
Something is Missing

Woody: What do you mean, missing? Something is missing *from me*?

Louise: Yes.

Woody: Like what? Can you say what's missing from me?

Louise: Well, no, but maybe if you could guess a few things, I could try.

— Woody Allen and Louise Lasser
from the movie, *Bananas*

How vital is the male foreskin to the sexuality of a man and his female partner? When the foreskin is missing, is the intercourse experience incomplete and unfulfilling, haunting the subconscious mind of both partners? Could the foreskin really make that much of a difference during intercourse? Yes, yes, oohhh yes, the natural penis makes a superlative difference in the lovemaking experience. Sex with a circumcised penis and sex with a natural penis are as different as night and day. They are as different as viewing the harsh, blinding light of the sun at noon vs. the softer, reflected light of the romantic midnight moon.

You may be thinking, "It can't really be *that* different. How could a 'little' extra skin make that much of a difference?" Later in this chapter, one of the foreskin's most evidential functions during intercourse will be overviewed. And, as you will later see

in the survey chapter, the vast majority of surveyed women overwhelmingly preferred intercourse with a man with a natural penis. As one survey respondent commented:

I experienced a huge difference between circumcised and uncircumcised men. Until I met my natural* husband, I thought that the rough, dry circumcised penis was the way it was supposed to be. WOW! I had been missing genuine, naturally satisfying sex and now have the utmost appreciation for the ‘real thing.’ There is such a remarkable difference, in all aspects of sex—from foreplay and fellatio to intercourse. In retrospect, I now consider the circumcised penis as a sort of unreal ‘device’ that made intercourse a not very pleasing experience that often left me sore. I now have orgasms that were very rare with circumcised men.

Once your man restores his foreskin and the two of you experience the ecstatic joy and thrill of a more fully functioning penis, I am confident that you will both agree that there is no comparison. Until you’ve had sex with a penis with a foreskin—ultra-erogenous tissue and the penis’s only moving part—you haven’t really had sex. You only think you have. In actuality, you’ve only had *circumcised* sex. Whatever pleasure you may or may not be experiencing from intercourse, only one thing is certain: When the foreskin is added, things will only get better—unbelievably better, exquisitely better. Sex without a foreskin is merely a three-letter word—sex. But when you add the foreskin, it becomes a four-letter word—sexy.

Perhaps the following “joke” will help to bring the point home more clearly: What does the French woman say after making love? “Oo La La!” What does the Italian woman say? “Mama

* The survey introduced women to the term “natural.” Most respondents picked up on it and used it instead of the cumbersome term “uncircumcised.”

Mia!” What does the American woman say? “Jim, the ceiling needs painting.”

An article in *Cosmopolitan* that talked about couples who sought therapy for their relationship problems quoted Shirley Zussman, a marital counselor and sex therapist in New York City: “Sad to say, a lot of spouses have come to regard sex as just another chore. One statement I hear all the time is ‘It’s a hassle.’ I don’t often hear someone declare that sex is fun” (1).

Another article in *Cosmopolitan* opened with a depiction of a troubled relationship: “Three years into their marriage, Penny and Jason began bickering over such minor matters as who would take out the garbage, wash the dishes, walk the dog. ‘Nothing my husband did made me happy,’ says Penny, ‘...our relationship just didn’t feel good anymore.’ Jason agreed, ‘We weren’t considering divorce, but we did think *something fundamental was missing from our marriage*’ ” (2). (Emphasis added)

Could unsatisfactory sex have something to do with a couple’s general dissatisfaction with one another, causing various degrees of nagging, whining, and bickering? Many people will see that this could be possible. But how many would suspect that circumcision could have something to do with it?

The information detailed in this book will show that circumcised sex doesn’t measure up to natural sex. And it isn’t simply a matter of one being good and the other being better. Circumcision cuts deeper; it is actually detrimental to the sex act. And its negative effects don’t necessarily end at the sex organs.

I propose (and the survey results infer) that the incompleteness and dissatisfaction of circumcised intercourse can negatively impact the psychological attitude of one or both partners, which may lead to various levels of relationship unhappiness, and marital bickering and discord. This can gradually erode the relationship and may eventually set the stage for divorce.

