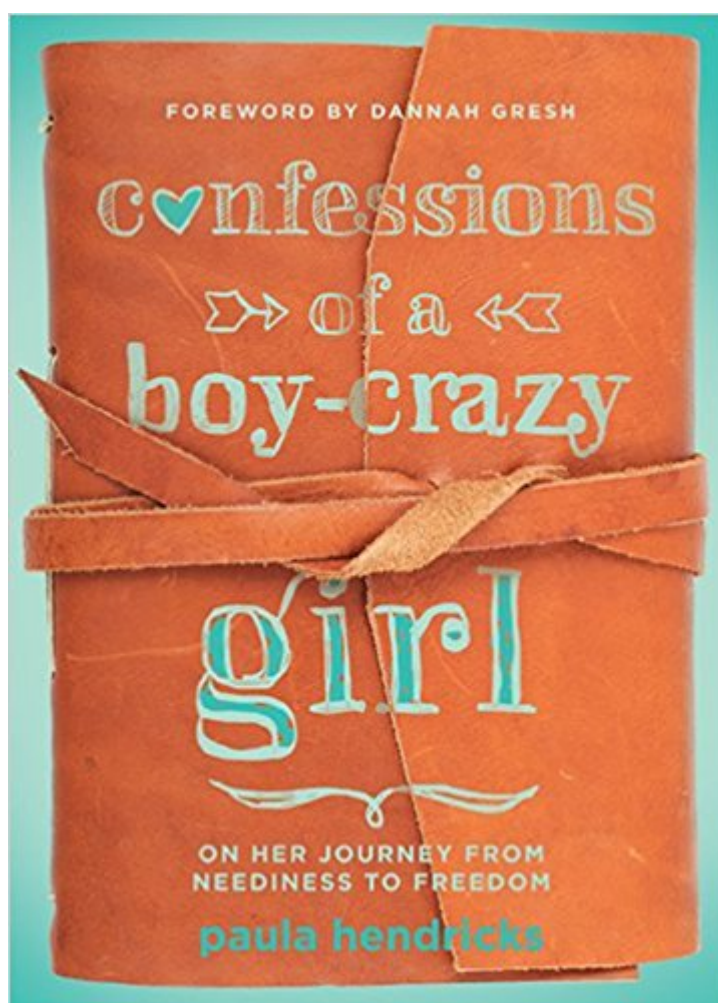


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Confessions Of A Boy-Crazy Girl: On Her Journey From Neediness To Freedom (True Woman)



Synopsis

Sound familiar? 1. You spot a cute boy (we'll call him Boy A). 2. You dream about Boy A. 3. You do whatever it takes to make Boy A notice you. 4. Even though Boy A doesn't pursue you, you hang on to your dream of Boy A until he (a) moves to the North Pole with no access to a cell phone or computer, (b) dies and is buried or cremated, or (c) begins dating another girl. 5. You mend your broken heart by hating Boy A and finding another cute boy (Boy B). You replace Boy A with Boy B and begin all over again . . . Paula has gone through an entire alphabet and more of boys over the years. As she shares her journal entries and stories—the good, the bad, and the ugly—you'll be encouraged to trust God with your love life and buckle up for the ride! Written for teen girls, *Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl* will help you on your own journey from neediness to freedom. A Part of the True Woman publishing line, whose goal is to encourage women to exude God's beauty by embracing his design for womanhood

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Customer Reviews

"Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl is about a girl who is looking to God to help guide her with her love life. Each chapter has some advice on the situation as well as her relating everything to her own life and being boy-crazy. There are also bible passages related to the topic and the first chapter ends with a quiz! (my favorite) And each chapter has an area for you to journal. (Turns out after chapter 1 I found I am indeed boy-crazy. Oh. Wait. I didn't need a book to tell me that!) This book is geared more for girls in their teens but honestly I think there are women of all ages who this book

would help! It is all about being you for you and not worrying about what others think of you or say about you (certainly easier said than done!) and should really get you feeling positive about yourself. When you see Paula's journal entries you will realize that you are not alone and not only did Paula go through it all before - everyone probably did! But now you can learn from what Paula learned with hopefully not having to go through it all yourself."_Katie Wanta, posted on Net Galley August 10, 2013

