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Wild And Free: A Hope-Filled Anthem For The Woman Who Feels She Is Both Too Much And Never Enough



Synopsis

For all the fullness of God available to His daughters, we often feel limited by two defining insecurities: “I am too much,” and “I am not enough.” Co-authors and best friends Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan have felt the same, until one essential question turned the tables on it all: If God is wild and free and he created women, what does this mean for us today? Wild and Free is an anthem and an invitation in equal parts to find freedom from the cultural captivity that holds us back, and freedom to step into the wild and holy call of God in our lives. With fresh biblical insight tracing all the way back to Eve and a treasury of practical application, Jess and Hayley reveal how women today can walk in the true liberty we already have in Jesus. Because you don’t have to be everything to everyone. You don’t have to try so hard to button it up and hold it together. And you certainly don’t have to quiet the voice that God gave you when he created you to sing. Wild and Free will help you shake off the lies of insecurity in your life, and step forward to maximize your God-given influence for his glory and the world’s good.

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Customer Reviews

Wild and Free is equal parts encouragement and challenge to live the wild and free lives our heavenly Father has planned for us. Through Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan’s open and honest writing, I felt like I’ve gotten to know them better, to know myself better, and most importantly to know the loving God I serve better! Read it for yourself and for your daughters. (Korie Robertson, Duck Dynasty and author of Strong and Kind) Imagine living in the moment with

God, defined by His truth, without the weight of shame, fear, insecurities, or expectations of others. It's not too far out of reach! Page by page, Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan are the friends who take your hand and transparently lead you to that beautiful place with the Lord. Every woman needs to read *Wild and Free*! (Lysa TerKeurst, New York Times bestselling author and president of Proverbs 31 Ministries) I tend to play it safe, hesitate, and shy away from becoming all God created me to be. With the passionate voice of two visionaries and the beautiful blend of gut-honest truth shared from their own stories and struggles, Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan have written a message every woman needs to read. (Renee Swope, author of *A Confident Heart* and Proverbs 31 Ministries radio cohost) As a woman who sometimes doesn't believe it's actually possible to live wild and free, this book is water to my soul. Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan's words are full of grace and truth as they remind us that being wild and free is actually how we were always created to be. (Jamie Ivey, podcast host of *The Happy Hour with Jamie Ivey*) *Wild and Free* is a breath of fresh air. Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan share their hearts and their story with refreshing candor, vulnerability, and grace. I love them. I love this book, and I know you will too. (Alli Worthington, author of *Breaking Busy: How to Find Peace and Purpose in a World of Crazy*) *Wild and Free* is the missing puzzle piece for anyone who has ever felt like they are stifling a rebellious streak, crazy whim, or creative idea. This book promises to point those urges in God's direction and will bolster your confidence to help you live out your hidden purpose. (Whitney English, founder and creator of *Day Designer*) *Wild and free* are two of my favorite words, and now there's a book that explores both in a way that is practical, applicable, and relatable. I love how Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan dig deep into not only the how but also the why behind each word! Each chapter will make you feel inspired and encouraged to pursue both, not just in principle, but in practice. (Bianca Juarez Olthoff, writer, teacher, and chief storyteller for A21) Into the milieu of self-help, "do more, try harder" books and Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest pressures, Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan have given a sweet gift to the women of their generation---freedom from finding our identity in anything aside from the love of our heavenly Father and the work of Jesus Christ. With refreshing transparency and deep devotion, they respond to the pressures women experience today with answers that are anything but trite religiosity. Because we are loved by God, we can live in freedom and find a place of rest as He grows us into all He has for us. I'm honored to recommend their fine work. (Elyse M. Fitzpatrick, author of *Good News for Weary Women*) Open these pages only if you are ready for your life to be radically changed. Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan have penned an important message of grace and truth for women, freeing them from the chains of misplaced

identity. Like a conversation with two wise friends, Wild and Free is refreshing balm for weary souls like mine. I laughed, cried, and danced in celebration as I devoured these nourishing words!