The above may seem to be a drastic jump—from circumcision, to dissatisfaction in the bedroom, to non-sexually related quarreling in the living room, to divorce court—but as you read the remainder of this chapter, and chapters that follow, I think you will begin to see how circumcision could conceivably result in such a tragic progression of events. As this issue gains prominence, and is discussed and examined more closely, we will undoubtedly come to find that circumcision is a multifaceted problem with sexual, psychological, and sociological repercussions. The following comments from the survey give us a glimpse at the tip of the iceberg that lies hidden beneath the sheets of America's bedrooms.

“During my circumcised intercourses, I felt violated or used—like I was just a piece of meat—even with my husband.

With my current natural partner, I feel warm, tender, soft, and beautiful. But during circumcised intercourse, I would often get aggravated emotionally. I have cried after many of my circumcised sexual experiences—feeling so empty and not knowing why. I have never cried or felt this way with a natural partner. I even once hit a circumcised man, and I couldn't help to ask if they 'got what they wanted' (to some of them) because I certainly didn't. I never made the connection between this feeling of hostility and circumcised sex until now [completing the survey].”

“I felt hostile toward my circumcised partners because most of the time it felt like a selfish one-way experience with him not caring about me. I have never dug them with my fingernails during intercourse, but there are other things I thought of doing to 'unfeeling' circumcised men.”

Although various non-surgical methods of restoration are available, my husband had his foreskin reconstructed surgically, about 14 years ago. (His before and after story appears in Chapter 12.) Many a morning, while dressing, he says, “You know, getting a foreskin is the best thing that ever happened to me.” And I agree. Getting his foreskin is the best thing that’s ever happened to *me*. *And to our relationship*. But the thesis of this book is not based solely on our subjective experiences. There are many sound physiological reasons why circumcision disrupts the intercourse experience, which will be explained in detail in upcoming chapters. But for now, please let the following serve as an introduction.

HOW THE FORESKIN’S PRESENCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO A WOMAN DURING INTERCOURSE—A BRIEF

The glans (head) of the penis is designed by nature to be an *internal* organ, nestled inside the *moist*, protective covering of the foreskin. (Upon erection, however, the penis head emerges from the foreskin—like a turtle’s head—and the foreskin is transferred to the shaft, allowing the glans to make contact with the vaginal walls.) As a result of the constant moisturizing afforded by the foreskin, the natural glans is pleasantly softened, and somewhat spongy to the touch, even when erect. Consequently, *the head of the natural penis feels softly-stiff to a woman during intercourse*. Nature herself designed it that way. This is the kind of penis head the vagina loves to have stroking its vaginal walls. Everything changes, however, when the penis is circumcised.

When circumcision removes the foreskin, the penis head is exposed to the open air and becomes a dried-out, *external* organ. Because of its dried-out condition and its constant exposure to the friction action of clothing, *the circumcised penis head becomes toughened, abnormally hardened, and “callused.”*

During coital thrusting, the toughened, abnormally hardened glans creates a discomfoting experience for the delicate lining of the vaginal walls. As a result, the intercourse experience is abnormalized for the participating woman. She may notice that she feels various degrees of vaginal discomfort and displeasure, which usually become more apparent as intercourse progresses (or as an aftereffect of intercourse). These detractions are, however, intermixed with pleasurable sensations, so the woman may or may not be fully cognizant that she is experiencing displeasure, because pleasure can override displeasure.

Perhaps you can better appreciate the significance of the moisturized natural glans vs. the abnormally toughened circumcised glans, and the discomfort it creates for the woman, through the following analogy. Suppose one man has a job of applying and testing moisturizing lotions to his hands all day, while another works outside digging ditches, causing his hands to be dried out, rough, and callused. Suppose these two men were to rub the sensitive skin of a woman's face with their hands, for however long she usually experiences intercourse. Which man's hands would create a discomfoting and displeasurable experience for the woman's face? Which man's hands would provide a more sensual sensation?

Since most American women have known only the circumcised intercourse experience, they look upon various discomforts as just a normal part of having sex, since they occur virtually every time they have intercourse. They don't realize that these discomforts should not occur. Consequently, they try to ignore them and *concentrate* instead on the pleasurable sensations. A woman may think she is experiencing pleasure during circumcised sex, but her pleasure is actually a combination of pleasure and displeasure entwined. It is not an experience of *pure* pleasure.

