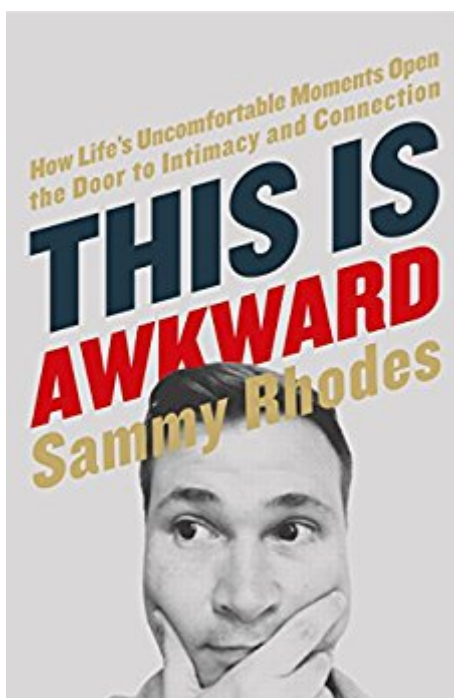


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This Is Awkward: How Life's Uncomfortable Moments Open The Door To Intimacy And Connection



Synopsis

Don't waste your awkwardness. The most difficult subjects in our lives are also the ones that we find most uncomfortable to talk about: divorce, body image, sexuality, pornography, or depression. Our awkward silence reveals the gap that exists between what we are and what we know we should be. But God loves those awkward moments, Sammy Rhodes argues, because they are precisely where we find connection with God and one another. In *This Is Awkward*, Rhodes talks directly, honestly, hilariously about the most painfully uncomfortable subjects in our lives. In chapters like "Parents Are a Gift (You Can't Return Them)" and "The Porn in My Side," he boldly goes where most of us fear to tread, revealing that we can be liberated by the embrace of a God who knows the most shameful things about us and loves us all the same. Because nothing is too awkward for God.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An imperfect book by an imperfect person, and that's what I enjoyed so much about it. I've noticed a

few readers have found issue with the writing style, especially with the seemingly random journal entries, but I liked them. I found they broke up some heavy moments and helped show that he knows he's not a perfect person with perfect answers. I found the writing sincere and the general message powerful. There are several areas of his story I can identify with and they hit home hard. There is a lot of truth here. There are a few references and jokes that don't land, but this added to the real awkwardness that would have been more egregious had they been removed in editing. This is a book I needed to read at this point in my life and one I'm glad to have owned to mark up and be able to re-read later.

I've never preordered anything in my life (unless you count those Star Wars tickets for my son) until I saw a Tweet from Sammy Rhodes that he was writing a book. That might not mean much to someone reading a book review from a customer you don't know personally, but it was meaningful enough I made it a life event on my Facebook page. Where to start a review? Should I start with the author? Well I don't know Sammy Rhodes personally. Besides the times he has interacted with me on Twitter and that we share some common friends I have never met him or talked with him in person or on the phone. Up to this point in my life the best thing Sammy Rhodes has done for me personally is given one of my tweets the most likes of anything I've ever done on social media. Well that has changed with his book *This is Awkward*. *This is Awkward* is a fantastic book that should be shared in every congregation across America, in every small group setting, and in every living room that has a book shelf (or tablet) to treasure this book for a long time. When I preordered *This is Awkward* I had no idea what the book would be about. That didn't matter to me. Why? Well two reasons. First was I have really enjoyed Sammy Rhodes sense of humor on Twitter and with other social sites like Instagram and Periscope (which reminds me you never really go on vacation unless you share the experience with other people you don't know by going live on Periscope). His sense of humor is one that matches this fellow introvert, but I'm actually older than him so it is more like he matches his humor up to me. Secondly as a believer in Christ and as a PCA Elder I'm drawn into other people's life experiences. We all have a story to tell (our testimony - if you are a Christian reading this). Sammy Rhodes' story is one that will be very captivating to the reader, but it is also a reminder that God uses us and our experiences in different ways and it is a reminder that we are broken. The question you must ask yourself if you feel or you realize that you are broken or you are not as you should be is this "Who am I?" The Bible has much to say about who we are. One of the more interesting passages to me comes at the end of the 6th Chapter in 1 Corinthians

