LAUGHING MATTERS

Kamla Bhasin and Bindia Thapar
No, it is not true at all that feminists have no sense of humour. Would we have survived in this patriarchal and terribly anti-feminist world without humour? Actually, we even laugh at ourselves, and not only when we have no one else to laugh at.

Actually, I don't think any other movement has produced so much laughing matter, for that matter so much poetry, songs, music, creative writing, theatre ...... For us laughing, loving, living go together.

Emma Goldman, Lithunian born U.S. anarchist said about the Russian revolution, "If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution." Many of us in the women's movement have been saying, "If there is no laughter in the women's movement let us create it." To be counted out of our own movement was not a choice for us.

And of course, like all political humour, ours too is laced with anger, sometimes bitterness, sarcasm, truths and half-truths, generalisations, etc.
This little book contains serious laughing matter created and collected and told and retold by us, for many years. By including the words and illustrations of feminist humourists from different parts of the world, we are saluting their creativity and joining them in laughter and solidarity.

On the occasion of Jagori's twentieth birthday, this book is an offering to all of us in the movement and those about to join it. It is also in celebration of our 25 years of feminist activism and solidarity in India, South Asia and globally.

Life is too precious to be taken too seriously. Therefore, let us be serious about laughter.

Let us keep laughing, loving and moving forward. Laughing matters!! In fact laughing matters a lot!!

Kamla Bhasin
LAUGHING AT OURSELVES

Achieving liberation requires serious deliberation
I work as a Feminist, and you?
A senior feminist to a junior feminist, “I am very angry and disappointed to see how much you continue to care for your patriarchal family! Why can’t you understand that as feminists we care only for ourselves”.

We are Feminists! We are against ALL HIERARCHY!
But yes, sometimes, there is some ANARCHY in our group!!
A new women's group in town was named SPLINTER. When asked for an explanation for this name, the reply was "Earlier our organisation was called SOLIDARITY, but, soon it splintered into many groups".

We wanted to have collective DECISION MAKING... All we achieved was collective PARALYSIS!!
Who says we are powerless.
Haven't they seen our power to gossip and nag?
Question

How many feminists do you need to change an electric bulb?

Answer

FIVE

(One to change the bulb, two to write about the PROCESS and another two to make a video)

Question

How many feminists does it take to change a lightbulb?

Answer

None. It's not the lightbulb that needs changing.
When in trouble or in doubt,
run in circles, scream and shout!!

Whenever I sense this great desire to work overpowering me
I sit quietly in a corner and wait for it to pass.
Patriarchical Illogic
When a man uses his brain, he is clever...
...when a woman does the same, she is calculating

As soon as a woman thinks sufficiently fast, one calls it intuition.

When do men insist that women are illogical?

When a woman doesn't agree with them!
Now we should all STRIP.
Everyone except my wife, of course!!

Two women who had had a rather hectic and difficult day, decided to go to a restaurant to have a quiet meal. They spotted a cosy restaurant and went in. They had barely settled into their chairs when the waiter came up to them, and in a half apologetic, half agitated tone, said, "Excuse me, ladies, I am sorry but we only serve men here."

The women looked at him in disbelief, thought for a moment and then one of them said "Well, in that case, bring us two!"
One male journalist to another:
"Are you coming to the feminist group's press conference?"

Reply:
"No. Who wants to see those manly women with hair on their legs".
“Are you the father of this child?”
“No! I am the Mother.”
“Oh, I am sorry!! Your son is lovely.”
“Actually, that lovely child is my daughter.”
FEMINIST LOGIC

People call me a feminist every time I refuse to be a doormat
There can be no free men until there are free women.

To be considered their equal, women have to be twice as good as men. Fortunately, that's not difficult.
Sadly, all men are created equal.

Women have their faults.
Men have only two.
Everything they say
And everything they do.

In hostile, patriarchal societies
women need the
FIDO attitude.
Forget It and
Drive On.

Don't think I am beaten down
This is my take-off position!
If I can cook, so can any man - Because I don't cook with my womb.

Don't agonize... ORGANIZE!!

Women, don't just make beds - Make careers.

WOMEN, AVOID BREAKDOWNS!!
GO FOR BREAKTHROUGHS!!
LIFE IS MUCH EASIER
IF WE BURN OUR
BRAINS
AND KEEP OUR
BRAS

Women's place is in the house..
That's why they should be
in both houses of Parliament.

