friend, boss, bank man-

you argued with a male

of an argument you had with a man, chances would be 95 per cent that he assumed you were being too over-

nineties, argument has become a

hink back to the last time

about aggressive feminists she knows Mapstone admits that if she wants to negotiate successfully with a man, she will go in cautiously. She talks should appear to the same of don't have the freedom."

heard, they have to make certain choices about how they appear to men during an argument. "Men don't have to choose and that's where we Mapstone, now 61, has learnt some valuable, but not necessarily groundbreaking lessons. For example, she recognises that if women want to be

who always talk too loudly, she says.

"Then I realised it wasn't personal—
I was experiencing what was normal for a woman of my age."

On the strength of home chology. Surely here, she reasoned, her desire for stimulating discussion would be fulfilled. Apparently not. "I kept hearing these very loud com-Oxford to study philosophy and psy-

Women And Men Arguing by Elizabeth Mapstone, published by Chatto & Windus on February 19 at £10.99. Extracts taken from War Of Words:

logical argument" presents it as a rational and anything sensible when she woman is actually saying have problems hearing that a express that better. Many men rational argument. No, let me s bruodxe namow s of gninefell "Many men do have problems

hide what anger they teel" important, and most appear to husbands unless the issue is very conciliate both lovers and Women are inclined to

WITH MEN MOMEN

argument is hostility" nothing more explicit, that there is an implication, On the other, many women say they prefer to avoid argument; without causing problems. be able to express their opinion "They have a strongly ambivalent attitude to argument."

attitude to argument.

They have a strongly ambivalent. On the one hand, they want to

o gradu. Podrija da MOWEN

position, however absurd" arguments to support any belngs, able to marshal logical WITH MEN The shillity to think out loud with another man readlines to both their sense of ownership of the field of argument ... They can field of argument ... They can know that they are rational know that they are rational logical

think it's all OK in the post-feminist simply blind. Young women really era, but if you were to present a diary more convinced I am that people are almost wails at one point. "The more subject to enter into "objective" debate some of the views you expressed, a he is a colleague, equal or subordinate, are relatively young and attractive; to him what you're saying, unless you Elizabeth Mapstone, psychologist and author of War Of Words: Women dictable, that's because it still is, little too "personally involved" in the that you were too emotional about he will probably reason afterwards then he may indulge your opinion. If worth his while. And it won't matter compete to win you over. It's not see and hear from my research, the Mapstone argues. "It's so awful," she point of view is incidental anyway. 10, he will probably assume your And Men Arguing, nine times out of it doesn't really matter, According to debate/discussion/quarrel? Answer dinner party, he certainly won't If all this sounds grim yet pre-If you are disagreeing with him at ager, lover. Question: who do you think won the as objective truth, only subjecthe premise that there is no such dinosaurs dominate opposite-sex Stinds that the same old stereotypical about them, much less air them in own home. You certainly didn't talk happens after the words are over and were confined to the privacy of your ago, arguments, like sexual habits attention to arguing. Thirty years that we are now paying so much ered rational, reasonable and firm. emotional, disagreeable or aggressive. dialectics. The reigning perception is tive versions of it. And how depresswe take stock". Her research rests on how it is actually remembered, "what argument are less significant than event. She believes the bones of an Yet when men argue, they are considthat when women argue, they are ingly subjective they are. Mapstone their thoughts and feelings after the argument "diaries" and write down women, asking many of them to keep with more than 600 men and emotional and personally involved. has completed in-depth interviews So what's new? Perhaps the fact Over the past 12 years, Mapstone Yet in the self-improving

The book's author, psychologist much pressure to get it right.
S It's not just emotional arguments commitment." No wonder there is so a conflict resolution tool, but as a tion that is the key to relationship sex, not money, but conflict resolusign of marriage breakdown. It's not years ago, we didn't see argument as up for negotiation. Until 10 or 15 Susan Quilliam, says: "Everything is

friendship. This belief is reversed

Arguing, Start Talking, published comes Relate's self-help guide, Stop According to popular thought, how Women And Men In Conversation acknowledges that men and women we row may well expose the cultural end in itself, can lead to resolution. lanner's You Just Don't Understand Are From Venus and Deborah Gray's Men Are From Mars, Women are conditioned to speak differen there is a whole market out there that abyss between men and women, but sexes. Self-help guides have forsaken anguages. Following on from John hey — it can also heal that rift. Thus that argument, rather than being an mis-communication between the sexual intercourse in favour of verbal focus for the whole messy business of What has really shifted is the idea more emotional she is. up inside him, then it's obviously got men just didn't perceive it that way The stronger the anger he feels, the "If he can feel all this emotion welling they project those feelings on to her to defy stereotypes during an argu-

enjoy sparring verbally with each other interviews revealed that younger men and view it as a way of cementing cally between same ered the dynamics of argument alter radi apstone also discov-He

Her explanation is that when men are angered by female dissent, instead of admitting it to themselves, in a composed and rational manner ment, for example discussing issues social settings and with same-sex that however much women appeared friends. In these arenas, she reports also explores arguments at work, in with just about anybody you can ever. We could all be getting along think of, according to Mapstone, who turies of sexual stereotyping, how lines cut across everyday exchanges better in other areas, too. The battle between couples that reveal cenand women seem deep-seated in both to change," Mapstone says. sexes. This is what we've got to work about the difference between men to feel that other women take dissent are as likely as men to be conditioned too personally. "The assumptions girl, there must be something wrong; can't get on with another woman or of caution. Young girls ... feel if they between younger women. "For some it's got to be their fault."

An added difficulty is that women

do.

ered the sort of thing a girl shouldn't enjoyed arguing. It was not considhousehold in which discussion and debate were encouraged. "We always women as equals in discussion, then workplace: "If men acknowledge status quo. As Mapstone says of the suddenly the competition is doubled. unterest in maintaining the verba cially when many men have a vester Mapstone herself grew up in Then in my late thirties

we can stop doing it." happening. If we are all aware, then answer is to make it clear what? This seems a little idealistic, espe

forties, I realised I was being either criticised or ignored.

children had grown up, she went to