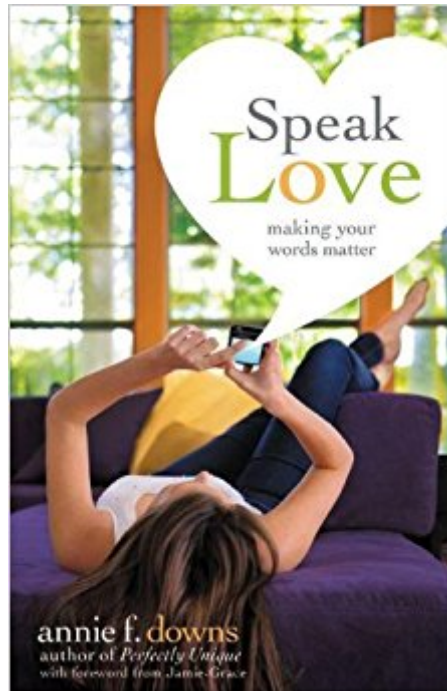




The book was found

Speak Love: Making Your Words Matter



Synopsis

You've heard, "Think before you speak" a hundred times, and probably shrugged it off just like that other insightful phrase, "Your face will freeze like that if you're not careful." But unlike a facial expression, our words do stick around. (Just think about middle school a sec. See?) Which means everything you say – from what tell your friends, whisper about your enemies, post online, mutter to yourself, or even say to the celebrity you ran into at the coffee shop – carries a whole lot of power. The question is, are you ready to use that power to make a real difference? Because the truth is, you could be part of the first generation who uses their words to build up and not tear down, and even kill the mean girl mentality. Through very funny stories, Scripture, and a real understanding of the good, bad, and ugly ways we can use our words, Annie Downs explores the difference you can make when you speak love to others, to God, and even to yourself. Because when you speak love, you speak life. And that's what matters.

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Customer Reviews

Annie F. Downs is an author and speaker based in Nashville, Tennessee. Flawed but funny, she uses her writing to highlight the everyday goodness of a real and present God. Annie is the author of two books for teens: *Perfectly Unique*, a spiritual growth book for high school and college girls, and *Speak Love*, a challenge to women on how to use their words to make a difference in the world. By weaving together personal stories, humor, and Scripture, she invites the young women reading to experience fulfilled lives with a God who made them on purpose and loves them deeply. When she's not working on books, Annie spends her days writing all over the internet-

blogging at AnnieBlogs.com and [\(in\)courage.me](http://(in)courage.me) - sharing truths about her life in Nashville as a single Christian woman and the stories that are woven into each day. Annie also loves traveling around the country speaking to young women as a Girls of Grace speaker as well as at other retreats and events. Annie is a huge fan of singer/songwriters, burritos, her community of friends, and sports of all kinds.

Annie Downs provides a well written, easy to relate to, practical guide to women (especially our younger generations) about the power of our words. What's great is she has provided both stories and ideas about how our words affect each area of our life AND practical tools (for instance, memory verses, journaling ideas) to know God better, which will strengthen our ability to use words for good! She has a great, conversational style of writing, so it's easy to understand why these ideas matter. She has placed resources for each chapter at the end and an excerpt to a new devotional companion. Very cool and this would be great to use with high school and college age small groups! Annie has done it again with providing important information on topics that are important to our young women. Thank you, Annie, for your Gilgal! P.S. We saw you speak at Girls of Grace and love that your wisdom about words is now in book form!

This book is about using your words to build each other up and not to tear each other down. This book reminds you that your power is in your words. This book is about loving yourself and also loving others. This book was not written for the target audience AT ALL. This book was written for EVERYONE. (Hey, I told Annie this [sorry- but too many close connections you are now Annie and we are friends- from one email but hey go with me on this] in the email I sent her. She is pretty awesome.) I thought that I was going to read this book and just get ideas for class topics from it. But I don't think that will work. The brilliance of this book is that it is a perfect class book. It has memory verses, discussion questions, and homework/journaling built in. I am going to use it for my proposal for this class. I will say that while this book is awesomely amazing- she leaves out some important stuff. When she talks about becoming a Christian she only mentions asking Jesus into your heart. There isn't really any mention of repenting or baptism. And guys that is important. Both of those things are commanded of us. Jesus says repent AND be baptized. So while yes, you need to ask Jesus into your heart and keep him there, you also need to ask for forgiveness and be baptized like he commanded of you. Thus reveals I problem that I have with most of my favorite writers these days but I digress. So this is the part where I say go buy the book- GO BUY THE BOOK- but I am also going to say this; if you have a teenage girl (I would say boy because so much applies to them

but it was directed at girls) this would be a great gift for them. I would even venture to say a girl who is in the fifth grade up. OR is you are in charge of a small group at your church for teenagers or for grown women (yes, we need it too) it would be a great book for your next study. The pre-order swag is probably all gone as this book comes out on August 20 but you can still try here or if it's after the 20th then the book is still worth the cost. You can buy the book at all major retailers.** I was provided with a copy of this book via Netgalley in exchange for my review. All opinions are my own.**

Annie F. Downs has done it again! I loved Perfectly Unique, and Speak Love is just as good. Speak Love is written mostly for teenage girls, but other women can glean beauty from the text, too. Annie convincingly builds a case (that's God-centered and Scripture-based) about WHY we need to speak love. According to her, we are supposed to follow God's example. We are supposed to reflect Jesus. My favorite part of Speak Love is the powerful quotables that make me think hard. I also love the illustrations and advice concerning bullying. With compassion and conviction, Annie speaks straight to the heart of those who are considered "mean girls". The author calls Speak Love an "offensive book", but it's not offensive in a bad way, it's offensive in a very good way! The intent of the book is to inspire people to take the loving offensive in their relationships. I sincerely recommend Speak Love to anyone who struggles with "speaking love".

Annie Downs -- she's been that girl. The one who used her words to hurt or look cool in front of her friends. So she can speak to girls about the power of words. This generation has so many ways to use words than ever before. Is it possible they can be a generation that will SPEAK LOVE to one another? Absolutely! My girls and I have laughed and giggled throughout the book. Annie will crack you up, but then she'll turn around and hit you with a spiritual truth right in the gut. I like a girl that can do that to you.

Great to use as a companion with the Speak Love devotional. This book is geared toward teenage girls, but I as a 26 year old, still enjoyed it. Downs writes in a very down-to-earth style, as if she were your girlfriend sitting across the coffee shop table from you just chatting. Awesome to get you thinking about how you use your words--to build up or tear down. I would highly recommend this to women of any age!

This is an absolutely incredible book! As a college-aged girl who sometimes (read: frequently)

misuses the power of words, this book challenged me and convicted me to use my words to bring life to those around me. Honestly, I wish this book had come out during my middle school/ high school years, because the younger version of myself needed to hear Annie's message. Buy it, read it, and pass it on to the young women in your life!

Good book. Easy read but very meaningful.

This makes a good gift for friends or family.

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