

## Watching Sitcoms

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### Calling All Men

*October 31st, 2007*

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In my random channel flipping yesterday, I caught a glimpse of a couple of different sitcoms and I wanted to impart some small bit of wisdom that I gleaned from them. Apparently, men are stupid, won't ask for help or directions, and have no commonsense. I'm serious.

I saw a small bit of [Everybody Loves Raymond](#) and some of [King of Queens](#). I never really watched that show, only Raymond, but [Kevin James](#) did guest star on Raymond as a friend of Ray's.

Anyhow, on [Raymond](#), the ep was about Debra's birthday and how her mom wants to plan a special party for her and Raymond doesn't just cause he doesn't want to get stuck doing a lot of work. Then he screws up and tells Debra that they are planning a surprise, so she tells him what she wants and he has to somehow convince her mother to change everything all around. Then he stupidly tells everyone else that Debra knows about the party and, furthermore, ends up trying to take all the credit, even though her mother did all of the work. See, men are stupid.

On [King of Queens](#), Doug and Carrie are out in the woods and they get lost. Instead of trying to find some way to get back, Doug thinks it will be easier to just stay there and start their own society. Then, because he won't consider that he's wrong and his wife might be right, he refuses to go in the direction she indicates as back to the highway, but he goes off the other way and leaves her to fend for herself. As it turns out, she is right, and does find her way back, at which point, she cleans up and stops in a diner for breakfast before getting a map and going back to find her husband. Meanwhile, he has been wandering aimlessly around in the circles, pretending to be King of the Mountain, splashing around in a little stream, and sitting to cry cause he's lost. When she does find him, he whines about having to cross a rope bridge over a ravine cause he thinks it won't hold him. This tell us that men are idiots.

So, when did this happen? Not for anything, but I'm pretty sure if we were lost in the woods (which would never happen, cause my idea of the great outdoors involves leaving the windows open at the Waldorf), I'd be much more likely to sit around crying and having to be coaxed across a rope bridge. Not that my hubby is a nature man or anything, but he's not a whiny simpleton either. OK, maybe he does sometimes lack commonsense, but he will definitely pull over and ask a stranger for directions way before I will.

## Calling All Men, part 2

*November 3rd, 2007*

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To carry on with this [Men are Dolts](#) theory, I was thinking about other sitcom men. Someone has already commented about the men in [Seinfeld](#), which probably requires a completely separate blog, cause don't even get me started about [George](#). I was never really a big Seinfeld fan (even though I find [Jerry Seinfeld's](#) stand up comedy very funny), just because I can't take George. I'm very easily embarrassed, even for and by other people, and George is all about embarrassment. Plus, I hate whiny men.

But, in any case, I was thinking about something more modern, like the men of [The Big Bang Theory](#). Obviously, these men are not stupid. But do they lack commonsense? Will they ask for directions?

What have we seen so far? Well, I've [already made mention of Sheldon asking Penny for advice](#) about the tie on the doorknob, so clearly, they ask for information they don't already have. However, when it comes to matters that they believe they know about, they do come across as pretty smug.

As far as commonsense goes, I'd have to say they probably don't have any more than any other sitcom man. Maybe even less, because (and this is borne out in real life, as well) ultra smart people tend to be generally unconcerned about practical matters. Probably, they over think things, which doesn't allow them to see that some situations could be more quickly and efficiently resolved than that realize.

Not that Penny comes across as being all that sensible. But neither is she the wise-mouthed, bossy, strong woman persona that many other leading sitcom women seem to portray. So I guess that's another blog entirely as well. If the men generally aren't too smart, are the women then too bossy? On [Raymond](#), Debra was pretty bossy, and always considered herself much smarter than Ray. But not Penny, she comes across as sweet and friendly, but not too bright. Which I guess is the point of the show. So it doesn't fit with the theory entirely. Any ideas out there? What shows fit and which don't?

### Sitcom Stereotypes, Part 3 of Calling All Men

November 20th, 2007

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To [keep going with the sitcom stereotyping](#), if you go back a few years, women were actually portrayed as the weaker sex, and as needing the strong male role model. Look at [I Love Lucy](#). She was always getting into scrapes and needing to be saved by Ricky. ("Lucy, you got some "splaining to do." Insert your own fake Cuban accent.) Now, compare Lucy to [Raymond](#) (this has apparently become our standard sitcom, against which all others are judged), who plays the buffoon to his strong wife, Debra. Although, that might just be [Patricia Heaton](#), cause she pretty much emasculates [Kelsey Grammer](#) in [Back To You](#), as well.

How about looking at parents and children. There used to be shows like [Father Knows Best](#), [Leave It To Beaver](#) and [Happy Days](#) where the parents were shown as actually being a little smarter than their children. As actual authoritative figures. Compare those shows to something like [Married With Children](#) or [Aliens in America](#). I've already commented on how obnoxious and annoying the parents came across on that show. I suppose you could argue that the parents of today's shows are part of the Me Generation (which as far as I'm concerned is a label for the [Baby Boomers](#), and which should not be confused with Generation Me, a label now applied to people born in the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's, but only cause they are even more selfish than we Boomers and want the title for themselves) and as a result, they are more self-involved than the parents of the 50s. That probably started with Michael and Elise Keaton. Clearly, [Alex P.](#) was much more evolved than his parents. (But then they were all Boomers, right?)

Obviously, it's a new world and maybe kids are smarter than they used to be. So what examples can you think of that prove or disprove my point?