I'm grabbing extra copies for my daughters to read when they are older. This book will no doubt change generations as women walk alongside Jess and Hayley, uncovering the truth that in Christ alone, we are free. (Lara Casey, author of Make It Happen) If you feel small and scared, constantly worried about pleasing God or finding his good plans for your life, then I have good news! Wild and Free is the key to unlocking that cage of anxiety and flying straight into the freedom Christ died to give you. (Susie Davis, author of Unafraid and cofounder of Austin Christian Fellowship) Wild and Free touches the deepest parts of a woman's heart, giving her permission to both live with abandon and shed the shackles of doubt and unworthiness. Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan's friendship is felt with the turn of each page and reminds us we're not alone. In fact, their relationship reminds us we're part of a beautiful community of women who desperately want to love big and live unapologetically meaningful lives---wild and free. (Emily Ley, creative director of Emily Ley Paper & Gifts and author of Grace Not Perfection) Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan have given you the key to unlock the dungeon of performance and perfectionism. Read this book and watch the chains fall off---and then come outside and rest in the warmth of God's great love. (Jessica Thompson, author and speaker) What Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan have done here is a beautiful work. It reflects not only the truth of the gospel, but also the truth of who they each are and how uniquely God has made us. I'm thankful for the way Wild and Free gave me permission to be me and to love others the way Christ does. (Annie F. Downs, author of Looking for Lovely and Let's All Be Brave) Where social jockeying is the norm and self-worth is measured in clicks, our hearts are in exile. Where do I fit? And can this world even handle me? Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan's words are gospel-soaked arrows of hope shot through the desert noise. As it turns out, the opposite of lost is free. (Shannan Martin, author of Falling Free (available fall 2016)) If ever there was a time for a book about how freedom in Christ directly speaks to womanhood in our demanding culture, it is now. No matter what our particular calling as women, we are enough! But goodness, I needed this truth in this way from women who are struggling to figure it out, just like I am. (Jami Nato, blogger/writer/speaker) Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan are a dream team role model duo for young women everywhere. Their minds, souls, and spirits are wildly different, but together, their hearts gracefully point to one common purpose: to find freedom and rest in God alone. (Erin Loechner, author of Chasing Slow (forthcoming), Design for Mankind blog) In a culture where we are constantly bombarded with the message to fit in and conform, Wild and Free is a desperately

needed call to action, summoning the passions, desires, and dreams that have, for far too long, been hidden in the caverns of our hearts. Jess Connolly and Hayley Morgan have somehow managed to unpack our Christian boxes and ideologies, leaving us with the freedom--- God's freedom---to run wildly in the direction of the call of God in each of our lives. (Kenneshia Buycks, inspirational speaker and writer, Restoration House blog)

Jess Connolly is a gal who is in the thick of it herself. She is the co-owner of All Good Things Collective print shop and helped start both She Reads Truth and The Influence Network. She and her husband planted Gospel Community Church in Charleston, South Carolina where they live with their four children. She blogs at jessconnolly.com. Hayley Morgan is a writer, speaker, and entrepreneur who inspires women to create lives of more passion and less fuss. She and her husband started Wildly Co., an ethical children's clothing line, and she is also the cofounder of the Influence Conference and Network. Hayley lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, with her husband and their four sons. She blogs at www.HayleyEMorgan.com.

A hope-filled anthem for the woman who feels she is both too much and never enough. This book had me at its tagline. As a spiritual-but-not-exactly-Christian woman, I hesitated as to whether or not I should read it. In the end, I am so grateful to have followed the gentle nudging of my heart toward this book and its message. Let's be clear: this is a Christian book -- written by Christian women, for Christian women. And, while I have recently followed the gentle tug of my heart to explore the Christian faith, I don't know that I could honestly or accurately call myself a Christian. As a "non-Christian," I read this book knowing that I am not the intended reader - and that my interpretation of its message may differ from that intended by the authors. In my fledging exploration of Christianity, I will admit that I found myself stumbling around some of the language used throughout this book. The authors define WILD as: walking in who God made us to be and FREE as: resting in what Jesus has done for us. I still struggle to fully understand or accept this definition of FREE. Even so, I cannot help but express that the message underlying this book is such a beautiful call: one of turning away from the limiting stories of the dominant culture, and instead surrendering our lives to the call that has been placed in our hearts: to share our gifts in service and as an expression of God. Jess and Haley share so openly their own struggles and wrestling with feeling both "too much" and "not enough," a theme I believe all

