



THE
Decadent
HOUSEWIFE



ROSEMARY
COUNTER

HOW TO LIVE *lavishly* ON HIS BUDGET

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ROSEMARY COUNTER



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truly decadent.*

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Introduction



Sure you're a housewife, but are you a Decadent Housewife?

Every woman, whether she's a corporate lawyer or cocktail waitress, has a moment of awakening. Tired and ungroomed, she finally realises: what's much more fun than going to work? *Not* going to work. But what would she do all day? Whatever she feels like doing. But what about the Women's Movement? She now has plenty of time to read *The Second Shift* in the bath. And what's more girl power than sending a man out to do it for you? Nothing.

This is not to say you don't contribute. In fact, your mere presence is your contribution. You can't cook, of course, but you sure look cute in an apron. House cleaning disgusts you, obviously, but you know the number of a nice old woman from El Salvador who thrives on it. You can't always hold your dirty martinis (they usually get a good hold on you), but you throw an awesome cocktail party.

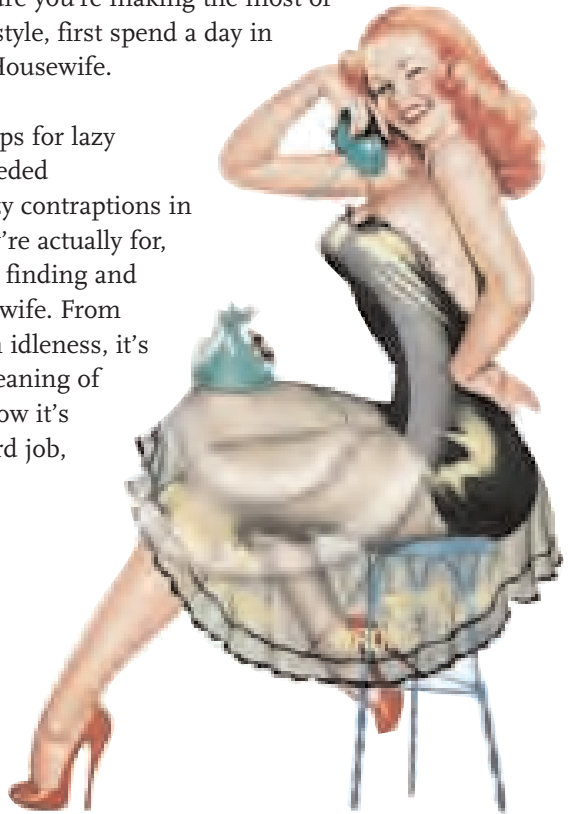
It therefore goes without saying that *The Decadent Housewife* is not your mother's housekeeping book. (In fact, you should probably never show your mother this book.) Though Mum might know how to cook without activating the smoke alarm or clean without

deliberately getting high on fumes, a Decadent Housewife is a true housekeeper. That's right, it's yours. The house and everything in it – your man, your time, your actual housekeeper – is yours to enjoy.

So start enjoying what's yours today. Whether it's a morning martini or an afternoon art class, *The Decadent Housewife* is your guide to filling your days with fabulousness, feigning the skills as necessary, dressing the part and micromanaging your man.

But it can be a struggle to fit everything in to one day – you are just one woman (albeit a fabulous woman) after all. And, like getting the hang of idleness or the business of party-hopping, cultivating the art of Decadent Housewifery is not for the faint of heart (though fainting, you'll learn, is an excellent tactic in your line of work). So to make sure you're making the most of your high-maintenance lifestyle, first spend a day in the life of a real Decadent Housewife.

Whether you need fitness tips for lazy cardiophobes or a much-needed explanation of all those crazy contraptions in your kitchen, and what they're actually for, this is the ultimate guide to finding and nurturing your inner housewife. From leisurely lie-ins to afternoon idleness, it's time to discover the true meaning of decadence. Because you know it's true what they say: it's a hard job, but somebody's got to do it.





