



## **His Needs, Her Needs for Parents: Keeping Romance Alive**

*Willard F. Harley Jr.*

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Children add a unique strain on a couple's time and relationship, yet they desperately need parents who love each other. That's why, according to Dr. Willard Harley, one of the most important things parents can do for their kids is keep their marriage healthy. His Needs, Her Needs for Parents will help them do just that.

Following the pattern of the best-selling His Needs, Her Needs, this book guides both new and seasoned parents through the whys and hows of sustaining romance in a marriage. It also offers specific, practical steps on spending quality time as a couple, deciding on child-training methods, dividing domestic responsibilities, and even handling kids with ADHD and intrusive in-laws. His Needs, Her Needs for Parents will help couples maintain their love for each other and raise happy and successful children at the same time.

## His Needs, Her Needs for Parents: Keeping Romance Alive Details

Date : Published September 1st 2003 by Fleming H. Revell Company

ISBN : 9780800718336

Author : Willard F. Harley Jr.

Format : Hardcover 251 pages

Genre : Marriage, Parenting, Nonfiction, Christian



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# From Reader Review His Needs, Her Needs for Parents: Keeping Romance Alive for online ebook

## Melanie Mauer says

Although there were a lot of gender stereotypes there was also a lot of helpful information - I read this because it was part of a book club and likely never would have come across it. Here are some points I found particularly poignant...

- anger is nothing more than an abusive way to get what we want or to punish someone for not giving us what we want - our instincts tell us it's a reasonable response to injustice.

in the end we have nothing to gain from anger. punish doesn't solve marital problems, it makes them worse.

- democracy strategy: addresses conflict and resolves them without victims. the outcome of every decision is in the best interest of both spouses.

- the major work of parenting is to teach children to be thoughtful. otherwise they're raised to think "why clean my room if the mess doesn't bother them?" "why avoid fights or help with chores or do well in school"

- if your primary theme is the consideration of people's feelings, common parenting problems are easier to address.

when they think of others before they act, it helps them avoid most problems they could experience as adults.

- by age 11 the principle behind every rule should be clearly explained and understood, because that's when children have the ability to understand higher principles of mutual care and concern.

- parents who care most about their children will guard their romantic relationship. that's because so much of their care for their children depends on it.

- would you place an expensive antique vase in the middle of a hallway where people could easily walk into it and knock it over?

Unfortunately, many couples treat their love with less care than they do valuable objects.

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## John Huffman says

This book was better than most of the relationship types of books I've seen in that it gives explicit ideas to try and ties it all together well. So many of these types of books ramble along with broad brush strokes that sound good but are hard to enact.

I thought the idea of a "Love Bank" was novel, and while obviously not truly accurate is a nice mental model to think about. Also The Policy of Undivided Attention, The Policy of Joint Agreement and Love Busters all seem like good concepts to think about in a relationship. I think a lot of this comes from his other books and are summarized here, though I'm not sure. The part about kids also seemed to make a lot of sense, especially that of punishment versus positive incentives which seems makes sense and actually seems to work for me.

Overall one of the better relationship books that I've read with several good ideas and a pretty easy read.

**lekaa says**

## Lydia Bender says

Tony and I are reading this together. Excellent.

## Liz Grant says

As with many marriage books nothing he says is really earth-shattering, but still good stuff to be reminded of - especially the fact that the best thing we can do for our children, as parents, is to love each other. Probably the most novel idea he has (in my opinion) is that couples can move beyond merely compromising but coming to 'enthusiastic agreement' on even difficult issues...not sure that's really possible, but worth trying his ideas out! Definitely worth the time to read it.

**Jennifer says**

After stalling a bit on this book a few times, I powered through and read most of the second half on 4/28/18.

This book, in my opinion, was better than his original His Needs, Her Needs (very dated), although with both, I picked and chose what would work for my husband and I in our relationship.

In this book, Harley focuses on four of his ten emotional needs, and how they are impacted when children are added to the picture. These intimate emotional needs are intimate affection (not sexual), intimate conversation, recreational time together, and sexual fulfillment. The addition of children isn't discussed much until the latter half of his book.

The first half lays the foundation of understanding of these needs, their importance, and several solutions to problems that arise in meeting these needs. He emphasizes the importance of having a romantic relationship and staying in love. His solutions include the importance of agreeing on things, to the point of agreeing enthusiastically on everything (which I found tedious and somewhat unrealistic). He refers to this as the policy of joint agreement. He feels that a couple should not proceed without enthusiastic agreement. To reach this agreement, they must negotiate, and he explains a four step process to negotiate with each other.