TO MAKE THE BALANCE RIGHT
FOR FIFTY-FIFTY WE FIGHT

WE DON'T WANT
COPPER T
WE WANT
PROPERTY!
Don't choose. Take it all!!

We don't want just a piece of the cake. We want the whole damned bakery!!

Women, be REALISTIC.. Ask for the IMPOSSIBLE!

Like many men, we also want to have our cake and eat it too. But wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have our cake and eat his too!
A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle.

Good girls go to heaven. The others can go anywhere they like.

Women's prayer:
Mary conceived without sinning.
Oh Lord, let us sin without conceiving.

Every one cares for himself - Only I care for myself.
IF MARCH 8 IS WOMEN'S DAY, WHAT HAPPENS THE REST OF THE YEAR?

DISCRIMINATION!

Madness is hereditary...
You can get it from your children

WHY WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO BRING YOU FLOWERS?
PLANT YOUR OWN GARDEN!
LANGUAGE
THE FEMINIST DICTIONARY

Ass, n: The masculine of "lass".

Bachelor, n: man who has missed the opportunity to make some woman miserable.

THE FEMININE OF HERO = SHERO

FEMINIST MATHS

\[1 + 1 = 11\]
... since history has ignored us,
we're writing herstory!

As tolerant feminists, we declare
that the following words may
remain unchanged:
MANhole
MANeater
MANslaughter

If it's MENstruation, why don't men get it??

WE WANT PEACE IN SOUTH ASIA
NOT PIECES OF SOUTH ASIA
Dear Sirs • man to man • manpower •
craftsman • working men • the thinking man
the man in the street • fellow countrymen the
history of mankind • one-man show • man in
his wisdom • statesman • forefathers •
masterful • masterpiece • old masters • the
brotherhood of man • Liberty • Equality •
Fraternity • sons of free men • faith of our
fathers • god the father • god the son • yours
fraternally • amen • words fail me
GROWING UP

When I grow up,
I'll be a Feminist!
when I grow up
you won't

you're only a feminist
because you're ugly

actually I'm a feminist
because you're a boy
Be a bloody train driver.
I'm going to be a brain surgeon.

Oh! So that's why you get higher wages?
I don't know why people call Amma a SINGLE mother when she has me.
Why have sex if you can have gender?
Okay, we took off our clothes...
I got on top of you...
How soon till it starts feeling good?

I don't know but I've got a headache already!
Because of drought in a certain part of Rajasthan for four consecutive years, most villagers found it difficult to survive. The local sex worker was so desperate that she was forced to go even to the local Baniya, famous for his miserliness. Almost begging, she said to him, "Baapji, you know how bad the situation is. Give me just five rupees and I will have sex with you."

"Five rupees! You're crazy! You give me just one rupee and I will have sex with you!"

A man was filling up an immigration form. In the column for sex, he wrote, "OCCASIONALLY."

The immigration officer returned the form to the man, saying, "Sir, here you have to fill in MALE or FEMALE."

The man wrote, "PREFERABLY female."
What is oral sex?
When you talk about it!

Why does a man enjoy masturbation so much?
Because this is the only time he is making love
to someone he really loves.

What is bi-sexual?
When you have sex twice a year!

In a school for priests, ten final year students were to be tested for their vows for celibacy and their control over their sexual urges.

All of them were made to stand in a row, completely naked and to make the test precise; a little bell was tied to their penises.

A very beautiful, provocatively dressed woman was brought to walk in front of them. Nine would-be-priests were in total control, but the bell of the tenth man rang. He was told he would have to spend another six month in the seminary and he was asked to take ten steps forward. As the naked man moved forward all the other nine bells started ringing loudly.
Love is blind, but marriage is a real eye-opener...
Everyone must get married. 
After all, happiness is not everything.

Isn't a woman incomplete before marriage? 
Yes! After marriage she is finished!

Before marriage, I used to sink into his arms... 
After marriage, my arms are in his sink!
A SHORT LOVE STORY

He: "Will you marry me, darling?"
She: "No, dearest."
And they lived happily ever after...

The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing, and then they marry him.
Don't marry for money
It is cheaper to take a loan

Single women claim that all the good men are married, while all married women complain about their lousy husbands. This confirms that there is no such thing as a good man.

Question
Why do so many women pray and fast to get good husbands?

Answer
They need godly intervention because good husbands are RARE.
Marriage is supposed to be a harbour in the storm. But more often it is a storm in the harbour.

