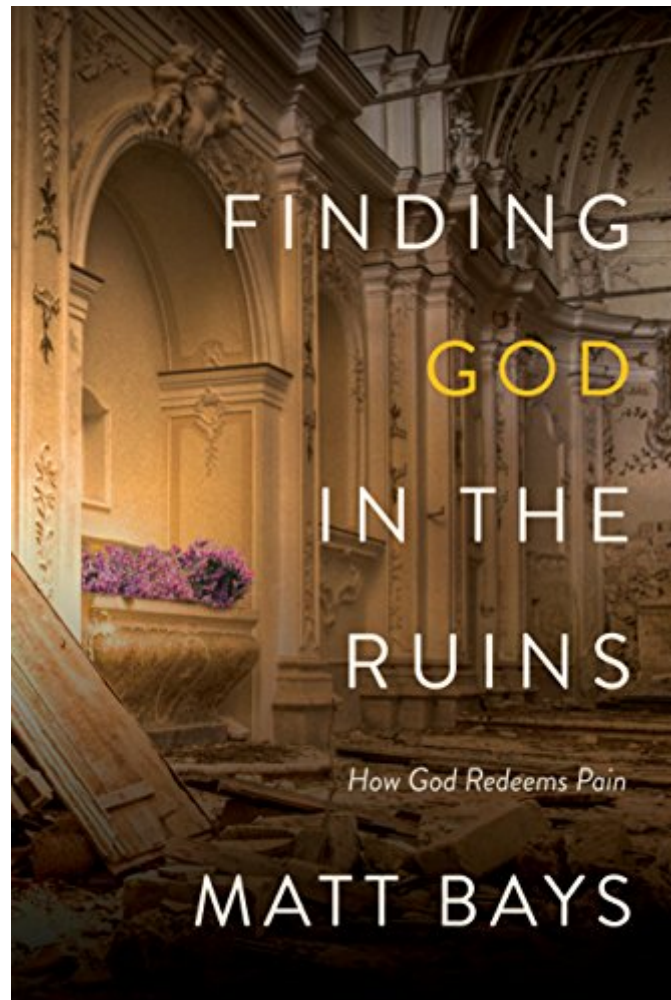




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Finding God In The Ruins: How God Redeems Pain



Synopsis

When the reality of your pain doesn't line up with what you've been taught in church, then what? While many abandon their faith or embrace hopelessness, it is possible to discover the God who heals your heart in the midst of the pain. Matt Bays has been where you are. His unforgettable stories of loss and healing will usher you into a life where gratitude overpowers anger, hope overcomes despair, and hunger for God replaces indifference to God. With a fresh and original writing style, Bays demonstrates that true redemption is far more powerful than the temporary fixes of sanitized Christianity.

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Customer Reviews

This book is so powerful, so honest, and so helpful! The author does a great job of not shying away from the difficult topics, but addresses them head on, all with humor, candor, and hope. If the baggage of your past seems to be making its way into your present, you will relate to the story

presented here. I'm not a huge reader, as I typically lose interest after a few chapters. But with its easy readability, the infectious writing style, and the humorous moments from the author's own story, this book held my attention from the very beginning. I would recommend this to anyone looking to process through any sort of pain. Great book!

This book changed me. I read it in one sitting because I truly could not put it down. This book helped me reframe many things, not the least of which is my relationship with God. This book is deep and wise- it's also funny when you least expect it. I think so many of us are at risk of being cynical about God because in the face of loss and trauma and pain we are handed platitudes that work better on a cross-stitched pillow than they do in real life. This author doesn't roll that way. He speaks frankly about his own life and how he struggled with his faith in the face of trauma, abuse, loss and addiction. He models for us how to be IN a relationship with God, a relationship that works both ways, and he does it with equal measures of grace and grit. It honest-to-God is helping me to be honest WITH God. This book is a gift you should give to yourself- I promise, you won't be sorry.

First off I am not much of a reader nor do I know the author personally, but I was interested in reading this book. I read it in two evenings which is amazingly fast for me. In reading the book I felt as if I was having a very honest and open conversation with the author. Although my past hasn't been as tragic as Matt's, I have also had much pain and suffering, as Matt says "We all have a story." This book helped me to realize that God didn't want these terrible things to happen in my life, but that he was there and these things were happening to Him too. He felt the pain too. I loved the humor that was throughout the book and the amazing examples of how God worked in so many people's lives in the book. He can work in yours too! Again, a very easy read for a non-reader. I couldn't put the book down. I plan to read it again at a slower pace and do the study questions. Praying for Wee!

Wow. I mean, wow. I just couldn't put this book down. It was more truth than I've heard in a long time....hard truth, good truth. I feel like I've spent my whole life asking similar questions, coming to similar conclusions....but to have it contained and written so beautifully, so authentically.....it's a gift. It's amazing how a complete stranger's words could hit home so fully....Everyone has their story(ies), and if you need courage to start facing yours, or you've started facing yours and are left with the unimaginable questions of God and His goodness....read this book. I just can't say enough

great things about it.

If you want a book that has all the answers this isn't for you. If you want a book that allows you to realize you are not alone in your questions, then this book will be a great read for you. If you want reassured that it is ok to talk to God about your frustrations, hurts, disappointments then this book is for you. If you were raised to believe that if you do all the right things and obey all the rules of the church then you will live happily ever after AND THEN LIFE HAPPENED, Read this book. Life isn't wrapped in pretty ribbons where good things always happen to good people. So what do we do with God when we face the ruins? Matt offers a book that I could not put down. He reassured me that my questions and talks with God would allow me a fresh approach where I became closer to God, a journey I began some 20 years ago when I found out I had a Prodigal son and a Prodigal husband. The "good church lady" found herself on a journey that she never imagine. Out of the ruins came a new relationship with God. He never left my side. The scriptures became my comfort. I was not forsaken in the ruins...I just got a new view of God. I only wish I had read this book 20 years ago...because I get it! Thanks Matt.

If you would never question God, if you would just chalk your bad experience or abuse to "just trust Him," this book is not for you. Matt Bays says on p.207, "I've never seen myself as a worthy representative of God because too much happened to me as a child, and my doubt has often left me feeling entirely inadequate." I beg to differ: you will rarely find such an authentic, soul-searching book that deals with the raw realities of real life - not the syrupy veneer of Jesus we find in many western churches. Simply said, if you have struggled with a rough family background of any sort - or are friends with anyone who has (so this includes pretty much all Christians) - this book is a must-read!

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