This aspect of circumcised sex becomes more obvious when one has experienced natural sex as a comparison. But since most American women have never experienced natural intercourse, let me try to explain it this way. Circumcised intercourse is

something like having a mosquito bite. When you scratch a mosquito bite, it feels pleasurable, but at the same time, it's discomforting. While you're scratching it, it feels good—*or does it?*

The circumcised man also experiences “mosquito-bite sex,” for his pleasure, too, is intermixed with varying degrees of displeasure or discomfort (like a too-tight erection), even though he may not consciously realize it. Since he has never experienced anything but circumcised sex, he accepts mosquito-bite sex as normal. Like the woman, the man, too, tries to ignore any discomforting sensations and *concentrates* on the pleasurable feelings.

But sex, real sex, shouldn't be a frenzied lesson in concentration. Instead, it should be passionate (though relaxed) and dreamy. Floating. Nirvana. Out-of-this-world. This is the natural sex experience. Circumcised sex, however, is not this way. Instead, it is wide-awake, on-alert, muscles-tensed sex, with a narrowly focused concentration toward achieving orgasm.

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE TWO TYPES OF PENISES, AND HOW IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE TO A WOMAN DURING INTERCOURSE

In order to better understand the negative effects the abnormally hardened circumcised glans has on the vaginal walls, we must first observe the structure of the erect penis head in greater detail. (See Figure 2-1.) Notice that the penis head flares out from the shaft. I'll refer to this flared-out area as the *coronal ridge*. Notice that the coronal ridge causes the penis head to have a spear-like, hook-like shape to it.

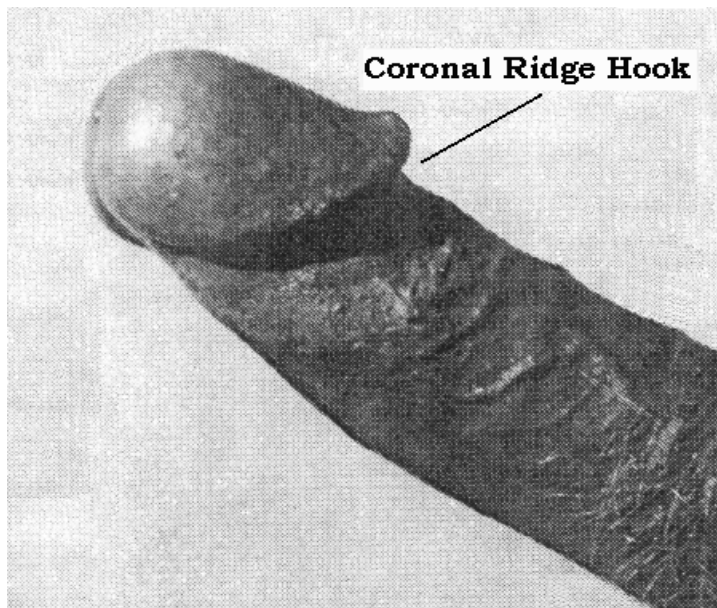


Figure 2-1. Erect penis showing the coronal ridge.

During coital thrusting, the tough, abnormally hardened coronal ridge of the circumcised penis acts as a hook-like scraper, which scrapes the vaginal walls with every outward stroke, whether the woman consciously realizes it or not.

This scraping action abnormalizes intercourse for the woman (we will discuss the male's side of this later), causing the vagina to fire off both pleasurable and displeasurable signals simultaneously—mosquito-bite sex—it feels good—or does it?

Some women, especially women in their 20s and early 30s who have not had as much exposure to circumcised intercourse and whose youthful hormones cause them to approach sex with frenzied excitement, may not consciously discern that they are experiencing discomfort. They simply accept the experience without dwelling on its qualities. *Yet, they may notice that there is something strangely bothersome or frustrating about the pleasure they're experiencing, even though they would categorize*

it, overall, as pleasure. For other women, it manifests as a vague discomfort, either during or after intercourse. Some, however, notice definitively that they experience considerable discomfort. Below are the comments of two women from the survey:

“I always experience vaginal discomfort with my circumcised partners—chafing—even enough to turn me off. I have also heard this from other women.”

“I feel very strongly that I experienced a lot of pain with my circumcised partner. The circumcised penis hurts. But with my natural partner, I have no pain, only pleasure.”

