



By Belisa Vranich, Psy.D. • Photography by Ondrea Barbe

# **XY Truths,** **With a Wink and a Smile**

# All women want to be lied to. Really.

From time to time, anyway. It's true of your mom, your secretary, even the lady at the deli counter who makes your sandwich every day. Don't worry—you won't be the only one doing it. "Most people engage in deception on an almost daily basis," says Jerry Jordan, Ph.D., an associate professor at Wittenberg University in Ohio. "We do it to make the person we're talking to feel good," he says, "or to make ourselves look better to others."

» And the most important person you can lie to? It's got to be your wife. Now, we're not talking big, whopping lies that will end with the two of you spewing venom in divorce court, but rather small, white lies. Lies that will help keep *her* happy, and help *you* maintain your sanity. » With that in mind, we've put together a list of the seven most common lies you should never hesitate to tell the woman in your life.

## **1. She gestures toward her hot best friend across the room and asks, "If I died, would you go out with her?"**

Be careful. Although she'd never admit it, she's setting you up in a trap. She wants you to focus on the word *died*, not *her*. Protect yourself. Start with, "Babe, if you died, I would be so heartbroken I couldn't even think about anyone else for a very long time." Meanwhile, store away in the back of your mind the fact that if she did indeed keel over, you could go out with her mother, her sister, and that hot kickboxing instructor at the gym—the very next day—and there wouldn't be a thing she could do to stop you.

## **2. She asks, "Were there strippers at the bachelor party?"**

Of course there were strippers. All variations of them, rubbing and gyrating and collecting dollar bills for the entire duration of the party. Does she need to know that? Ask yourself—do you ever want to travel to another bachelor party, conference, or work retreat on your own again?

If the answer is yes, immediately respond with: "Nah, we played golf, ate steak, got loud and drunk, and bought him shots until he threw up."





### **3. She asks, looking coy, "Do you think about me when you jerk off?"**

This is a rhetorical question. In truth, she doesn't even want to know you jerk off. But since that's a given, don't reply with the actual laundry list of porn stars, hot bank tellers, and neighbors' wives you wank off to. A simple "Of course" will suffice, and is all we women need.

### **4. Looking at a picture of Jennifer Lopez, Jennifer Aniston, Jennifer Garner, or any other unobtainable Hollywood Jen, she asks, "Is she prettier than I am?"**

This is an emergency situation. Immediately, as soon as the words start to flow from her mouth, turn to her—looking mildly annoyed—and roll your eyes. Sigh as if it's a silly question, then reply, "No way." No other answer—I repeat—nothing else you say can save you.

### **5. She purrs—as you start to doze off and she's cradled under your arm—"Mmm, have you EVER had better sex?"**

Yes, you've had better. Yesterday, in fact. But you don't want her to know that. The absolute worst thing you can do in this situation is try to search for a correct answer to her question. All she really needs is positive affirmation that the sex you just had was great. In most cases, a happy grunt will suffice.

### **6. With the same diplomatic tone she uses to make sure you filled up the car with gas, she asks, "How many girls have you slept with?"**

Watch out: The answer to this question will haunt you for life. You may think saying "I lost track" will put you in the clear, but to her, it translates as millions and millions. If you absolutely must answer, take the actual number—and cut it in half. Whatever you do, don't ask her the same question in return. This is a lose-lose situation. Besides, she probably won't be telling you the truth, either.

### **She asks, "Are my boobs, ass, or thighs too big, small, flat, or flabby?"**

Under no circumstances should you reply quickly to this question. Blurt out a quick "no" and she'll know you're lying. Instead, pause for a second. Collect your thoughts, but do it quickly. Don't make the mistake of saying, "I think your ass is beautiful." The words may sound harmless, but they translate as "Yes, your ass is huge, but I sort of like it that way." Instead, after allowing enough time for thoughtful deliberation, say, "You have great boobs, thighs, and a hot ass." Then immediately reach over and cop a feel of said body parts. This makes your reply seem more honest and will help her avoid developing a complex that could otherwise haunt or permanently taint your sex life for years to come.