail value of \$60.



Office Temptations Exposed

MEMO TO ALL STAFF

FROM: MANAGEMENT

RE: OFFICE TEMPTATIONS EXPOSED

Attention all employees: Harlequin's Romance Experts are here to expose the most shocking workplace behaviors.

Based on this year's Romance Report survey results, we've determined that in each office lurks at least one employee colleagues should be wary of. To help you spot these shady characters, we've developed a list of their common traits and provided tips on how to avoid office politics and overcome difficult personalities. Read on to discover what's really going on behind your colleague's closed door.

The Nosy Cubicle Neighbor

Peek-a-boo, I see... your paycheck! Harmless but annoying, the nosy cubicle neighbor cannot resist a good piece of gossip. From inappropriate chitchat about salaries to who should get promoted next, they thrive on being "in-the-know". With more than half of men and women (56%) admitting to having peeked at a colleague's paycheck, be cautious of what you say around the office.

How to resist dangerous territory: Divulging too much information around the nosy cubicle neighbor can be dangerous. If you want information to be kept private, your best bet is to keep it to yourself. They simply cannot be trusted.

The "Gifted" Newbie

The "Gifted" Newbie apparently aced the interview, has all the experience in the world and is over-qualified for the position – so they say. Your boss thinks they are the newly hired superstar, who is much more capable than you, but what they don't know is that the newbie is a wolf in sheep's clothing. What they are good at is befriending colleagues who can do the work and using them to help mask their own shortcomings.

How to resist dangerous territory: Patience is a virtue and the "Gifted" Newbie will soon be found out. You don't want to be the one responsible for exposing them if you can help it, so keep working hard and doing your best. If your employer does not treat you properly, find a company that will appreciate your great ideas and hard work.

The Snake in a Suit

Sneaky and extremely slick, the Snake in a Suit will strike when you least expect it. With 41% of survey respondents admitting to having wished failure on a colleague because they were jealous of their success, this toxic personality is insecure and inclined to act out their vindictiveness. Whether it's taking credit for a colleague's work or purposely sabotaging co-workers, the Snake in a Suit is willing to advance their career at all costs.

How to resist dangerous territory: Keep it civil with the Snake in a Suit. You don't want them to know you've discovered their shady behavior and as long as you keep it gracious in the office, it's difficult for them to attack. Try surrounding yourself with more positive colleagues who will bring out the best in you – not the worst.

The Too-Eager Beaver

Every employer wants a smart employee, but no one wants a know-it-all who tries way too hard to impress. There is a fine balance between being proactive and being overly aggressive, and the Too-Eager Beaver crosses that line. Consistently correcting others, gloating about their own success and being obsessed with climbing the corporate ladder – even at the expense of their work relationships. Looks like everyone in the office is fair game for this character...

How to resist dangerous territory: It's hard to compete with the Too-Eager Beaver because they are often right. Frustration can build when working with them, but put aside your ego and make the best of the situation. Learn from them and, at the same time, teach them how to work better with others.

Tempted:

HOW FAR IS TOO FAR?

How far would you go to get what you want?

When it comes to satisfying our curiosity, we have proven that often there are no limits, especially where gossip and rumors are concerned. Sometimes we may think we want to uncover someone's deepest, darkest secrets, but our inquisitive nature can lead us down a dangerous path.

Trust and openness are important in every relationship, but once in a while, we are faced with TMI (too much information). Read on to discover when it's okay to probe a little deeper and where to draw the line on your snooping.



THE SITUATION TOO MUCH WHAT TO DO INSTEAD...

INFORMATION

Digging through your partner's text messages, emails and personal belongings to see what you can find.

TMI

We understand one suspicious text message can open up a can of worms, but if you're questioning your partner's innocence, you have a larger problem – trust, or lack thereof. If you don't trust your partner, move on and find someone with whom you'll feel more secure.

Secretly booking a wedding venue or placing a ring on hold at the jeweler to encourage a wedding proposal.