"Can I have a fuck for five hundred rupees?" he asked me at 0.42 a.m. at this empty, desolate, freezing bus stop.

First I shook my head, but then I said "Not for money. But if you clean the house and wash up the dishes and do some ironing, you can."

At that, he turned around and walked away with a hanging head.
Question
What is common between husbands and sperms?

Answer
One in so many million works!

Question
What's the best way to have your husband remember the anniversary?

Answer
Get married on his birthday!
So, are you leaving me??

No, I am just going back to my senses!

Darling, I have decided to pardon you and have come back.
A Woman's husband died after six months of marriage. The post-mortem report declared that he had died of eating poisoned mushrooms.

Some months later the woman got married again. Alas! A few months later the second husband died too.

The second post-mortem report also declared that he had died of eating poisoned mushrooms.

Poor woman! She had to get married again. After almost a year the third husband also died. This time the post-mortem report declared that he had died of head injuries because he refused to eat poisoned mushrooms.

BIGAMY
IS ONE HUSBAND TOO MANY...
MONOGAMY
IS THE SAME.

My husband eloped with my best friend... Gosh, how I miss my friend!
What is the biggest cause of divorce?

MARRIAGE

What do you call a man with 99% of his intelligence gone?

Divorced!

"Thank God, it was not the cow," said the woman when her husband died.

Here lies my beloved wife silent, at last.

Here lies my beloved husband finally stiff.
HOME AND FAMILY
A man's home is his castle.
Let him clean it!!

What's a man's idea of helping with the housework?
Lifting his legs so you can vacuum.

Never trust a man who says he's the boss at home.
He probably lies about other things as well.

I am an excellent housekeeper
Everytime I leave a man,
I keep his house.
How many husbands does it take to change a light bulb?

We'll know as soon as one gets off the couch and does it!

How many men does it take to change a roll of toilet paper?

Nobody knows.
It has never happened.

How many men does it take to dirty up 12 pots while cooking a meal?

One.
I'VE GOT RHYTHM,
I'VE GOT RHYTHM,
I'VE GOT TWELVE KIDS,
WHO COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE...
"Darling, if you just take care of them for the next few years, I will take care of their ideological development once they grow up."

Don't tell me you have forgotten your son's name AGAIN!
You want EQUALITY
Because you want to occupy my place

NO! I want EQUALITY because I want you to take my place sometimes

Will such days ever come?
What's for dinner?

Oh, you have 2 choices...
take it or leave it!

good night,
my wife and
mother of three!

good night,
father of one!
GROWING OLD

Youth is not a time of life...
It is a state of mind.
I don't complain about getting old. Just think of the people who are denied the privilege.

We believe in life before death.

Growing old can be a wonderful adventure, if we remember that the keyword is GROWING.
A child asked an elderly lady if she was young or old.
She replied smiling, "My dear, I have been young a very long time."

Heard from a grandmother:
"If we had known grand children are so much fun, we'd have had them first."

GROUP SEX IN AN OLD WOMEN'S HOME
Life has become a bit lonely since the TV passed away.
Scientists have just discovered something that can do the work of five men...
...a woman

The best man for a job...may be a woman!

Men At Work

Women work all the time
Men put up signs whenever they work
You can't expect me to get up I who work everyday from 9 to 5

You should definitely find a job
The interviewer asked the woman who had applied for a police officer's job, "Have you ever done anything daring?"

“Yes Sir,” she said promptly, “I was married for five years."
TO PEE
OR
NOT TO PEE

ANYTHING THAT LEAKS ON THE ROAD NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED!
What would get your man to put down the toilet seat?
A sex-change operation!

What do a clitoris, an anniversary, and a toilet have in common?
Men always miss them.

The men who do make it to Heaven are going to have a rude awakening up there when they find out two things:
God is a woman...
... and She nailed down all of heaven's toilet seats!

An Indian man went to Germany for the first time. Soon after leaving the airport, he told his friend who had come to receive him, to stop the car. As soon as the car stopped he got out and started urinating on the road. Alarmed by this act, his friend yelled, "Oy, the police will come and hold you!"
"Really? Will they do it." he asked "Yes," said the friend.
"The German Police is amazing," he said in total admiration, "In India we have to hold it ourselves."
Behind every successful man is an exhausted woman.

Behind every great man is a surprised woman.

Before every potentially great woman, there is a man.

Man says to God, "God, why did you make woman so beautiful, gentle and caring?"

God says, "So you would love her."

