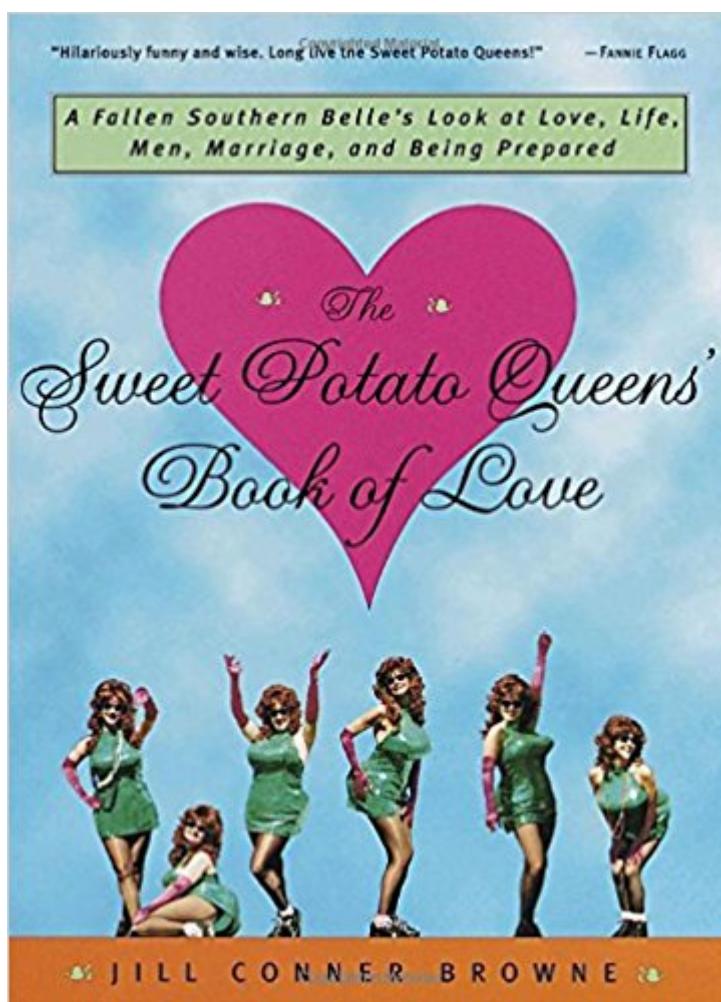


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# The Sweet Potato Queens' Book Of Love: A Fallen Southern Belle's Look At Love, Life, Men, Marriage, And Being Prepared



## **Synopsis**

To know the Sweet Potato Queens is to love them, and if you haven't heard about them yet, you will. Since the early 1980s, this group of belles gone bad has been the toast of Jackson, Mississippi, with their glorious annual appearance in the St. Patrick's Day parade. In The Sweet Potato Queens' Book of Love, their royal ringleader, Jill Conner Browne, introduces the Queens to the world with this sly, hilarious manifesto about love, life, men, and the importance of being prepared. Chapters include: The True Magic Words Guaranteed to Get Any Man to Do Your Bidding; The Five Men You Must Have in Your Life at All Times; Men Who May Need Killing, Quite Frankly; What to Eat When Tragedy Strikes, or Just for Entertainment; And, of course: The Best Advice Ever Given in the Entire History of the World. From tales of the infamous Sweet Potato Queens' Promise to the joys of Chocolate Stuff and Fat Mama's Knock You Naked Margaritas, this irreverent, shamelessly funny book is the gen-u-wine article. Visit the Sweet potato Queens Web site at [www.sweetpotatoqueens.com](http://www.sweetpotatoqueens.com)

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 213 pages

Publisher: Three Rivers Press; 1 edition (January 19, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0609804138

ISBN-13: 978-0609804131

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 479 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #140,223 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Computers & Internet #198 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Parodies #294 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Love, Sex & Marriage