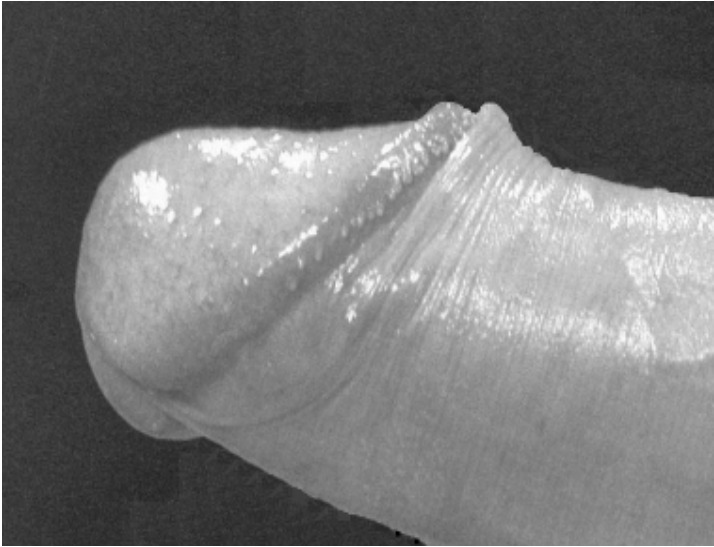
I contend that the abnormally hardened, hook-like circumcised penis head lessens a woman’s excitement capabilities and plays a prominent role in why so many women often cannot achieve orgasm from intercourse and, consequently, may resort to faking them.

But you might ask: “Doesn’t the natural penis head also have a hook-like projection to it? Why doesn’t it act as a scraper on the vaginal walls?”

That’s a good question. Yes, it does have a hook-like projection, but the natural penis head does not act as a scraper because of the foreskin’s various functions.

First, because of the foreskin’s lubricating functions, the natural penis head is spongier; it has a yielding quality to it, similar to the sponginess of the tongue. This softer, giveable glans is kind and gentle to a woman’s delicate vaginal walls during active coital thrusting.

Additionally, the foreskin plays another important role in the comfort of penile thrusting. The “extra” shaft skin it provides serves to cushion the effects of the coronal ridge hook. (See Figure 2-2.)



Figures 2-2: Foreskin cushions the coronal-ridge hook from scraping the vaginal walls.

During the outward stroke, this extra penile skin bunches up behind the coronal ridge, thereby providing a cushion of soft, pliable skin against the vaginal walls. (See Figure 2-3.)

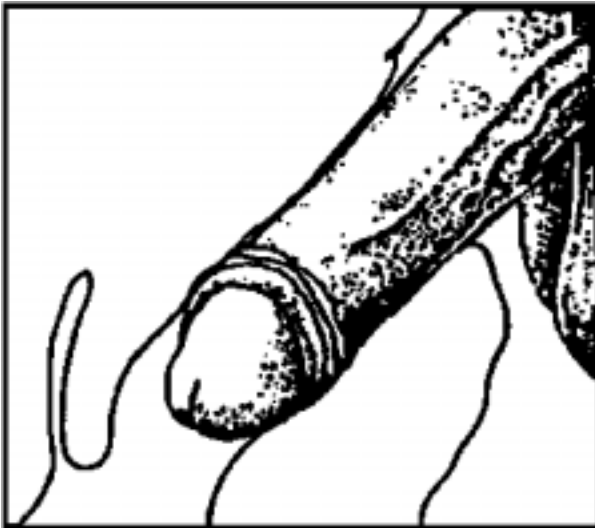


Figure 2-3: Foreskin bunches up behind the coronal ridge as the penis withdraws from vagina. (Adapted from Berkeley) (3).

(The preceding comparisons are only intended as a brief overview and are oversimplified. A more detailed analysis for both sexual partners, as well as several other differences between natural and circumcised sex, will follow in later chapters.)

Natural intercourse is an experience of sexual ecstasy and a relaxed surrendering to the simultaneous, mutual experience of sensually indescribable, blissful lust. The physical structure and thrusting motions of the natural penis give the vagina soft, smooth, sensuous pleasuring, and more often than not the woman experiences coital orgasm (according to the results of the survey).

Real sex, natural sex, is an incomparable joy ride without any lumps and bumps, like riding luxuriously in a Cadillac limousine with the man or woman of your dreams. In contrast, circumcised sex, especially for the woman, creates stress, discomfort, and frustration to the sex organs, and is, comparatively speaking, more like riding over a rough road in a Chevy Chevette.

