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## CHAPTER ONE

### WHY WE WROTE THE BOOK OF LOVE, LAUGHTER & ROMANCE

*Michael*  
He couldn't wait to <sup>get away on his trip</sup> go, and I couldn't wait for him to leave.

A disagreement, a misunderstanding, <sup>a refusal to give in</sup> and we had found ourselves

in the middle of an argument. The timing couldn't have been worse.

*\* Somewhere say how long he's gone so we know how long you have to "stew" and refine the game.*  
He had to leave on a <sup>x-day</sup> business trip before we could resolve <sup>the tension between us</sup> things, and he wouldn't be back until early New Year's eve. (Cap)

For almost every year of our ~~then sixteen~~ <sup>16-</sup> year marriage, Michael and I had spent our New Year's Eve <sup>in</sup> privately and quietly at home together, staying awake <sup>only</sup> long enough to toast each other at the arrival of midnight. <sup>Sadly, I knew</sup> it looked as though this year the new year would <sup>not begin with our usual intimate joys</sup> get a bumpy start.

But even when we don't "like" each other <sup>when we</sup> (argued), Michael and I always know we loved each other very much. What <sup>I felt</sup> we needed when <sup>he</sup> Michael returned home was a way for us to <sup>get back to</sup> refocus on <sup>what</sup> the things we like and love about each other.