

## Happily Ever After the Honeymoon: *Secrets to a Successful First Year of Marriage*

50,000-word Christian Living

Status: proposal and sample chapters complete



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Newlyweds do not enter marriage desiring to be a divorce statistic. Too often couples give up before the first year is complete. *Happily Ever After the Honeymoon: Secrets to a Successful First Year of Marriage* helps prepare couples by offering practical wisdom peppered with inspirational stories.

By unlocking secrets in a simple, pragmatic manner, this book is the ultimate starting point for Christian couples whose goal is “till death do us part.” Bulleted lists and sidebars allow for easy perusal of subjects, while the chapter discussion questions challenge newlyweds to develop intimacy through introspection and conversation. *Happily Ever After the Honeymoon* uses examples from seasoned veterans looking back on their own first year challenges, including some from the author’s own experience, to validate newlyweds in a heartwarming and humorous way.

This book targets brides-to-be, as well as those who buy gifts for newlyweds. Since more than 2 million couples are expected to marry in 2004, the potential readership is sizeable. The author has unique and innovative methods of promotion, including specialty venues and internet sources.

Newlyweds want to read about *n-e-w-l-y-w-e-d* issues. Other advice, instruction, and training comes through marriage seminars and retreats or other books bought later on in the marriage. During the first year, they want (and need) to concentrate on the following:

- Living with a new roommate (their spouse!)
- Managing finances
- Dealing with in-laws
- Maintaining individual identity and interests
- Sharing housework
- Transitioning from a euphoric “in love” feeling to a true lifelong commitment

This book incorporates several helpful **features** for couples that have too little time to read or work on improving their marriage including bulleted lists and sidebars, relevant discussion questions to help couples initiate discussion, and a distinctive font for the inspirational stories—couples can skip them or go right to them, depending on their preference.

Additional titles that would be effective in helping a niche readership deal with almost any life-changing event could include the following:

- *Happily Ever After a Infertility*
- *Happily Ever After Depression*
- *Happily Ever After Bringing Home a New Baby*
- *Happily Ever After Becoming a Stay-at-Home Mom*
- *Happily Ever After Your Children Start School*

Only two Christian publications exist that exclusively address the first year of marriage:

- ***Great Expectations: An Interactive Guide to Your First Year of Marriage* by Toben and Joanne Heim**, NavPress, 2000. The Heims share about their own personal struggles and adjustments during their first year of marriage in a warm, honest presentation. Though the subject matter is similar, my book will use inspirational stories from couples from all over the country.
- ***The New Bride Guide: Everything You Need to Know for the First Year of Marriage* by Ellie Kay**, Bethany, 2003. Kay covers information from planning the wedding and honeymoon to decorating on a budget to intimacy and communication—with a tremendous emphasis on the financial aspects of each. My book deals with a range of topics for the time after the honeymoon.