During circumcised sex, the subconscious mind (and perhaps even the conscious mind) senses that something is wrong. Although each partner has his or her innate craving for sexual stimulation and its orgasmic release, which drives them to seek it out again and again, still, the body and brain seem to somehow know that “real sex ain’t this way.” Below is a comment from the survey.

My present husband is circumcised. He is very concerned about pleasing me, but during intercourse, the penis feels hard. I experience discomfort, and I often feel like I’m being pounded on.

With my natural partner, whom I went with before I was married, intercourse felt gentler and more sensuous. I could sense that he got much more pleasure during intercourse than did any of my circumcised partners. He was more passionate, and sex with him was very stimulating and fulfilling. With him, I always experienced much more pleasure,

and intercourse seemed more loving. I strongly feel that this is the way it was meant to be.

Perhaps you are beginning to feel angered, saddened, or dismayed that you were circumcised or that you are a woman married to a circumcised man. But relief from your distress or dismay is coming into view at the speed of insight.

The first part of any solution is to realize that there is a problem. This is not always easy to face. But remember, there is a solution for the millions of American men who are circumcised—foreskin restoration. Through the promise of restoration, every circumcised man—the guy next door, and men just like you—can now become “whole” again.

There is nothing we can do to change the past. But we can change the eyes with which we look at the future. The future—a foreskin for Everyman—is opening its door. And that door leads to greater happiness and satisfaction in the bedroom, which will in turn lead to greater overall relationship happiness.

You are standing at the very threshold of The Foreskin Restoration Revolution. It may now seem to be a strange place for you to be standing, but once you cross that threshold and join the millions of men who will be crossing over it with you, then—and only then—will you and your partner find the sexual “wholeness” that has been missing from your life. Then—and only then—will you be able to look deep within your wife’s or lover’s eyes and see “we.”

SEX IS A CEREBRAL EXPERIENCE TOO

On the surface, the partners of a circumcised relationship may not be consciously aware that they are experiencing sexual dissatisfaction and frustration. They may think their sex life is “OK,” or they may even think it’s great, depending on youthful naiveté and individual libidos.

Some, especially younger people, may think that if sex has a lot of wild thrusting—a lot of action to it—then that’s an indication their sex life is great. But I think that the frenzy of circumcised

wildly active thrusting and whamming is actually a symptom that the sex organs are frantically seeking the sensuality they cannot achieve. Like if the partners thrust harder and faster, they'll get somewhere. I must stress that natural sex is entirely different. It's a much gentler intermingling. It's more of a tender blending—an enrapturement oozing with sensuousness—with both partners swooning in ecstatic surrender to the passionate, graceful dance of the sex organs. Circumcised sex simply cannot bring these feelings.

Sometimes a person may think his or her sex life is okay, even though they have it infrequently. But infrequent sex in a normal, healthy adult is a sign that one's sex life is actually not okay. I remember a conversation with a friend whose wife was talking divorce. I asked him point blank, "How's your sex life?" He replied, "Our sex life is okay—I mean, sex is great when we have it, but we hardly ever have it." How, then, can you say your sex life is okay? Sure, you're going to get into it when you have it, if you're only having it once or twice a month—because you're starved for it. It's like going all day without eating, you eventually become frantic to eat.

When the facts of this issue come to light, we may find that the real reason one partner, or even both, puts sexual activity on the back burner, having time for everything else, is because they actually find sex displeasing on a conscious or subconscious level.

Still, many people probably have sex with some regularity. As stated, the couple is drawn back to it again and again—good, bad, or indifferent—because their innate need for sexual stimulation drives them to do so, and they mistake quantity for quality—equate orgasm with satisfaction.

Nevertheless, on a hidden subconscious level, the mind of both partners longs for the true sexual experience nature intended. This is essentially what the men of the *Psychology Today* survey (quoted in Chapter One) meant when they said, "Is it possible that there is some new position, partner, practice, or gimmick which would bring sex up to expectation?" If men are thinking these kinds of thoughts, are the innermost thoughts of women that much different?

Sexual intercourse, although experienced primarily in the sex organs, is as much a cerebral (brain-related) experience as it is a genital experience. And the foreskin is absolutely essential if the man and his partner are to enjoy the true genital *and cerebral* pleasure that nature intended as part of the total sexual/lovemaking experience. A woman who participated in the survey describes beautifully the cerebral experience of natural intercourse:

Intercourse with my natural partner is a totally wonderful, emotionally supporting/healing connection. I feel the natural penis sets up a whole current between us. We cross the threshold of being male/female opposites into experiencing the union, the similarities, and the complete dropping away of mind, of fears, and of thoughts that reinforce our separateness.