Borderline

Even though you're not demanding a proposal directly, your partner can sense your eagerness. Don't worry – the proposal will happen when both of you are ready to take the next step. Ladies, beware of scaring the guy away – if the relationship isn't secure or headed in the marriage direction.

Venting to your mother-in-law about your relationship woes to get the inside scoop.

TMI

Parents and in-laws should be on a need-to-know basis. The more you tell them, the more they will want to be involved. Rather than making things awkward at family dinners, try asking a friend for help – or even better, talk to your loved one about the problem. When in doubt – honesty is always the best policy.

Discussing your love life – romantic and sexual – with your closest pals to see what they really think of your new beau.

Gimme More!

If you can't chitchat openly with your friends, who will be your sounding board and give you the honest advice you need? True friends will never take advantage of the information you give them.

Sharing stories of how great your ex was in the X-rated part of the relationship to see how jealous your current partner will get.

TMI

Once in a while, it may feel good to see your partner get jealous because it reinforces how much they care about you. But be careful, you're entering dangerous territory when you bring your ex into the mix. Now that you're in a new relationship, start with a clean slate and keep the past where it belongs.

Interrogating your single, 50-year-old boss to get them to disclose their future plans for marriage and children.

Borderline

If you're close enough to your boss, there's no problem with asking personal questions; however, tread lightly. Not all bosses are easy going, so posing inappropriate questions to someone who is generally private can land you in some pretty hot water at work.

Spotting your sibling's significant other suspiciously having dinner with an attractive co-worker in the dark corner of a restaurant.

Gimme More!

No, it's not anyone's business, but it definitely becomes your business when it involves your family. However, before you point a finger, do a little detective work to find out if something is actually going on. There is no need to upset someone unnecessarily, so be sure you have your facts straight!

“TWILIGHT FANS WILL LOVE IT.”

—KIRKUS REVIEWS ON *MY SOUL TO TAKE*



**AN OTHERWORLDLY LOVE STORY
EVEN VAMPIRES WOULD ENVY...**

The *Soul Screamers* series by *New York Times* bestselling author Rachel Vincent, including the highly acclaimed *MY SOUL TO TAKE* and *MY SOUL TO SAVE* and the much anticipated release of *MY SOUL TO KEEP* in June.

