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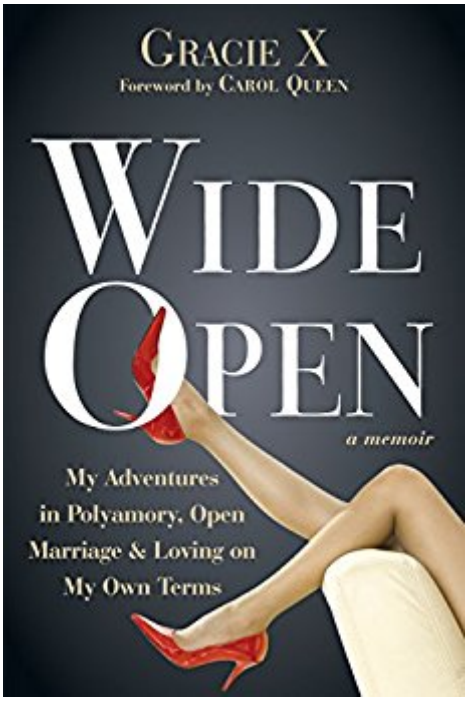
Wide Open: My Adventures In Polyamory, Open Marriage, And Loving On My Own Terms



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Synopsis

At a time when society no longer imposes many sexual taboos, why is open marriage still considered beyond the pale? Written by Gracie X, Wide Open is an enthusiastic, honest, and sometimes raw account of one womanâ ™s experience living polyamorously within the context of her average American family.Gracie Xâ ”a suburban mother of twoâ ”has been married to her loving husband, Hank, for 25 years. The problem is that their once-vibrant sex life has shriveled to nothing. Meanwhile, she has fallen in love with another man, for whom she has an overwhelming physical yearning. Frustrated and conflicted but determined not to give up her hard-won home life and wonderful husband, she is desperate for a creative solution.Â Can she somehow keep both men in her life without resorting to divorce or dishonesty?A friend introduces Gracie to polyamory: loving and being faithful to more than one person at a time. â œPoly,â • it turns out, is a whole new world, with dedicated counselors, parties, and dating sites. Convincing Hank ended up being the easy part: he quickly found a girlfriend and accepted Gracieâ ™s terms. Their children, although upset at first, adjusted to having their parentsâ ™ â œspecial friendsâ • around, and having Hank and his girlfriend in one duplex, with Gracie and her new boyfriend, Oz, next-door, seemed like an inspired solution. But would trying to go poly create as many problems as it was trying to solve?In her candid and provocative memoir, Wide Open, Gracie details the years she has spent exploring the poly lifestyle and creating her â œchosen family.â • A fiercely intelligent feminist, she challenges traditional ideas about monogamy, fidelity, and sexuality. From swinger parties and strip clubs to sex toys and pornography, this is an edgy and thought-provoking read. Yet erotica and tenderness share space here, with Gracieâ ™s true love for both Hank and Ozâ ”as well as her two childrenâ ”coming through very clearly.Wide Open revealsâ ”with humor, integrity and heartâ ”how one woman blended love, sex and marriage in unconventional ways and found the fulfillment she was looking for.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've put off writing this review, simply because I'm not sure how to write it. The book stirred all kinds of feelings in me, as a divorced woman in her 40s who has had marriages fail, and multiple relationships fail.Wide Open tells the story of Gracie, who has been married many years to Hank. From my interpretation of the book, at the time they decided to open their marriage they had been married for 25 years. They had children later in life, so their son and daughter are five and ten when the decision is made.The book chronicles their odyssey in finding discussing this decision, coming to the decision, the hard ships faced along the way. The ones that Gracie faces while trying to "date" after the decision is made? She faces what many single women in their 40s do. More difficult for us than it is for men - while Hank seems to find someone almost instantly, Gracie has issues. Further, she has feelings for a man named Oz who she taught pilates too and she really yearns to explore a relationship with him.I found myself taking breaks from the book; yet, I did not want to stop reading. I wanted to know how this decision affected everyone involved (which I do not want to spoil by going into here). Many times, things the author said touched me and I simply had to stop reading to deal a bit with the emotions if stirred.This book will not be for everyone. Those who do not believe in sex or any kind of intimate relationship outside of their marriage will probably not like it at all. What it did for me is bring up many good points about loving your spouse, even when the "spark" seems to die. How a person, no matter their age, wants to feel desirable and wanted by their partner; and that isn't in just a sexual manner either.

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