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“I loved this book. It’s practical, insightful, and most importantly, motivating to draw closer to our spouses. Rick is a wonderful writer who inspires.”

—**Jim Burns PhD**, president, HomeWord; author of *Creating an Intimate Marriage*, *Closer*, and *Getting Ready for Marriage*

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“Rick Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage Johnson’s work is always a gift! A humorous, insightful, practical gift to the reader. *Romancing Your Better Half* is full of not just wise advice but ultra-practical steps for how to ensure your marriage continues *Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage* to be something that you will enjoy and treasure for a lifetime. Which means Rick’s latest book is something couples will treasure too!”

Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage

—**ShauntiFeldhahn** social researcher and bestselling author of *For Women Only, For Men Only*, and *The Surprising Secrets of Highly Happy Marriages*

“Rick Johnson encourages men to be men and women to be women. That’s refreshing. Written in his candid and engaging style, *Romancing Your Better Half* is going to reignite and, very likely, rescue thousands of marriages. Not *Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage* by ripping down and rebuilding. Instead, Rick invites husbands and wives to look at marriage from each other’s viewpoint. It’s brilliant! Suddenly the secrets to romance and intimacy aren’t secret anymore.”

—**Jay Payleitner** producer, speaker, and bestselling author of *52 Things Husbands Need from Their Wives*

To the love of my life *and* the best wife a man could ever hope for—

my Suzanne

There are several kinds of love. One is a selfish, mean, grasping, egotistical thing which

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uses love for self-importance. This is the ugly and crippling kind. The other is an outpouring of everything good in you—of kindness and consideration and respect—not only the social respect of manners but the greater respect which is recognition of another person as unique and valuable. The first kind can make you sick and small and weak but the second can release in you strength, and courage and goodness and even wisdom you didn't know you had.

—John Steinbeck

People always fall in love with the most perfect aspects of each other's personalities. Who wouldn't? Anybody can love the most wonderful parts of another person. But that's not the clever trick. The really clever trick is this: Can you accept the flaws? Can you look at your partner's faults honestly and say, "I can work around that. I can make something out of it"? Because the good stuff is always going to be there, and it's always going to be pretty and sparkly, but the crap underneath can ruin you.

—Elizabeth Gilbert, *Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage*

What if God didn't design marriage to be "easier"? What if God had an end in mind that went beyond our happiness, our comfort, and our desire to be infatuated and happy as if the world were a perfect place? *What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?*

—Gary Thomas, *Sacred Marriage*

## Contents

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Cover [1](#)

Title Page [2](#)

Copyright Page [3](#)

Endorsements [4](#)

Dedication [5](#)

Epigraph [6](#)

Acknowledgments [9](#)

Introduction [13](#)

1. Marriage: *Together Forever?* [17](#)

2. Communicating with the Other Sex: *That Is All You Need to Know!* [37](#)

3. Love: *Under the Moon and Stars We Did Meet* [63](#)

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4. Romance and Intimacy: *The Soul of a Marriage* [81](#)

5. Sexuality: *Only Women Look Good Naked* [101](#)

6. Our Woundedness: *Turning Mud into Bricks* [123](#)

7. His Needs (for Her) [147](#)

8. Her Needs (for Him) [171](#)

Closing [197](#)

Notes [199](#)

About the Author [203](#)

Back Ads [204](#)

Back Cover [208](#)

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## Acknowledgments

A book is an insentient entity that has life breathed into it by an innumerable amount of people during its creation. In some ways it parallels the story of Frankenstein's monster.

The author of a book actually has only a small part of its development. Here is my Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage perception of the process involved, at least when I write books (probably Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage most writers have their own unique experience):

The writer (me) has the initial idea, then the acquisitions editor begins the process by seeing that vision and submitting it to the publishing committee for approval. Once the acquisition of a book is approved, a contract is negotiated by Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage an agent Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage and all sorts of secretive (and likely tightfisted) accounting types at the publishing house, then an initial draft of the manuscript is written over many months. It is then reviewed by the acquisitions editor, who throws out most of the junk and molds and twists the material into something resembling an actual book. After rewrites and excruciating revisions (all under an extremely short deadline), the innocent writer then resubmits it to the editor, who fine-tunes it and again snips and gouges Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage out Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage all the "garbage" (usually the best stuff) the writer tried to sneak back into the text. After that, the manuscript is submitted to an in-house line editor who parses Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage each sentence and picks it to death. Every word is looked at and compared to every word ever written in the history of the world. After another round of revisions guaranteed to bring out the pettiness in my nature, the book is formatted into its printed format called galleys. The galleys are sent back to the author to review for the 5,000th time and any final changes are incorporated before going to print. All this is happening while the poor Romancing Your Better Half: Keeping Intimacy Alive in Your Marriage writer is trying to work on his current manuscript as well.

During this entire process the author is also working on the next manuscript; marketing a previous book through social media, radio, and television interviews; filling out marketing and titling scripts; writing blogs for blog tours; developing leadership study guides for the book; thinking up and contacting potential endorsers and people of influence to send the book to; creating a list of people who contributed to the book and get a free copy and a list of people who want a free book to write a review; recording radio spots; approving cover artwork; and

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