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In Every Pew Sits a Broken Heart: Hope for the Hurting

By Ruth Graham



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WHEN LIFE'S ROSY DREAMS DISSOLVE INTO DIFFICULT REALITIES THAT BREAK OUR HEARTS, GOD SHOWS THAT HE SPECIALIZES IN RESTORATION" "If in these pages you see your own life's experience mirrored in our daughter's, may you, too, find a personal relationship with the same heavenly Father who continues to be her strength, comfort, and joy."” ?From the foreword by Billy Graham “Warning: This book should only be read by imperfect, flawed people in serious need of God's amazing grace. Thank you, Ruth Graham, for having the courage to bare your soul and then lead others back toward God's welcoming arms.”—Philip Yancey, author of *Where Is God When It Hurts?* “For any who have experienced the tragedy of infidelity and wrong choices. Ruth unfolds her life, showing that the grace of God is sufficient. —Elisabeth Elliot Gren, author of *Through Gates of Splendor* “You hold in your hand a tool that will help you whether you are hurting or seeking to minister to one who is hurting. By sharing openly from her own experiences of heartache and by offering practical insights founded on biblical truth, Ruth Graham has provided a resource that both equips us to pursue wholeness and leads us into the arms of the only One who can make us whole.—Dr. Gary Smalley, The author of *DNA of Relationships* “This book is a must-read for those who are hurting or for those who would like to be a healing agent for someone else.”—Dr. Charles Stanley, author of *The Blessings of Brokenness*



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

By turns memoir, Bible study and self-help book, Graham's platform as the daughter of beloved evangelist Billy Graham gives her the credentials to spin this competent tale of brokenness. But she offers more than a famous lineage: "I am qualified to write this book because I am flawed," she writes. She shares her struggles parenting three children through out-of-wedlock pregnancies, drug use and bulimia; her battle with depression and flirtation with suicide, and her disappointment over her two divorces. "I know what it's like to sit in the pew with a broken heart," says Graham. It's her vulnerability in the memoir portions that lend credence to the fairly basic application items at the end of the chapters. (Advice to those experiencing suffering: "seek godly counsel" and "maintain your daily devotional times with God.") Graham finds solace for the brokenhearted through scripture, looking at the lives of Jeremiah, Elijah and other biblical examples. Unlike many inspirational books of this ilk, there's no fairytale ending. Graham admits she is in the midst of a third faltering marriage, but says she's grateful God accepts her as she is—"hurting, wounded, broken." In true Graham fashion, the book concludes with an altar call. Weary Christians disappointed with the way their lives have turned out should find this a heartening read.

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Review

By turns memoir, Bible study and self-help book, Graham's platform as the daughter of beloved evangelist Billy Graham gives her the credentials to spin this competent tale of brokenness. But she offers more than a famous lineage: 'I am qualified to write this book because I am flawed,' she writes. She shares her struggles parenting three children through out-of-wedlock pregnancies, drug abuse and bulimia; her battle with depression and flirtation with suicide, and her disappointment over two divorces. 'I know what it's like to sit in the pew with a broken heart,' says Graham. It's her vulnerability in the memoir portions that lend credence to the fairly basic application items at the end of the chapters. (Advice to those experiencing suffering: 'seek godly counsel' and 'maintain your daily devotional times with God.') Graham finds solace for the brokenhearted through scripture, looking at the lives of Jeremiah, Elijah and other biblical examples. Unlike many inspirational books of this ilk, there's no fairytale ending. Graham admits she is in the midst of a third faltering marriage, but she says she's grateful God accepts her as she is -- 'hurting, wounded, broken.' In true Graham fashion, the book concludes with an altar call. Weary Christians disappointed with the way their lives have turned out should find this a heartening read. -- Publishers Weekly

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

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