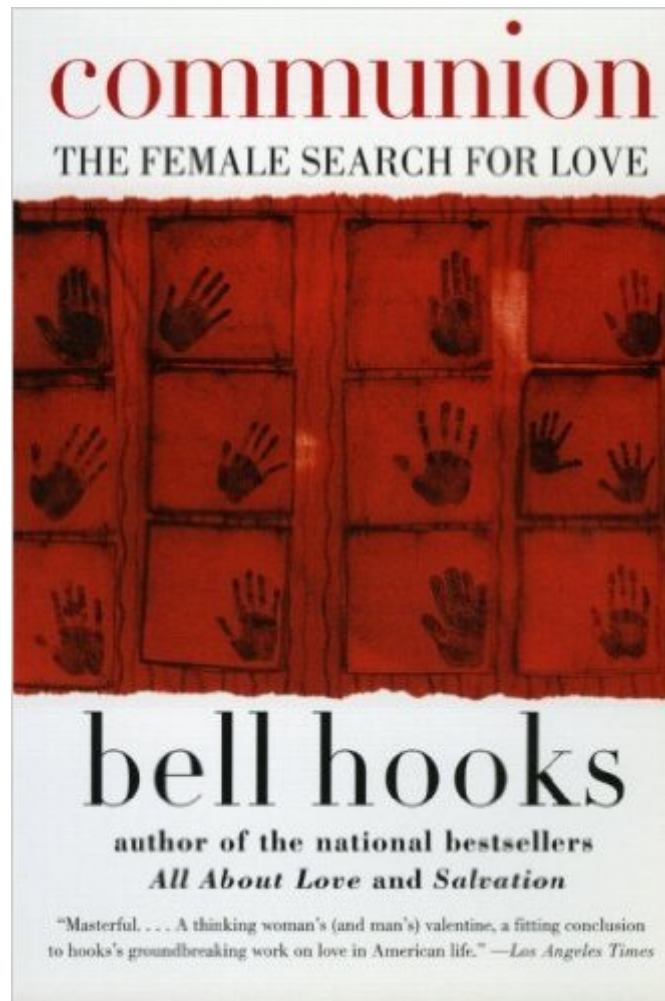


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Communion: The Female Search For Love



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 thought-provoking. 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.

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.

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.

Simply wonderful. Covers not only romantic, familial, and friendly relationships but focuses on the heart of the matter: women loving and respecting ourselves. Choosing appropriate relationships and nurturing them is only one part of that more important aim. bell hooks urges us to focus on being complete within ourselves - difficult for all women in our culture, particularly so for women of color. Her observations are wise. Her grasp of history is absolute. Her ideas stimulate intelligent and loving thought, conversation, and action. Read this book.

I have re-read this book numerous times throughout my life. It is very empowering for women who, as I have, been sucked into thinking that men (ie our romantic partners) are what matter most in our life. We have our own life too! And that is what this book always reminds me of, empowering

because it looks to the social context for our unhealthy obsession with male-female partnerships (unhealthy because often these partnerships are unloving) rather than faulting the individual. And as many of us have low self-esteem already from these unhealthy relationships, being blamed for the unhealthiness does not help! This book is so profound for me because it elucidated the real litmus of female sexual liberation-- not being able to say yes at will to any man, but also being able to say no! I have bought multiple copies of this book to gift to girlfriends. It is one of the best books I've ever read. Please read it! (And although at first I was turned off because it seemed a little cheesy or more applicable to middle-aged + women (I am in my 20s), I kept reading and found gold!)

I have to admit that I was both surprised and pleased by this body of work. This book is the best out of the love trilogy. She challenges women to dare to love beyond the romantic/sex paradigm. Also, she is brutally honest about how hard it is to find a partner who is truly unshackled from the chains of domination. Kudos to bell for writing on a very complicated topic: love.

This is about the second work that I have read by Ms. hooks, and I wasn't disappointed. In this work, she talks about the things females do for love, and how it costs us. She talked about her mother, who would gang up with her dad and belittle her for reading, then outside of the father's presence, she would praise her for reading, and try to placate her when the damage was already done. or when she was with her partner and whenever the partner had a good employment opportunity, the author would willingly go, but when the author got a similar opportunity of her own, the partner was unwilling to go. Personally, I feel we as women sacrifice a lot in the name of love. We are usually the first to change, to adapt, to mold, and go along with the program. To me that is not love. I feel that Ms. hooks wrote the book from a feminist and womanist standpoint, and her points were valid. .com said that this book would make a great Valentine's present for someone single. I agree. Get this book and grow.

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