**HARLEQUIN
TEEN**

Read the FREE eBook prequel *MY SOUL TO LOSE*
at www.SoulScreamers.com/RR

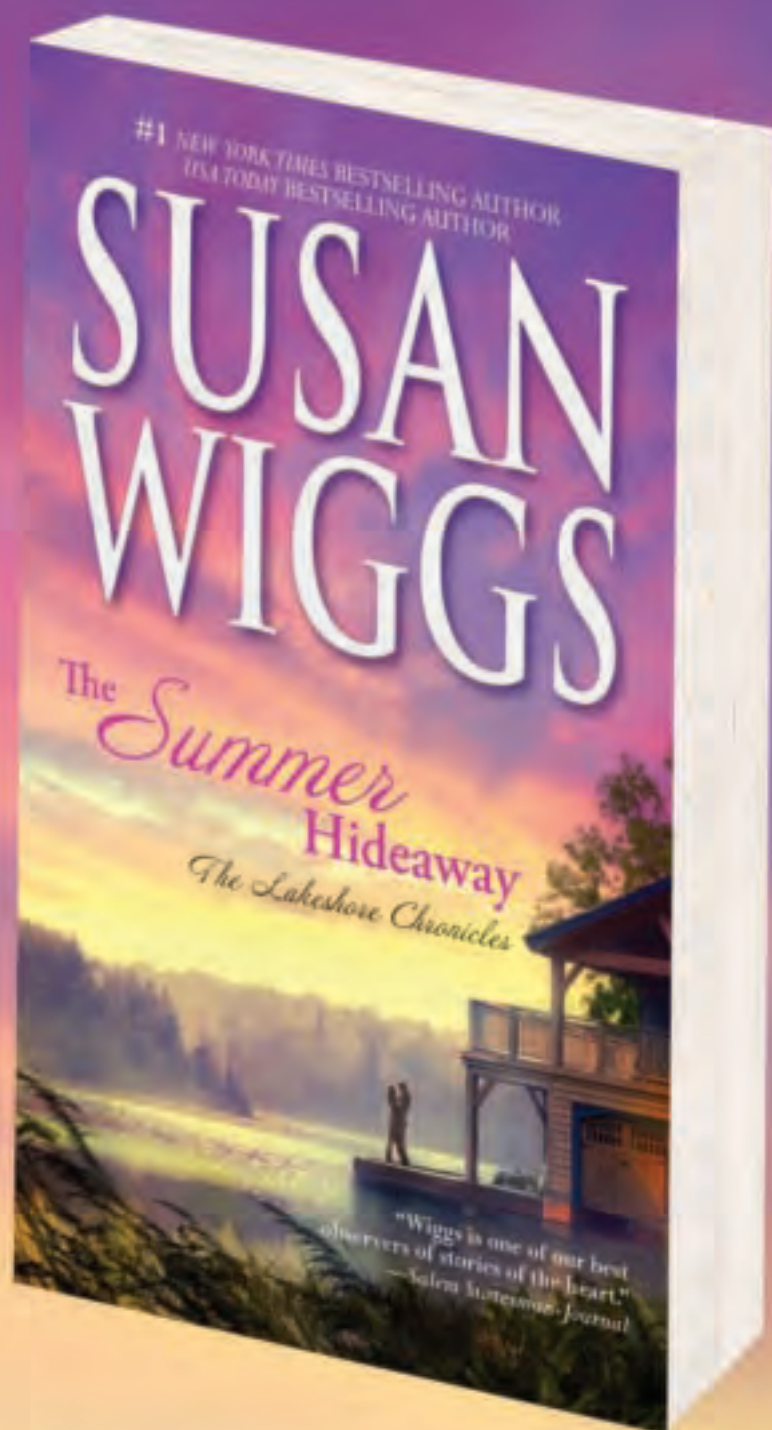
**#1 *New York Times*
bestselling author
Susan Wiggs**

wrote her way into
readers' hearts with
stories of every woman's
hopes and dreams.
Now she returns with
a touching tale of
secrets and sacrifice,
loss and redemption...
and a love too powerful
to be denied.

**On sale
February 23!**



www.MIRABooks.com
www.SusanWiggs.com



Also available from *The Lakeshore Chronicles* series.



THE Unoriginal Sin

CONVICTED



Have you ever wished you could start over and change the past, or do you prefer to live life without ever looking back? When it comes to romance, friendships, family and work, do second chances really exist?

Though only certain crimes are punishable in our society, there are common offenses people commit every day that we may forgive, but rarely forget. Harlequin's Romance Experts lay down the law and give these everyday offenses the sentence they deserve. Read on to find out the verdict. . . .

CONFIDENTIAL

HARLEQUIN ROMANCE REPORT 2010

Investigator:

Charged for:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

TIME RECEIVED:

OFFICER:

INVESTIGATIVE SIN REPORTS

CASE No. 90234

CRIME: Accidentally sending out an email criticizing your boss - to your boss.

SENTENCE: Schedule a meeting immediately to clear the air. You may have squashed that upcoming promotion, but if you want to continue working at your company, you need to address the email. Offer solutions on how you can improve your working relationship and now, more than ever, make that extra effort to do good work so you can prove to your boss that you're a better person than the one who sent that email.

CASE No.51489

CRIME: Secretly meeting with an ex without your partner's knowledge.

SENTENCE: Cut off all communication with your ex, including phone, email and Facebook, and swear that you'll never see them again. Secretly meeting an ex opens up a can of worms. Such a secret rendezvous will only lead to hurt feelings once your partner finds out, and trust us – the truth ALWAYS comes out.

CASE No.28489

Crime: Dishing your best friend's secret to others.