(that is One Corinthians if Donald Trump is reading this review). After Paul is telling the Corinthians all these things about fleeing sexual immorality and how they should treat their bodies he sums up with a reminder that John Calvin described as the verses of what the Christian Life is spent working out all the rest of our days. Paul says "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." Sammy Rhodes wonderful book This is Awkward is a terrific reminder to my heart that God is using us now to reflect the light of Christ into this world. I didn't have the same experiences that Sammy Rhodes had with each chapter in his book , but what I can tell you is that each chapter is a help to me in gaining a better understanding and a better way to minister to people that have had similar struggles. Don't get me wrong. To me this is not a self-help book. In other words don't expect to get the answers in how to approach depression, divorce, or abuse. Instead you are going to get an understanding of someone who has gone through it and still goes through it. Yet he reminds us like Paul that we are not our own. Last two things I will say about this book are this: I'm reminded of the vivid scene from Les Miserables where Jean Valjean is going through a struggle in his mind about coming forward to save an innocent man (it is in the book). What goes through his memory is when he was shown grace from the priest earlier in his life. And now he has a chance to share that grace with someone else (someone he doesn't know). Sammy Rhodes doesn't know me and chances are he doesn't know you, but because of him humbling himself to the point to write This is Awkward he has shown grace in a similar way. The other thing I will say is Sammy Rhodes' humor will have your sides hurting. I live my life with laughter each and every day. In some ways it is an escape, but I was so glad to see somebody else say this and write it down "Within the gift (laughing at ourselves) is another hidden gift; the realization that things aren't as bad as they seem, and that they will not go on this way forever. If you need to smile, if you want to smile more, if you are getting dragged down by negativity from the news or reading Facebook post, then you should take a pause in your life and pick up this book because you need to realize that laughter is a gift from God. Laughter can sometimes be the best medicine to get you through the day.

This is Awkward is a book for everyone, because everyone is awkward. As an extremely awkward introvert with a case of RBF, standing in the corner at parties with my headphones in scrolling through my twitter feed is the norm and since I can't look up long enough to be friendly I've never realized I'm not the only one who does this. Sammy puts into words my struggle to be vulnerable, to look up from my isolation long enough to realize I need to pursue real relationships and friendships,

and my lack of trust in God's love for me at all times. The last two chapters, in particular, wrecked me as I realized how the sudden loss of my father three months ago has caused me to drift towards my ridiculous sounding and very fleeting idols of desired twitter fame and approval of others instead of believing that even though I am suffering God is faithful and is weeping with me as I miss my dad. If I was your awkward introverted friend, I would hella awkwardly give this awkward book to you.

I don't often write book reviews. Frankly, this is the first review I've posted on , but I decided about three chapters into This Is Awkward that I would have to review this one. I "knew" Sammy before he published the book. I've followed him on Twitter for five-ish years now, and I watched everything go down with @prodigalsam, hoping that Sammy would come back better than ever afterwards. I was glad when he returned to Twitter and was even more glad to hear he was writing a book. I thought I was buying the book for the humor. My friend and I had very loosely committed to reading it together, slowly as we both have busy careers, but when I started reading, I couldn't really stop. I'm a young high school English teacher, and there's usually enough going on in my life that I push personal reading time to the back burner, but I made it through This Is Awkward in a little over a week. I loved it because it's real. Sammy covers topics that we need to hear about. He is honest about his own insecurities, which I think makes the book that much more enjoyable - because you know he's really presenting himself, it's not smoke and mirrors. Sammy Rhodes, if you ever read this: your book was the ultimate example of "going second" (I think that was the term - I've already lent my copy to one of my students, so I can't be sure). You were real. You were genuine. You were transparent, and you made me feel like I am not alone in feeling imperfect. That imperfection is okay and is a feeling everyone encounters, even if they're unwilling to share it all the time. And above all else, God uses our imperfections to speak to other imperfect people. Your book was a source of both comfort and encouragement. Thank you for writing. Please keep it up; it makes a difference.

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