"But God," the man says, "Why did you make her so dumb and stupid?"

God replies, "So she would love you."

God created man before creating woman, because you need a rough draft before you create a masterpiece.

Walking on the seashore a man found an ancient looking bottle. Intrigued, he picked it up and with great difficulty opened it. And lo and behold, out came a DJINN!!

The Djinn was most grateful to the man for releasing him. "Ask for anything, and I shall grant it," he said.

The man seemed to know what he wanted. He said, "Djinn Sahib, please make me 10 times smarter than I am."

"10 times? Are you sure you want to be 10 times smarter?" asked the Djinn. "You may not like what you become."

"I am sure, I am sure" said the man greedily.

The Djinn obliged and the man found he had become a woman.
THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES

Shall we see who can bend the most

Sure

You won

FLONK
Hello? Ram and Sons?

No! Sita's Daughters!!

Devarji, you better not get out of this Bhabhi Rekha till I get back.
Give a man a free hand and he'll run it all over you.

Oh, that hand? I found it on my thigh one day!
Enough of playing the mid-wife's role in the theater of male production!

We will now do our own production!! WATCH OUT!!
In a forest sanctuary, looking at an open bus full of tourists, the female tiger says to the male tiger - "Look at that species! They are very dangerous. They molest and rape even their own children."
Why are men like popcorn?
They satisfy you, but only for a little while.

Why are men like commercials?
You can't believe a word they say.

How is a man like the weather?
Nothing can be done to change either one of them.

Why are men like ceramic tiles?
If you lay them right the first time, you can walk over them for life!

What is the difference between a man and Fixed Deposits?
Fixed deposits MATURE!

What do most men think Mutual Orgasm is?
An insurance company.

What is common between a feminist man and an Unidentified Flying Object?
People say they exist but no one has actually seen them!!

What is the difference between men and pigs?
Pigs don't turn into men when they drink.

What do men and women have in common?
They both distrust men.

Why don't men often show their true feelings?
Because they don't have any.

What is the thinnest book in the world?
What men know about women.
The desire of a man for a woman is not directed at her because she is a human being, but because she is a woman. That she is a human being is of no concern to him.

Men would rather pledge allegiance to a flag than to a woman.

They say that men only think about sex. That's not exactly true. They also care a lot about power, world domination, money, and beer.

If they can put a man on the moon, then why can't they just put them all there.

Most men prefer looks to brains, because most men see better than they think.

90% of the men give the other 10% a bad name.

An empty man is full of himself.
Eve had to be created so that Adam had someone to blame.

**In all systems of theology the devil figures as a male person.**

For three very strong reasons people believe Jesus Christ was a woman...

*He had to produce food at no notice for a large number of people.*

*The man closest to him betrayed him.*

*Even after his death he had to get up because there was more work to be done.*

There are also three strong reasons to believe Jesus was a South Asian man.

*He lived with his Ma and Baba till he was 30.*

*He thought his mother was a virgin.*

*His mother believed he was God.*
Two idle young men with no weekend plans walked into a pharmacy.
One of them spied a box of tampons, and picked it up.
"Look," he said excitedly, "What an amazing thing this is. It says on the packet that you can go swimming play tennis or ride horses with it!"

Go for younger men.
You might as well...
...they never mature anyway.

Boys will be boys
and so will a lot of middle-aged men.

Few women admit their age.
Few men act theirs.
An optimist looks out of the window every morning and says, "Good Morning, God!"
A pessimist goes to the window and says, "Good God, Morning!!"

WHEN FATE SHUTS DOORS, USE WINDOWS

LUCK FAVOURS THE BACKBONE, NOT THE WISH BONE

WHILE MAKING A LIVING DON'T FORGET TO LIVE

PLEASE REMEMBER, IF YOU ARE HEADED IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, GOD ALLOWS U TURNS.
Do you always want to be right or do you want to be happy?

No point DRINKING to DROWN your SORROWS...
...All SORROWS can SWIM

Japan is the Land of the Rising SUN. We want our countries to be the Lands of Rising DAUGHTERS

When you INVITE trouble It is usually quick to ACCEPT

No matter how hard you hug your money, it never hugs back.

Instead of falling in love, rise in love!!

Success in anything is like riding a bicycle. Either you keep moving or you fall over
GIVING IS THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL LIVING

All the joy the world contains has come through wishing happiness for others.

All the misery the world contains has come through wanting pleasure for oneself.
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And a word at the end