

MARRY NOT AN ENGINEER¹

Verily I say unto you, marry not an engineer, for the engineer is a strange being by many devices. Yea, he speaketh in parables which he calls formulae, he wieldeth a big stick which he calleth a slide rule (calculator), and he hath but one Bible — a handbook.

He talketh away of stresses and strains and of no end of Thermodynamics. He sheweth always a serious aspect and seemeth not to know how to smile, and he picketh his seat on the car by the number of springs therein and not by the damsel thereon. Neither does he know a waterfall except for its power, nor a sunset but for its specific heat.

Always he carrieth books with him, and he entertaineth his maiden with steam tables. Verily, though the damsel expecteth chocolates, when he calleth, he opens the package to reveal samples of a new alloy.

Yea, he holdeth a damsel's hand, but only to measure the friction, and he kisseth only to test viscosity. For in his eye shineth a faraway look which is neither love or longing, but a vain attempt to remember an equation.

Even as a little boy, he pulleth a girl's hair, but to test its elasticity, and as a man he discovereth different devices, for he would hold a maiden to his bosom only to count the palpitations of her heart, and to reckon the strength of her materials.

Alas, his marriage is a simultaneous equation, involving two unknowns and yielding a periodic function.

—Anonymous

¹ This document predates political correctness and was written from the male point of view. Please forgive it's sexist nature. Yes, women have just as much potential to be good engineers as men do and they can be just as quirky as male engineers as well!