In contrast, we shall see that circumcision's modifications to the penis interfere with a man's and woman's ability to both give and receive pleasure during intercourse. And, as mentioned, I contend that the negative effects of circumcised sex don't end at the sex organs. There are psychological and sociological repercussions as well.

When the sex organs do not experience the true feelings they were designed by nature to experience but are instead subjected to intermixed feelings of discomfort, displeasement, and disappointment, either or both partners may become annoyed, frustrated, or angered—not necessarily during sex, but as an *aftereffect* of sex—not necessarily immediately after sex, but hours later, or the day after.

An example, though admittedly extreme, is the recent, highly publicized John and Lorena Bobbitt case, in which, you may recall, the couple had sex over 900 times within a three-year period. Shouldn't this much sex—*lovemaking*—draw a couple closer and closer together? Yet, what did the Bobbitts experience? John (whose circumcised penis was shown in a subsequent adult video) increasingly mistreated his wife as the relationship progressed, and Lorena became so angered she cut off his penis. Why did she focus her anger on his penis?

Of course, Lorena's act was outrageous and bizarre. I mention the case primarily because it is familiar to so many people. I'm not saying that the Bobbitts are typical of what is going on in circumcised relationships around America. But the case does clearly indicate that sex for the Bobbitts was not creating the kind of "emotionally supporting/healing connection" that the survey respondent above was experiencing with her natural lover.

Scientists are beginning to find evidence that romantic love has a biochemical basis, and that sex creates biochemical changes that not only bring on feelings of physical pleasure and orgasmic satisfaction, but also emotions—feelings of peace, love, closeness, contentment, and emotional security (4).

From this, I theorize that during natural intercourse the pleasure centers of the brain receive positive biochemical messages, which bring about these feelings of love and closeness. But during circumcised intercourse, the pleasure centers of the brain receive a deficiency of these biochemical messages, or an aberration.

How could this be so? First, biologically, the foreskin is profusely endowed with erogenous nerve endings (5). The circumcised male is missing these pleasure sensors; he has no foreskin, so he has no foreskin pleasure sensors. This causes him to miss out on much of the pleasure he should be getting both during foreplay and during intercourse. Second, as will be later discussed, the pleasure sensors of the penis head itself become atrophied and desensitized due to its exposure as an external organ (6). ***In effect, the circumcised penis cannot send the "right" messages to the brain because many of its sexual nerves are either missing entirely or have become deadened or dulled.***

As a result, during intercourse, the man's brain receives an incomplete message from the penis, a message of partial frustration. It's as if the brain were saying, "Where are all the pleasure sensations from my missing foreskin and desensitized penis head? I'm not receiving the right biochemical messages. Something is missing."

Yet, you might say, "But the circumcised man does orgasm, and certainly, his orgasms are pleasurable." But this experience,

too, may not be everything it could be, for men circumcised in adulthood often report that their circumcised orgasms are not as intense, nor nearly as satisfying, as the ones they experienced when their penis was whole (7).

I submit that circumcision's alterations to the penis cause the pleasure centers of the brain to "miss out" on the "right" biochemical messages throughout all phases of the sex act. Consequently, the mind becomes discontented and frustrated by the incompleteness of the experience, whether the man consciously realizes it or not.

I further theorize that this frustration has a negative psychological impact that can manifest itself in aftereffects of discontentment, irritability, or anger, which are carried far beyond the bedroom door.

The above may seem farfetched at this point in your reading, so, for the moment, let me simply say that the positive biochemical messages that the brain *should* receive during intercourse are very important to the brain's mental "attitude." And when these biochemical messages are denied to the brain, it may develop an "attitude problem." Perhaps the following will help to explain what I mean.

A few years ago, comical "word-saying" T-shirts were all the rage—humorous reflections of our "philosophies" on life. Perhaps you remember sayings like "I can't be overdrawn, I still have checks," "Visualize Whirled Peas," "Born to Shop," "I owe, I owe, it's off to work I go." Among the more popular sayings was the T-shirt that exemplifies the point I'm trying to make: "Sex is a misdemeanor. The more I miss, de meaner I get." There just might be some truth in these twisted lines. But it could just as easily say, "Circumcised sex is a misdemeanor. The more real sex it causes me to miss, de meaner I get."

