

Naked

reviewed by Kate Wallace Nunneley

Naked is a marriage book thoroughly steeped in egalitarian theology and completely free from gender stereotypes and tired “male headship” language. Tim and Anne Evans bring decades of counseling and ministry experience to their work, and the result is an extremely helpful and approachable guide for married couples.

This book is presented in three parts, the first of which presents a healthy theology of sex and counsels the reader through deconstructing any unhealthy views of sex they may have learned throughout their life, whether from church, family, or culture.

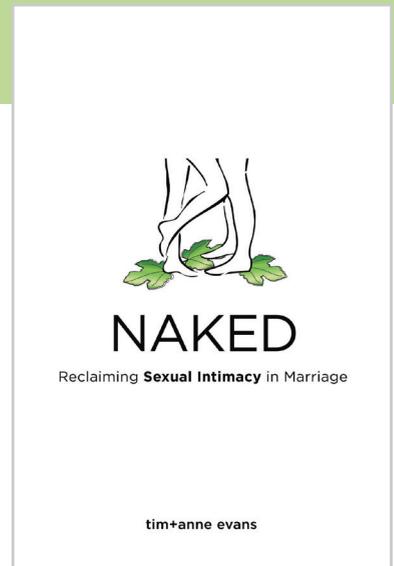
Part two of *Naked* helps reconstruct the reader’s views of sex by addressing sensitive topics that desperately need to be addressed. The authors do not shy away from many complex and controversial topics in this book, and although this may make some readers uncomfortable at times, each one is intentionally thought out and approached with grace.

Part three helps the reader take practical steps toward building greater intimacy in

their marriage. This section brings hope, empowerment, and guidance to the reader as they begin to apply this knowledge to their everyday life.

Naked makes readers feel as though they are sitting down to coffee with the authors. Personal stories from the authors help to make the material accessible and relatable. I especially appreciate the care taken in including things not normally found in marriage books, like the assertion that marriage is not the goal of the Christian life, and that the church is responsible for many of our misunderstandings about sex.

I believe this book would be helpful for any couple wishing to grow in sexual intimacy or who simply want to better understand the role sex plays in their marriage. *Naked* comes with a companion journal, making it useful for engaged couples wanting to have a healthy view of sex before entering into marriage. *Naked* is a book I can confidently recommend to others, knowing that it will help them develop a healthy and egalitarian view of sex and intimacy.



Kate Wallace Nunneley is co-founder of The Junia Project and associate pastor at Wellspring Free Methodist Church in Bakersfield, CA. A committed Christian and feminist, Kate enjoys writing and speaking on the intersection of politics, religion, and gender. Her favorite theologian is Gilbert Bilezikian, and she holds a master of science from London School of Economics and a bachelor of arts from Azusa Pacific University. Kate is currently pursuing her master of divinity at Azusa Pacific Seminary.

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Making Marriage Beautiful

reviewed by Amy R. Buckley

A few months ago, an acquaintance confided that her marriage is in trouble. She asked about egalitarian marriage resources, and I enthusiastically recommended Dorothy Greco’s new book, *Making Marriage Beautiful*.

The book’s eleven chapters survey a range of topics, from managing expectations to navigating in-laws, gender roles, communication, conflict, abuse, addiction, community (outside of marriage) and healthy response to external challenges and crises.

Drawing upon twenty-five years of marriage to her husband Christopher,

Greco offers full disclosure of the struggles, failures, successes, and transformation they have seen. With refreshing self-awareness and humor, Greco serves less as an instructor and more as a fellow traveler. Gary Chapman explains this in the book’s forward: “In *Making Marriage Beautiful*, Dorothy Greco vulnerably shares the journey she and her husband have traveled from brokenness to beauty.”

A variety of readers will find helpful wisdom in Greco’s work. Those considering engagement will find a realistic view of what a healthy

marriage requires. Couples at all stages of relationship—whether newlyweds or those facing rough patches—will find a wealth of suggestions and encouragement. Those in mature stages of marriage will find resources for cultivating continued depth and growth. Greco shares stories of multiethnic couples, highlighting the unique challenges of marriage in different cultures and in inter-cultural marriage. Those looking for a book to study as a couple or small group will benefit from the discussion questions at the end of each chapter.