women in this culture can relate to. I found their heartfelt stories of struggle and surrender so comforting and encouraging. The book's tagline is not an empty declaration: this book is, in fact, a hope-filled anthem. If, like me, your heart tugs yearningly as you read this tagline, I urge you to open your heart and your mind to hear the underlying message within this book's pages. You may stumble, as I did, with the specifically Christian perspective of this book. Even so, it is worth the open-hearted wrestling the book will inspire in your heart and mind. I recognize the irony of reading a book in which the ultimate message is redemption in Christ, while conveniently "reading around" that particular part of the message. I hope the authors of this book will forgive this as I read their book through the lens of my own authentic (if imperfect) faith. "You are as holy as you are, as wild as you are, as free as you are, and as loved by God as you are." Please note: I received an advanced copy of this book in exchange for this honest and heartfelt review.

I just finished reading this book and loved every word. If anyone is in need of encouragement, this book is for you. Essentially, the book talks about how if we're saved by God, we are free in Christ and can live like it. We are not bound to others' expectations, and this brings us freedom in daily life, because of what Christ has done. One of my favorite quotes (there were so many!): "To be fully known and fully loved gives us immense and crazy freedom to be the woman God made us to be, to respond to the Holy Spirit without reservation. He has equipped us fully with His power and truth." This book that has made a big impact on me.

This book totally changed my life, no joke. I was on the verge of a huge spiritual breakthrough when I found this and it was just what I needed to help me get to the next level. It's a wonderful read for any woman on her spiritual journey. Well written with passionate voices from both authors. Must read!!

This book is a surprisingly deep look at how we buy into the lies perpetuated by society that women cannot be wild and free, much less in Christ. We're either told we're too "out there" or else we're "not enough," neither of which is true. Connolly and Morgan encourage their readers to live free and unashamed in the knowledge that they are daughters of the True King, and offer real-life examples of what that might look like. They also share their own struggles and experiences. The result is a

really honest, encouraging read. 4/5 stars.

Wild & Free is so very much worth the read. I think I am going to have to choose actual reading over listening. There is so much I wanted to highlight, but since I was listening while driving, I couldn't highlight what I wanted to. I know I could have stopped, pulled over, but I never would have been able to get back on the road!!!! Read it. *Wild & Free* by Jessi Connolly & Hayley Morgan

When you read Wild and Free it feels like Jessi and Hayley are sitting in your living room gently revealing life changing gems. So often we put God in a box and try to fit Him into our lives instead of living wild and free. Y'all God is wild, and we were created in his image. He created us to live in freedom for His glory!

"BEST BOOK I'VE EVER READ a part from the Bible. I honestly believe every woman should read this book! It's incredibly raw, honest, and beautifully written. The language used is simple yet deep. It takes an honest look at how women are already wild and free in Jesus Christ based on Genesis 1 and Galatians 5:1. As I read it I felt that the authors' words were my words. Their feelings about being too much or never enough were also my feelings. My life has changed because of Wild and Free. I know I can walk into God's purposes for me as a wild and free beloved daughter of the King after reading it." -Kimberly Strunk

This book should be on your gift list for every woman you know! I can't remember the last time I finished reading a book and had to immediately begin again just to soak it all in.... There is so much honesty, transparency, and Truth poured out on each and every page. Neither of the authors avoid bold challenges to the lies we tell ourselves and the impossible standards we use to measure ourselves, but blanketed these with biblical love and the encouragement you would expect from someone who loves you dearly. I love how the chapters are written in an alternating style with Jess Connolly writing all of the "wild" chapters and Hayley Morgan authoring all of the "free" ones. It's simply a conversation between friends, and you're included! Buy it, Read it, Share it. Rinse. Lather. Repeat.

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