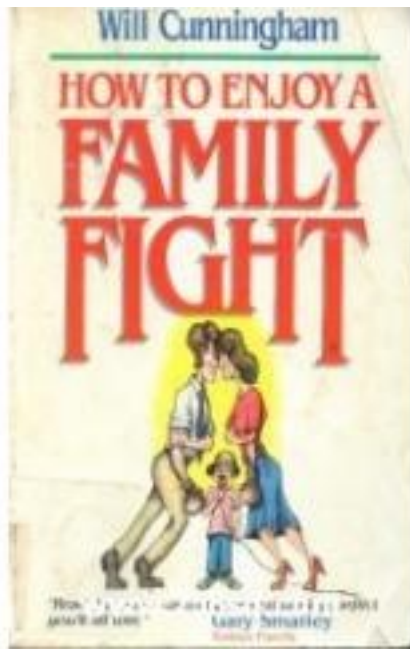


How to Enjoy a Family Fight



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著者:

出版者:

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装帧:

isbn:9780945564041

Introduction
JUST THE OTHER DAY I saw a classic conflict outside
my office window. The church where I work as a coun-
selor has an elementary school
and that particular day
was Field Day filled
as tradition would have it
with
fun games like the three-legged race
the gunnysack race
the egg toss
and more. The afternoon finale was the ulti-
mate in gender-clash:
boys versus girls tug-o-war.
I watched as the two sexes squared off for battle.
The
girls giggled nervously. They had little to lose
it seemed.
The
boys
on the other hand
clenched their teeth
chewed their
tongues
and made a huge show of digging
their hightop tennis shoes into the
ground for added
leverage. They had life at stake.
The whistle blew
the rope stiffened
the boys turned
crimson
the girls giggled...then panic

broke out on the
 boys end. The girls were inching them closer and closer
 to defeat.
 Tempers rose. Accusations flew. \"Pull harder!¼Œ ToddV
 \"I am! Why don t you? I am!\" But nothing helped.
 Suddenly¼Œ with a heave¼Œ the gigglers sent the boys
 sprawling.
 Shrill¼Œ unison voices called out in that sing-song pat-
 tern we all learn early in life: \"You boys are weaklings!
 You boys are weaklings!\"
 Up jumped the boys from the ground¼Œ quickly engag-
 ing themselves in all sorts of manly behaviors such as

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