



### Waltzing with Matilda

Matilda Kumquat  
% Dan Schweitzer

Dear Matilda,

*It looks so cool when a guy twirls a girl around as they promenade. (And, the guys seem to win extra points.) Can you give me some tips?*

--Twirler Envious Ned

Dear T.E.N.,

Twirling isn't for everyone. Do NOT twirl us ladies if we:

- Sport a badge proclaiming "Don't Twirl Me."
- Keep our hands firmly down in the promenade position.
- Are wearing a cast – anywhere.

Much safer, are the high energy types that scamper around like a puppy with a new ball. (What's with those girls anyway?) There are also more sedate types that suddenly beam, laugh or even giggle when twirling. (Odd, but true.)

Actually, it takes a lot of trust to let a guy spin us. We are moving blind. I always wonder, can this guy be trusted to watch for an elbow in my path? Catch me if I lose my balance?

Me? Usually, I think not.

Finally, we are not tops. We don't need help to spin. Push my butt to get me started ONLY if your name is spelled J-o-h-n-n-y D-e-p-p.

--Matilda

Dear Matilda,

*I just love square dancing, especially the twirling. I wish more guys would twirl me as we dance. What can I do?*

--Partially Unhappy Penelope

Dear P.U.P.,

Square dancing isn't just about fun. You really ought to give some thought to caution and safety.

That said, if you must go twirling away without a care in the world, try giggling.

--Matilda

Dear Matilda,

*I've heard rumors about a club somewhere in the mountains. They have good callers, and add new members every year. Who are they?*

*I'm...*

--Actually Dubious

Dear A.D.,

Talk about a bunch that think square dancing is only about fun! I don't recommend them. The roads are too slippery, the air is too thin, and they are way too tolerant when a square crashes. I won't mention their name, but they have a web site:

[www.TimberlineToppers.org](http://www.TimberlineToppers.org).

--Matilda