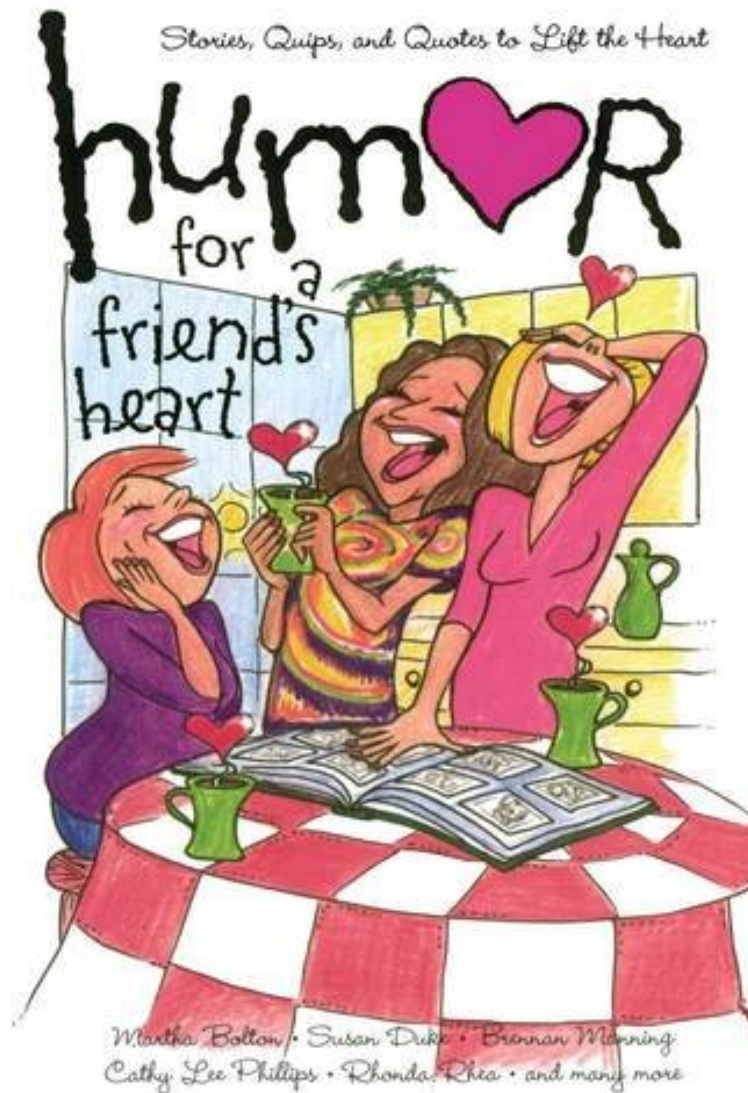


Humor for a Friend's Heart: Stories, Quips, and Quotes to Lift the Heart (Humor for the Heart)

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If a cheerful heart can cure like medicine, this collection is an industrial-strength dose of delight. Nudged from the funny bones of such well-known authors as Patsy Clairmont, Barbara Johnson, Brennan Manning, Luci Swindoll, G. Ron Darbee, Martha Bolton, and Phil Callaway, the forty-plus essays in this hilarious collection provide reasons to smile in practically every situation -- from the delivery room to the last laugh. Virtually no target is beyond the pointed pen of these quick-witted observers who celebrate friendship as they discuss dentures, bear suits, male bonding, Jell-O, and fishing. Accompanied by quick-read quips, it's a relaxing and affirming book that men and women of all ages would find laughable -- in the best sense of the word.

About the AuthorMARK BILLINGHAM, LAWRENCE BLOCK, C.J. BOX, KEN BRUEN, ALAFAIR BURKE, STEPHEN L. CARTER, MARCIA CLARK, MARY HIGGINS CLARK, MAX ALLEN COLLINS, JOHN CONNOLLY, JAMES GRADY, HEATHER GRAHAM, BRYAN GRULEY, CHARLAINE HARRIS, VAL McDERMID, S.J. ROZAN, JONATHAN SANTLOFER, DANA STABENOW, LISA UNGER, SARAH WEINMAN. LEE CHILD - INTRODUCTION. LINDA FAIRSTEIN - AFTERWORD.Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Chapter 1: A Friendly Reminder - Rhonda Rhea Friendships are a must for women. If it weren't for friends, women would have to go to the ladies' room alone. And who would offer a truthful assessment about whether an outfit makes your hips look big? I have a Mustache Pact with my closest friends. If anyone of us goes into a coma, the others are honor bound by our pact to come and wax the mustache of the comatose friend. We women love to share those special moments. I shared another special moment with friends recently. Several of us were hurrying to a surprise baby shower. We were hurrying because it's tough to surprise the guest of honor when she gets to the party before the guests. We had pooled our resources to buy "the stroller to end all strollers." It was a collapsible stroller that would stroll the baby, carry the baby, swing the baby - maybe even change the baby - I'm not sure. It was Stroller-ama. I told the others to run in while I got Super Stroller. I jerked it into position and started sprinting. Unfortunately, about middriveway, Stroller-zilla realized I hadn't fully locked it into place (emphasis on the aforementioned collapsible feature). It collapsed neatly into storage mode. I probably don't need to give you a science lesson on "momentum," but let me mention I had a lot of it working for me. The fact the Stroller-nator stopped on a dime didn't mean much to my little sprinting body, which was immediately airborne. Maybe you don't know me personally and think me ungraceful. Granted, you probably wouldn't want me to transport subatomic particles on a regular basis, but I don't want you to forever imagine me as a klutz. So maybe it would be better if you could please picture a graceful triple axel jump over the top of the stroller with sort of a one-point landing. I finished it off with a lovely flat-on-the-back pose, staring up at the sky for effect. I'd give it a 6.9. Thankfully, I had my wonderful friends there to rush over and make sure I was okay. Of course, they couldn't actually ask me if I was all right since those dear friends were laughing so hard they were about to damage some internal organs! One of them couldn't even stay. She made a beeline for the house. You know what can happen to laughing mothers. That's another thing we love to share: laughter. This is a little reminder. If it's been awhile since you've made time for friends, take the time and share a laugh with a sister. We need each other. There are certain things, concepts, even certain words, only women understand. "Mauve" and "taupe" are a couple of good examples. Call up your special bud today. While you have her on the line, you might also want to take care of that coma/mustache thing.