Though the above discussion focused on the male side of this issue, there is also the female side. The abnormalities of circumcised sex also result in an incomplete and frustrating experience for the woman, especially when she doesn't achieve orgasm.

As will be elaborated upon in later chapters, circumcised sex causes discomforts and detractions to a woman's pleasure. This

negatively impacts the pleasure centers of her brain, whether she consciously realizes it or not (but I think many women realize that something isn't right). Even if a woman does achieve orgasm, her copulatory pleasure (the "middle time" of intercourse—from insertion to orgasm) is adversely affected throughout the experience by the negativities of the thrusting circumcised penis.

If she repeatedly has sexual sessions with her partner where her pleasure is compromised or she does not achieve orgasm, she may begin taking out her dissatisfaction and frustration by belittling him, or nagging him about his faults, or by being argumentative and bitchy toward him—"Dammit, Joe! You left the cap off the toothpaste again. How many times do I have to tell you"! Another of those popular T-shirt sayings comes to mind: "Life's a bitch, and then you marry one."

(Of course, not all circumcised marriages are outwardly antagonistic. Many couples may learn to control their tempers. Still, the partners may lack a genuine affection for one another and may work at staying out of each other's way to avoid confrontations and intermingling. Though they have sex from time to time, one would hardly call it a love-filled marriage.)

The influence of the penis on the relationship can be so subtle it can often go unrecognized. Drs. Phyllis & Eberhard Kronhausen addressed this *transference effect* in their book, *The Sexually Responsive Woman*:

We can well understand why women who do not experience orgasm gradually lose interest in sexual relations and come to find intercourse unpleasant.... One should not therefore be surprised to hear that failure to achieve sexual happiness is likely to have an adverse effect on the woman's total relationship with her partner and may lead to the breakdown of their relationship.

This does not mean that such a couple would themselves be aware of the sexual roots of their problem.... In many cases, the couple do not quarrel at all about their sex life, but may violently disagree on a variety of irrelevant matters (2). (Emphasis added)

In America, about half of all marriages end in divorce. We can safely assume that in many cases, a great deal of discord and disharmony takes place before the couple finally decide to leave one another.

Could the sexual dissatisfactions associated with circumcised intercourse be an unrecognized contributing factor in relationship discordance? I propose that it is, even though sex itself may never be mentioned in these domestic spats.

This idea should not seem implausible. After all, the desire for sexual satisfaction is a primal drive, and sexual relations are an important part of an intimate relationship. When sex is consistently disappointing or unsatisfactory (including infrequent sex and sex that's over too quickly), it's going to wear on the relationship. At some point, one or both partners begins to associate their partner with the lack of fulfillment and negative feelings that accompany circumcised sex. Once this association is made, the person (subconsciously or otherwise) may develop a certain kind of resentment toward their mate, including a disrespect for their partner's sexuality, and may begin to take on a general negative attitude toward the partner overall. This is reflected in the couple's everyday interrelationship beyond the bedroom door, manifesting itself in various degrees of nagging, needling, bickering, and discord. I propose that the physiological and biochemical effects of circumcised sex, and the negative emotions it generates, engenders discontentment and disharmony, which serve to drive a wedge through the heart of a relationship.

I formulated this hypothesis when I realized the positive effect the foreskin and natural sex had on my marital relationship (after my husband's restoration), as well as from my premarital relationships with both circumcised and uncircumcised men, and from the eye-opening results and comments of the survey. Additionally, my observation of circumcised and natural relationships around me further reinforced my opinion that circumcised sex does not bring about the kind of communion in a relationship that natural sex brings. Please jump ahead momentarily to page 165 and read one woman's thought-provoking comments on this subject.

As the book develops, it should be easy for you to see how circumcision causes serious damage to the male organ and drastic alterations to the sex act. But could circumcised sex actually be a negative experience for the brain's pleasure centers? Could it really result in resentment and hostility toward one's partner, leading to everyday arguments and quarreling over "little" things? Could this cause a general loss of respect, which in turn causes the relationship to gradually (or quickly) fall apart at the seams? Listen closely to women's quotes throughout the book, like the ones below, and decide for yourself.

"When I didn't achieve an orgasm, I felt cheated. Oftentimes I would just fake it or lie there until he was done. I would also feel guilty because I didn't feel anything for the man after he was done with me."

