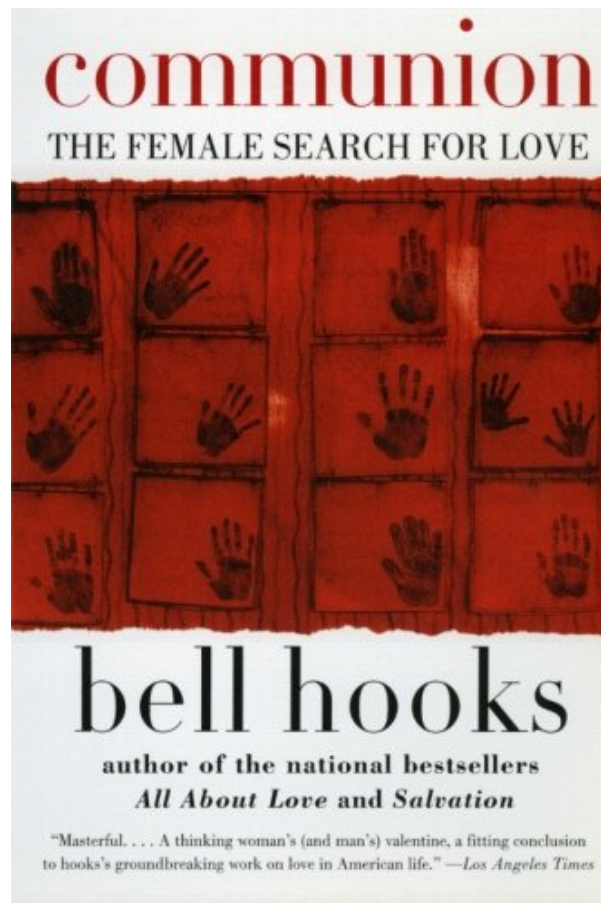


COMMUNION: THE FEMALE SEARCH FOR LOVE BY BELL HOOKS



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Communion

THE FEMALE SEARCH FOR LOVE



bell hooks

author of the national bestsellers
All About Love and Salvation

"Masterful. . . . A thinking woman's (and man's) valentine, a fitting conclusion to hooks's groundbreaking work on love in American life." —*Los Angeles Times*

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From Publishers Weekly

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From Library Journal

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Renowned visionary and theorist bell hooks began her exploration of the meaning of love in American culture with the critically acclaimed *All About Love: New Visions*. She continued her national dialogue with the bestselling *Salvation: Black People and Love*. Now hooks culminates her triumphant trilogy of love with *Communion: The Female Search for Love*.

Intimate, revealing, provocative, *Communion* challenges every female to courageously claim the search for love as the heroic journey we must all choose to be truly free. In her trademark commanding and lucid language, hooks explores the ways ideas about women and love were changed by feminist movement, by women's full participation in the workforce, and by the culture of self-help.

Communion is the heart-to-heart talk every woman -- mother, daughter, friend, and lover -- needs to have.

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wise, humane, and well worth reading.

By Lawrence W. Prichard

I have read journal articles by bell hooks, but this is the first book I have read of hers. It won't be my last book by her.

Communion: The Female Search for Love is part memoir, part challenge, and very thoughtprovoking.

One aspect I liked best was her debunking of the myth of "women who love too much." Another center of focus is the effect of gainful employment on the perceptions of love.

Her language is direct and clear, but not simplistic.

This is a very good book, and one that I hope will be widely read and discussed.

Even though her subtitle is "The Female Search for Love," men can learn from this worthwhile book, if they have the courage to read it.

This might be an excellent choice for a book group.

26 of 30 people found the following review helpful.

Love from a feminist perspective

By BigHeart

Communion is a discussion and legitimization of the pursuit of love from a mid-life feminist perspective. Hooks believes that the desire to understand how love works is a serious, important, and ultimately joyful life-work activity that should be studied and taught. The big question she attempts to answer is how to "find, keep, and make love despite the power of patriarchy."

The best part of this book is that Hooks always tells the truth as she sees it. There is no glossing over or contriving to make a point. Sometimes her language is sexually explicit and blunt. She explains love from the perspective of her own personal life experience and through intelligent observation and study of our

culture and gender practices. The impact of the feminist movement is woven through her assessment. Unlike many other feminists, however, Hook's voice is not militant.

There is only one caution. The ever-present temptation for Hooks and for all of us is to find excuses why we cannot find love or be loving. From the ego's perspective, there is always a so-called justifiable reason for the rejection of another. In this case, the justifiable reason is patriarchy. However, unconditional love means that we undo the hate in our minds and extend love no matter what distressing disguise is presented to us.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

not her best but still good

By Naoki

And for a reader who is not hip to feminist thought or lit, this is a good soft entry. I enjoyed bell hooks analogies and statements regarding that women do seek love in so many ways and her most important point was that many women do not receive non-sexual love from men, which is necessary for balance in life, thus forcing them to seek it in so many other ways.

This book encouraged me to read and understand other bell hooks books that are phenomenal. I respect hooks for offering a wide spectrum on emotions, and reality

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