CHAPTER 1

Rise and Shine

7:30–11:30 AM



Rise and Shine

ALTHOUGH all Decadent Housewives obviously hate mornings, we know they are crucial to the development and maintenance of the Decadent Housewife lifestyle. Though there is truly nothing worse than being woken by the brazen ring of an alarm, and you are no doubt irritated by your mate's cruel indifference to your sleep preferences, take comfort in the fact that at least you don't have to go to work.

Your man will no doubt be grumpy and somewhat resentful. He is likely exhausted from years of hard work and sleep deprivation. Luckily for you, this has left him in a prime state for your first move of the day.

A Decadent Bonus Tip!

Wear lingerie. It will be far more difficult for him to stay mad.

DECADENT HOUSEWIFE MASTERED MANOEUVRE #1

The Condition Position

Turn off the alarm and feign a smile. Purr, 'Good morning' into his ear, followed with a chosen pet name. 'Darling' or 'sweetheart' works well for most housewives, but a Decadent Housewife knows to use 'stud' or 'big man' or anything else that reinforces masculinity.

As you gently stroke his ego, whisper, 'It's time to go to work,' in his ear. This type of stimuli-response training works well on lab rats and your man alike. He will soon learn fond associations and eagerly rise to every occasion. This is also an excellent time for positive reinforcement should you encounter resistance. Emphasise how he is the strongest/smartest/fastest police officer/businessman/professional cricket player on the force/board/field. If unsure of occupation, use 'best man on the team'.

Breakfast

SOME might say that a housewife should always make her man breakfast, but these housewives are simply not decadent. Their efforts grow unappreciated, their toast becomes burnt, their men complain that today's breakfast wasn't as good as yesterday's. A scrumptious and nutritious breakfast delivered daily is at worst impossible and at best irritating, so it's best you save your breakfasts for truly special occasions like birthdays, or apologies for crashing his car.



This is not to say a Decadent Housewife won't benefit from the ghosts of breakfasts past. You can easily tap into fond recollections of that same feeling with the modern breakfast equivalent: coffee. When he is in the shower, turn on the coffee pot. Better yet, invest in a high-tech coffeemaker that will turn itself on so you needn't get up. Charge this to his Visa card and call it an anniversary present.



Note:

*Your coffee will definitely not look like this.
That would be ridiculous.*

Time it for his morning shower or, if this proves unnecessarily stressful, use this time-out as an excuse to talk to your hot neighbour. He'll likely be thrilled to stop landscaping and give his sweaty bod a break while showcasing his technological skills. Try not to engage in love of the kitchen variety. If this accidentally occurs, make breakfast.

'BABY, I'M SORRY' PANCAKES

You will need:

1 pile flour

1 egg, de-shelled

1 scoop milk, preferably fresh

(If unavailable, consider knocking suggestively
at your hot neighbour's door)



DIRECTIONS:

Mix all in mixing bowl. Pour batter on hot buttery pan. When you smell burning, flip pancake. When you smell it again, you're done.

PRESENTATION:

Cover pancake with syrup and/or butter and/or whip cream (all available in instant form and with unimportant expiry date). Add sliced freshish fruit.

'What's a Pancake?'

If this is too hard, consider waffles. They just slide into your new high-tech toaster investment.

A Decadent Bonus Tip!

A dash of baking powder will make your batter keep overnight in the fridge.

Consider tricking a more domestically-inclined friend into making it for you. Thank her via martini.

The Lazy Lie-In Commandments

MORNING lie-ins are a cornerstone of a Decadent Housewife's lifestyle. As soon as you hear the door click shut and his car peel away from the driveway, know you've successfully scored another day of luxury. If you had to get up to make breakfast/coffee/kiss him goodbye, your next step should be to return to bed, on whichever side you like. Here's how the gods do it.

1. THOU SHALL NOT AWAKEN EARLY...

Getting up before your husband or the sun is both completely unacceptable and contrary to the natural way of the world. It also sets a bad precedent, so don't ruin it for the rest of us.

2. ...NOR TOO LATE

Yes, there is such a thing (just about). An entire day spent in bed might be thought to fall on the side of overly excessive idleness.

