

《The Last Manly Man (》

图书基本信息

书名：《The Last Manly Man (平装)》

13位ISBN编号：9781901982374

10位ISBN编号：1901982378

出版时间：1999年10月11日

出版社：Oldcastle Books Ltd

作者：Sparkle Hayter

页数：256 页

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内容概要

From the author of *What's a Girl Gotta Do?* comes the hilarious new adventure of Robin Hudson.

On paper at least, things couldn't be better for Robin Hudson, the sassy, young Rita Hayworth-looking, sexy; and opinionated tabloid TV reporter for All News Network. Suddenly successful, she gets to boss other people around in her job, and she has more men than she knows what to do with. Then a series of seemingly random encounters, and one strange dead guy, lead Robin into the secret world of men and onto the trail of a mysterious chemical known as Adam One. Before it's over, she'll have to brave a macho hunting expedition, fistfighting thugs, and a convention of drugged feminists. Meanwhile, men's social conditioning and women's own sexism don't escape Robin's sharp eye. "The Last Manly Man" is a comedy, a mystery; an unorthodox love letter to men, and as a bonus, offers some practical how-to advice on finding and handling success in a "man's world."

Sparkle Hayter was born in Pouce Coupe, British Columbia. She worked for CNN in Atlanta, WABC in New York, and Global Television in Toronto. As a freelance reporter she lived in Washington, D.C., and in Peshawar, Pakistan, where she covered the Afghan War for the Toronto Star, CTV and the Edmonton Journal. She performed stand-up comedy and graduated from New York University's film school. Sparkle Hayter lives in New York City.

This is the first Robin Hudson novel not to feature "girl" in the title. Instead it has "man", and "Manly Man" at that. A radical new direction? As if. Sparkle Hayter knows her forte and sticks to it bullishly. The battle of the sexes is her thing, upon which she hoists cartoon escapades thinly disguised as plot. Vive la difference. Robin Hudson is a television news reporter (as Hayter was), who thinks like a stand-up comedian (which Hayter is). She has two handsome boyfriends (Hayter ...?), a programme to produce on the "Man of the Future", and suddenly, a hat, which may belong to a John Doe. Within pages she is ensconced in a world of missing monkeys, powerful businessmen, animal liberationists and feminists, all of whom appear connected to a mysterious chemical known only as "Adam 1", which could have the potential to bring the gender war to a swift halt. Who can resolve the conundrum? And who will film it? Hayter does not write badly. She just does not write very well. Her prose has the balls of a Rottweiler, but the subtlety of one too, being infested with one-liners, some of which are funny, some of which are repetitious or strained. Occasionally she hints at darker points, such as Robin's infertility, but they are usually sacrificed to the gag quota. As it is, Sparkle Hayter has written a sassy thriller that will probably be read and forgotten by millions.

--David Vincent

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