

January 24, 2002

Carol,

On the Web, I found an explanation of why you didn't like Raising Arizona:

Do you have any ideas as to why there are so many more funny guys than there are funny women? And before I get lynched for saying that, I must point out that I am a girl myself, and I personally am often funny, but I rarely laugh at professional female comedians. The only REALLY funny woman I can think of offhand is Cynthia Heimel and I don't even know where to begin naming really funny guys.

Gene Weingarten: I actually disagree with everything you say. But you raise one valid point. I think men are better at humor that hurts. Hostile humor. I think women avoid it. Perhaps the greatest proof of this is the movie "Raising Arizona," which most men consider an absolute piece of comic genius (I do) and which most women consider fairly awful, inasmuch as it is predicated on finding something funny about the kidnapping of a baby.