He also explains his concept of a love bank (part of the focus of his first book, and a good analogy to understand), and he describes certain actions as love busters. He discusses how to counteract and overcome them.

Throughout the second half of the book, he applies his solutions to specific situations with children. It did

become redundant after a bit and I felt that some editing would have shortened the book without much impact. You have a problem with such and such? Here's the solution! You have a problem with something else? Here's the SAME solution! Even still though it got hold and felt like he was beating a dead horse, it was somewhat helpful to see these solutions applied specifically. One of the best things about this book was his illustration of his principles and problems with case studies, real life examples.

Another aspect discussed is thoughtfulness vs. thoughtlessness, in both a married relationship and in children or how they are reared.

I absolutely disagreed with most of his chapter of ADHD kids. Either his method or vision is completely outdated, or he is way off. I have several special needs children, 3 of them with ADHD, plus my husband, one of our sons with severe hyperactivity and impulsiveness. His solutions might work for families of children with minor ADHD, but I find his view of the disorder very dangerous and debilitating for some children and families. He did not address the impact of other special needs such as autism, emotional disorders such as anxiety and depression, oppositional defiance disorder, physical handicaps, and more. By focusing only on the impact of ADHD, he does families a huge disservice.

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### **Kaylee Byers says**

I feel like this is a solid book for helping couples gain the groundwork for surviving parenthood with their marriages intact. While it brings in many (all) principles from previous works, this book does it through the lens of parenthood, rather than rehashing old principles and saying, "Parents need to do these things to make good marriages." It also offers practical parenting advice, some of which I'm not entirely sure I agree with, but most of which I think is useful. It also covers topics that I haven't read about in other, similar books, such as having a child with ADHD, blended families, divorce, putting the marriage first above children, etc. And to be honest, I love that he calls people out on their crap about such topics. Some of it is "hard to hear" I'm sure for some, and they may bristle at it, but coming from a human development research background, it follows what the research says and is accurate information without sugar coating.

Because lets be real-- if you're going to be a parent, you should probably be an adult as well.

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### **Hannah Shaffer says**

I hesitated to read this one because I wasn't crazy about his first book "His Needs, Her Needs". But this one is not like the first. The first few chapters were a review from the original book, but the rest of the book has some great practical advice for marriage even one without kids. He covers how to come to an enthusiastic agreement, how to divide household chores, how to budget your time, and how to be partners in training children. He has some good ideas.

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### **Daniel Osborne says**

His Needs, Her Needs for Parents

The author, Williard F. Harley, Jr. encourages page turning via short stories that illustrate the concepts

brought to bear. Walking a fine line, he bridges the intellectual divide of educated and uneducated using easily grasped wordplay and exploring the potential for realities that inspire.

Clear and informative, the stories shared of those that have been in his counseling care allow the reader to examine their own lives without an accusatory or demanding tone.

While almost dogmatically introducing key concepts throughout the book, one thing does become clear; if you want a happy marriage, and family, you must have enthusiastic agreement.

In short, this book is a great conversation starter. I can't say that I agree with every view or approach offered, but there is enough actionable material and concepts of worth proffered that I would recommend it.

Those seeking to start a family, or simply looking to better their home environment, will find wisdom within.

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### **Surfergirl says**

I read the author's first book, "His Needs, Her Needs" and loved it. This is not just a regurgitation of his previous book though. They are both challenging, and this one is more challenging. Especially if you read it with your spouse, be prepared to make some changes... because even if you think you're a darn good spouse already, you will find more tips than you can imagine on being better.

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### **Erica says**

Some good pointers for the needs of the relationship after the kids arrive and distract you.

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### **Danielle Wells says**

I liked this book...I did. But it was a lot of repetition from the first book, "His Needs, Her Needs". But if you're just coming into this not having read the first book, then you won't feel as bogged down as I was.

This book includes the following topics: why romance matters in marriage, meeting emotional needs, the policy of joint agreements, undivided attention toward your spouse, expanding your family, child training, dividing domestic responsibilities, blended or mixed families, dealing with intrusive in-laws and keeping sex life alive.

I don't think that you would be sad if you read it. It's written in an easy to understand manner. It's straightforward with lots of real-life examples.

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### **Adly Ghaly says**

It's really good book

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**Julie says**

Helpful although not completely realistic--we're not going to have 15 hours of undivided couple time attention in a week, and enthusiastic agreement concept is interesting but how to get there?

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**Charly Troff (ReaderTurnedWriter) says**

This was a great marriage book. I loved how the author focused on working together and how he gives specific things you can do to keep the love and romance alive. I also liked looking at strengthening my marriage through the lens of parenthood, because it is a lot harder once the kids come.

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