"With my natural man, I always glow after intercourse, but with circumcised men, I couldn't wait to get dressed and get away from them. I never glowed."

The negative physiological and psychological effects of circumcised sex are clearly not the only cause of relationship discord, disharmony, and divorce. Other factors undoubtedly play a role. There is no denying that financial hardship, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, unfaithfulness, etc. can be contributing factors to putting a marriage on the rocks. Nevertheless, America's divorce rate is more than double that of Western Europe, where men are not usually circumcised (8). When the final truths of this issue emerge, I am certain that we will find that circumcised sex plays a significant role in America's high divorce rate.

The following humorous (though tragic) dialogue between the characters played by Woody Allen and Louise Lasser (who in real life were married at the time and divorced soon thereafter) in the comedy movie, *Bananas*, points out how the missing foreskin can affect a couple's relationship without them being consciously aware of it.

Louise: I have to tell you something, and I don't know how to break it.

Woody: Why, is there something the matter? Have you seen x-rays of me?

Louise: (Laughing) I saw x-rays of you.

Woody: I fail to see the humor in this.

Louise: You didn't see the x-rays.

Woody: ...What? Tell me what's the matter?
(Nervously) I'm white. You know how your heart beats. My heart is beating.

Louise: I know.... I just don't think that we should see each other anymore.

Woody: Oh, really?! Why, what's the matter?

Louise: ...There's just something missing...and....

Woody: What do you mean, "missing"? Something is missing *from me*?

Louise: Yes.

Woody: What do you mean? Like what? (Emotionally distraught) Can you say what's missing from me?

Louise: ...Well, no, but maybe if you could guess a few things, I could try.

Woody: What do you mean? Can you say? Can you tell me?

Louise: Something is missing and I don't know what it is.

Woody: Is it personality, or looks, or something like that? Or I'm not smart enough? Is that what you're saying?

Louise: Well, no.

Woody: It's not something to do with height, or something like that?

Louise: No, it has nothing to do with the fact that you're short.

Woody: Cavities?

Louise: No, it has nothing to do with the fact that you're not bright enough. And it has nothing to do with the fact that your teeth are in bad shape....

Woody: So what, then? What could it possibly be? I don't understand. Has it got to do...? It's not my personality.... Do you have fun with me?

Louise: No, but it's not that. I mean it's not that I don't have fun with you when I'm with you.

Woody: We laugh. Don't tell me that we haven't laughed. 'Cause we laughed a lot.

Louise: Yeah. No, it's not that. It's not that we've laughed or haven't laughed. We've laughed a lot.... I can't put my finger on quite what it is. Something's missing, that's all.

Woody: ...Whatd'ya mean, missing? (Impatiently)
Well, what's missing?

Louise: Well, the relationship isn't going anywhere.

Woody: Well, where do you want it to go?

Louise: Well, where could we get it to go?

Woody: Well, that's not.... I don't know.... I LOVE YOU. I mean, what matters is that I love you and you love me.

Louise: And it's not because I don't love you.

Woody: (In excited anticipation) Then you love me?

Louise: No, I don't, but that's not the reason why. Just something is missing....

Woody: (Lost for words and looking perplexed.)

Louise: It's no use.... It's just not going to work out. I'm sorry. Bye. I'm sorry if I hurt you.*

This chapter began with the question: When the foreskin is missing, is the intercourse experience incomplete and unfulfilling, haunting the subconscious mind of both partners?

Woody wrote the above dialogue himself and it says precisely, "Something is missing *from me?*" I believe he sensed that she longed for something fundamental that he just wasn't able to give her. And it was the hidden, unspoken factor leading to her breakup with him. Could the "missing something" be the sexual fulfillment and connectedness that natural intercourse provides? Could they both know this intuitively, yet be unable to verbalize it, leading her to say "something is missing," and him to say "from me?" Interestingly, years later, Woody composed a scene in *Shadows and Fog*, wherein a group of mohels (Jewish ritual circumcisers) are deported. Then, in a subsequent movie, *Deconstructing Harry*, he wrote a scene in which his character explains to his son why the boy doesn't have a circumcised penis like his father. Evidently, this issue plays in the inner recesses of Woody's mind, though he is undoubtedly not aware, on a conscious level, of circumcision's devastating effects to the sex act.

* To better appreciate the relevancy of the above dialogue, I recommend renting the movie and replaying the scene over a few times.