3. THOU SHALL LET THY MIND WANDER

This is your chance to ponder life's important questions, like, 'What should you wear today?' Envision your closet from top to bottom packed with all your favourite outfits – and some imaginary additions off the fashion week runway.

Imagine yourself – a little taller and thinner perhaps – rotating in said ensembles like a mannequin.

4. HAVE SWEET DREAMS!

If your brain wanders to your hunky neighbour, so be it. Now's no time for restraint, fantasies are all fair play.

5. LOUNGE IN STYLE

If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right. And in style. Silky luxury night wear? Check. Floaty diaphanous dressing gown? Check. Cooling gel eye pack? Check.





6. THE GUILTY SHALL SUFFER FOR ETERNITY...

No one – not your invasive mother, your jealous workhusband, the employed – should make you feel bad during your 14-hour sleep therapy (if you call it therapy maybe they'll leave you alone). It feels good, is good for you, costs nothing and contains no calories.

7. ...WITH THE FRUSTRATED AND RESTLESS

If you're one of those grumpy insomniacs who tortures themselves and others with gripes and groans, you don't deserve this lazy lie-in. Go clean the house, for all I care.

8. TAKE THY SLEEP IN VANITY

Need more convincing? Beauty sleep is not just a myth – sleep also makes you foxy, refreshes your skin and keeps those unsightly dark circles under control. So don't consider it just sleeping; you're practically working out here.

9. THOU SHALL NOT LOOK AT THE CLOCK

This stressful, possibly evil apparatus can quickly have you counting down the minutes to Oprah or worrying how long until lunch. Don't let the ticking second hand score your descent into madness. Remove batteries or banish to a bedside drawer as necessary.

10. KEEP THE SABBATH SLEEPY

Can you even believe there's an official day for sleeping, and it happens every week? Now there's something to believe in. And with the added benefit of the workhusband, there to provide you with all the lie-in luxuries you can't be bothered to get up for yourself.



A DECADENT HOUSEWIFE ACTIVITY CHALLENGE!

What Does Your Man Do?

Are you ever mildly curious about what it is your man actually gets up to once he's left the house, but invariably black out in boredom when he embarks on an explanation? (Something about *buying* and then *selling*.) It's the ultimate unsolved mystery, but the below should give you your first clue.

When he leaves the house, your man wears:



a Suit

He often complains of a hard day at the _____.

- **FIRM:** Good Stuff! You've likely landed a lawyer. Watch *The Firm*.
- **BANK:** Congrats! You may be snuggling an investment banker. Go shopping.
- **OFFICE:** Sweet deal! Your man is a non-specified businessman.

a Uniform

What colour is his uniform?

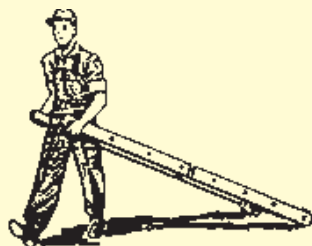
- **BLUE:** Your guy is likely a police officer. Proceed accordingly, minding drug use.
- **YELLOW:** Lucky! Your man is a firefighter. Get drunk and rent *Backdraft*.
- **CAMOUFLAGE:** Perhaps your man is in the army. Ensure he fights for whatever side Hollywood's on.
- **OTHER:** Profession unknown. Uniform likely of the stripper novelty variety.



Overalls

When returning from work, your man smells like:

- **PAINT:** Your man may be an artist. Inquire vaguely about 'the piece'.
- **GAS/OIL:** Your workhusband may be a mechanic. Dance around to *Flashdance*.
- **SWEAT:** Likely construction worker. Enjoy his physique.



Other

When his work friends visit, what do they do?

- **'PRACTICE':** Your man may play sports on some kind of team. Note size/shape of ball.
- **'PREPARE':** Likely refers to some kind of meeting. You likely have a non-specified businessman of the self-employed form.
- **'JAM':** You might be married to a rock star. Prepare for divorce.
- **'TALK':** You're likely a mob wife. Score!

