

Captivating: Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul

By John Eldredge, Stasi Eldredge



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Every woman was once a little girl. And every little girl holds in her heart her most precious dreams. She longs to be swept up into a romance, to play an irreplaceable role in a great adventure, to *be* the Beauty of the story. And yet?how many women do you know who ever find that life?

Most women think they have to settle for a life of efficiency and duty, striving to be the women they "ought" to be but often feeling they have failed. Sadly, too many messages for Christian women add to the pressure. "Do these ten things, and you will be a godly woman." The effect has not been good on the feminine soul.

The message of *Captivating* is this: Your heart matters more than anything else in all creation. The desires you had as a little girl and the longings you still feel are telling you of the life God created you to live. He offers to rescue your heart and release you to live as a fully alive and feminine woman. A woman who is truly captivating.



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Captivating: Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul By John Eldredge, Stasi Eldredge Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

John Eldredge became the Robert Bly of evangelicalism with his blockbuster *Wild at Heart*. Now he teams up with his wife, Stasi, to encourage women to connect with their deepest desires. To facilitate this, the Eldredges reveal in the first chapter what every woman's three core desires are: to be romanced, to play a role in her own adventures and to display beauty. (This formula will be familiar to Eldredge's fans, as *Wild at Heart* offered a similar tripartite model of men's desires.) The rest of the book is an extended reflection on these three impulses. Drawing heavily on popular films to prove their points, the Eldredges warn that most women tend to become either controlling or needy. Godly women, in contrast, should see God as the ultimate lover, and look to Eve (and not, say, J. Lo) as their model. Also, women should form close, intimate friendships with one another, à la Ruth and Naomi or the ladies in *Fried Green Tomatoes*. These are all unoriginal themes, which evangelical women's writers have been recycling for years. Christian readers who embrace a robust egalitarianism will not find the Eldredges' perspective congenial. Regardless, the book is likely to fly off the shelves, purchased by all those women who gave *Wild at Heart* to their husbands, brothers and dads. (*Apr. 14*)

Review

"Authors John and Stasi Eldredge interpret their own work with a brisk cadence that switches from John's clear tones and pitch to Stasi's youthful, vibrant vocal personality. Their energetic delivery captures their feminine view of women in relation to God with contrasting voices that match voice to mood with a malefemale technique. Their depiction of assorted characters from movies and books supports their theories, which seem to border on pop psychology, rather than biblical content. They deftly deliver vivid but simple character sketches with a versatile range and skill that humanize God as a "lover" and "romancer." Their lightly accented enunciation animates and freshens the entire reading, which emphasizes their womancentered point of view."

G.D.W. © AudioFile Portland, Maine

About the Author

John Eldredge is an author, a counselor, and a teacher. He is also president of Ransomed Heart, a ministry devoted to helping people discover the heart of God, recovering their own hearts in God's love, and learning to live in God's Kingdom. He lives near Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Stasi Eldredge co-authored Captivating with her husband John, which has sold over 1 million copies in the U.S. alone and has changed women's lives all over the world. Director of the women's ministry at Ransomed Heart, Stasi leads Captivating retreats in Colorado. Her passion is to see lives transformed by the beauty of the Gospel and an intimate romance with Jesus Christ.

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Kevin Ostby:

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Paul Smith:

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