SENTENCE: Arrange something special for your friend to make up for what you did. Your friend is well within his/her rights not to trust you so easily next time. You will have to rebuild the trust you've broken, and remember the old saying, "what goes around comes around." You might not be off the hook entirely.

CASE No.5490

CRIME: Married and having a secret affair with a friend.

SENTENCE: Immediately end the affair and confess to your partner. Having exchanged vows with your loved one and then hurt them in this way is inexcusable. To rectify this situation, come out of hiding and face the truth. This may be difficult to do, but it's time to take responsibility for your actions.

CASE No.23215

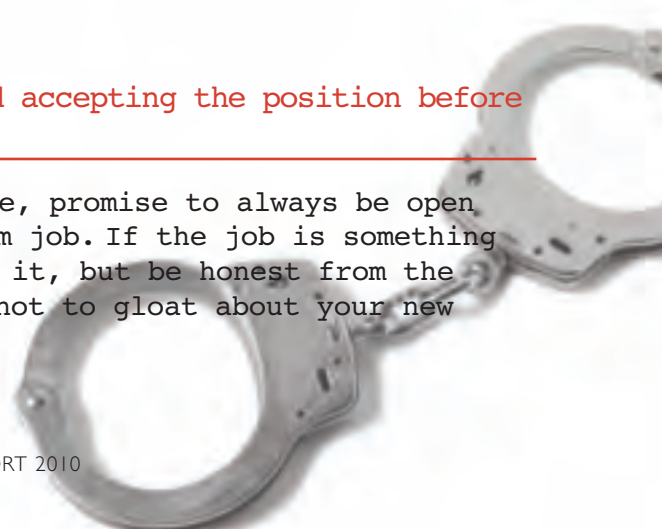
CRIME: Calling out an ex's name while in bed with your partner.

SENTENCE: Apologize, but also examine your relationship closely. There may be a reason why you said what you did. You should be attracted to your partner more than anyone else, so if you're not, take some time to re-evaluate whether this is a healthy and happy relationship.

CASE No.89516

CRIME: Applying for a friend's dream job and accepting the position before telling them.

SENTENCE: To mend this relationship, apologize, promise to always be open and proactively help him/her find their dream job. If the job is something you also wanted, it's fair for you to accept it, but be honest from the start to avoid hurt feelings – and make sure not to gloat about your new position.



Which Would You Prefer?

How much do you know about your friends' moral integrity? Which Would You Prefer is a fun way to put your friends on the spot and encourage them to reveal steamy secrets.

To play, gather your friends and pose the questions listed below. Be ready for jaw-dropping conversations and hysterical fits of laughter. Just remember, there are no compromises here — you must pick one or the other option.





Have fun with the following list put together by the Romance Experts at Harlequin.

Love and Romance

- Have mind-blowing sex with your soul mate and never see them again, OR mediocre sex with one consistent partner for life?
- Have a significant other who is great in bed but not trustworthy, OR a significant other who is reserved in bed, but loyal to a fault?
- Have a sex tape leaked online, OR a cheating partner?
- Have a long-distance relationship, OR no personal time outside of your relationship?
- Be always right, OR always loved?



Work

- Attain the job of your dreams by sleeping with your boss, OR be caught in a love triangle at work?
- Be caught stealing someone's ideas at work, OR be caught stealing someone's significant other?
- Be caught fooling around at an office holiday party, OR miss the most important meeting of the year?
- Be tremendously successful at work, OR tremendously successful in love?
- Be a powerful boss with employees who hate you, OR have an average job and strong friendships with colleagues?

Grab Bag

- Eat whatever you want without gaining weight, OR never have a medical problem as long as you live?
- Finish in third place with your best recorded performance, OR win a gold medal by cheating?
- Live in large and cozy country home, OR a small, chic condo?
- Act on all your temptations and deal with their consequences, OR never act on a single temptation and live a problem-free life?
- Compete as an athlete in the Olympics, OR be the star performer during the Olympic opening ceremonies?
- Have fame OR fortune?



 **HARLEQUIN**

www.TryHarlequin.com
www.HarlequinRomanceReport.com