## **Customer Reviews**

Unlike other beauty queens, the Jackson, Miss., Sweet Potato Queens are self-crowned, rule for life (there's no "former" tag for these gals) and are real women?figure flaws and all. Originally organized in 1982, the Queens are, by their own account, "fallen Southern belles" and "female drag queens"?and as such, they are all about attitude and humor. This buoyantly funny guide to life and love is a hoot from the get-go as ringleader Browne offers queenly observations on life's most pressing issues. Some topics may seem trivial, such as tanning, making the most of big hair and

delighting in "big, sturdy, serviceable, substantial Russian immigrant underwear" for pregnant women (it's so "indescribably comfy" that "you may never go back"), but they are expertly mined for laughs. Non-cooks may reconsider when reading the hilariously artery-clogging recipes in the chapter "What to Eat When Tragedy Strikes," highlighting the four main food groups (sweet, salty, fried and au gratin) and suitable for both therapeutic and recreational eating. The life-affirming final chapter reminds readers of life's many options: "Life may indeed be short, but it is, for a fact, wide." If you can't get enough of the Queens, you can visit their Web site (coming in January): [www.sweetpotatoqueens.com](http://www.sweetpotatoqueens.com). Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Let me say right up front that I had never heard of the Sweet Potato Queens until their book landed on my front porch. If you too are unenlightened, let me inform you that they are a group of women in green sequined dresses, red wigs, and "enhanced" figures that participate in parades and other events in the South, led by founding Queen (and humor writer) Browne. Their tongue-in-cheek advice includes chapters on maintaining the queenly look, magic words to get any man to do your bidding, and what to eat when tragedy strikes. The book includes recipes ("chocolate stuff" for when you're feeling down) and addresses (where to order fake teeth). But chapters like "The Five Men You Must Have in Your Life at All Times" and "Men Who May Need Killing, Quite Frankly" just weren't all that funny. Some of the stories were touching, and there's more than a little truth to all of them, but most of this book is a bit heavy-handed. Strictly a regional title; not recommended for most libraries. ?Kathy Ingels Helmond, Indianapolis-Marion Cty. P.L. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

In search of something light and funny, my book group read this book. Some tossed it after only a few chapters. I read all the way through. Younger women will find it horribly dated. And yet, I found this book an interesting read just to try to understand these gals. The writer is a funny lady. Some great lines. Psychologically, she's kind of a mess, though. She physically parodies women who overly sexualize themselves, yet she and the other queens spend endless time and effort in trying to find the secrets to pleasing men. And yet, the queens seem to want to know this secret info to better use it to manipulate men into essentially worshiping them. We had a lively and very fun discussion on this book.

Not a new book...but if you missed it, buy it! Now... I am Southern, female, and can identify with these crazy, fun-loving women. My age may be up there now, but the heart doesn't grow old. This book

was given to me to make me laugh while recovering from a serious illness. It did its job well! I even ended up using part of it in my daughter's toast at her wedding reception. So, only if you love to laugh and do not take life too seriously, go out and read this book! There are the real deal...Southern Belles who know how to live life large while laughing at themselves.

This book made me laugh out loud so often it was hard to read in public because I was afraid I would disturb others in the area. Lots of fun, once I finished it, I went out and bought copies to send to out of town girlfriends. Jill's recipe for Pineapple Casserole has been a big hit at many a pot luck meal since I read this book. There are several other great recipes peppered throughout - it's like sitting down and chatting with one of your crazy fun girlfriends.

The book is dated and lacks a plot. The basis of the Potato Queens seems to be winning admiration. There are no real characters and no story. I read it for book club and no one liked it. One woman was even insulted by it. Not a book for feminists.

This book reminds me of my own value. I am a Queen.

So sorry to have to say so, but this was not at all what I expected.. I thought it would be full of funny Southernese, sort of like Fanny Flagg or Lewis Grizzard. Nope. It is about sex, sex, and more sex. Some chapters are just downright crude. It held a lot of promise, and could have been hilarious, but the Queen chose to take the low road too often. Too bad.

This was selected as a book for my Senior Book Club. I am very far from being a prude, but I just thought that this book read more like a sexy joke book instead of a novel. I actually stopped reading it right before the halfway point and I NEVER give up on a book. I am anxious to see what the other book club members say when we meet in a few weeks. They are all older than I am, so this should be a very interesting meeting...

For me this is too much of the brash southern white woman creating her own style of "Look at me! See what I can do whether you like it or not! Like it or lump it!" It's harmless, I think, just not to my taste." I'm pretty much a southern male (I still like raw sweet potato, which was a plentiful treat for my dog and me) and an academic historian of the American South. I recognize the book as part of a legitimate genre and how it can appeal to many, maybe most readers. I only got through 40%;

maybe the last 60% would have been worth my while.

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