I can image what some of you may be thinking, "isn't this a book for girls? Why is a guy reading it?" It is true that I am a guy, I am married, I am not a teenager, and I am not boy-crazy. (My wife affirms all the aforementioned) Paula is a good friend of mine and has been for about seven years. We used to attend a discussion group about the application of our Christian faith in today's world. To hear that she was writing a book was a joy and I really wanted to read it. That said, here is a guy's perspective on Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl. The first thing I noticed was the openness that Paula has on the pages. This was not a do/don't type of book. It was Paula's story and what she learned along the way. From early in life to the present day Paula shares struggles, fears, sins, but also joys, growth, and a desire to be Christ-like. What I really appreciate is that Paula is not shy about calling sins in her life what they are: lust, envy, jealousy, fear, etc. Her heart, felt throughout the book, is that girls find their true worth, value, and acceptance in Christ. These are lessons that we all should learn regardless of our sex and age. Another trait running through the pages is passion. Passion to really know God, his son Jesus, and what it means to be a woman who is free in Christ. So much of our culture demands that women dress a certain way, have certain measurements, have flawless features, and that is true femininity. WRONG!!! Paula makes this very clear: acceptance cannot be found in that which will fade away. Beauty is not skin deep, looks are. Beauty comes from loving your Creator and how He created you. Easy? No. Worth it? Absolutely! Paula went through much pain to understand this and shares as much in this journal-like book. Thus, as a youth pastor, I HIGHLY recommend this book not only to girls struggling with boy-craziness but also to those of us who will counsel these young women. Their lives and souls are potentially at stake. To not combat the lies of our culture is to do them an egregious error. Daniel Greigor, posted on Net Galley 5/12/2014

This was an interesting spin and take on how to become an independent person and take dating as it is a day at a time. There are parts that are hysterical and we all can relate to like the middle school crushes. There are parts that will have you laugh so hard you will cry and there are parts where you see extremes. It's funny because she goes to extremes. She is all about the boy and dating and how it never works and it makes her sad and then she goes to the extreme of God being the only way to find the answers. Don't misunderstand me God is important in all lives but a healthy balance is good too. Here she turns to

the bible to answer her questions about her relationships including whether or not to date or continue dating someone. That to me should be a decision of the heart and gut but it does show a interesting take on that concept. It also shows how when she brought religion into her life she became more confident in herself and in life itself. Just the extremes are really eye opening. We can all relate to her dating tales though and they are funny. A fun book about dating and how she left the world of being boy crazy."Melissa Derby, Rating 4 of 5, Net Galley May 15, 2014

Teenage girls often look to others for security and significance—most often, it's boys. Good-looking boys. That was me at the age of sixteen, and had someone put this book in my hands back then, who knows the heartaches I could've avoided. Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl is a must-read for today's young women! Joni Eareckson Tada, CEO/Joni and Friends International Disability Center What a joy it has been to watch Paula on her "journey from neediness to freedom." The transformation has been nothing short of remarkable. Her reflections on that journey are honest, engaging, refreshing, and insightful. In this book, young women will find Paula to be a relatable, caring, wise friend. She will make you laugh; she will make you cry; she will make you think. And she will point you to the only true Satisfaction for a heart that longs to be chosen and cherished. Nancy Leigh DeMoss, author; Revive Our Hearts radio host Love the boy. Hate the boy. Long for the boy. Wait for the boy. If you want off the roller coaster ride of romance, this book is your ticket. In a style that feels like a great conversation with a good friend, Paula gives us front row seats to her up and down ride on the roller coaster of love and then teaches us that there is a better way. You will be encouraged, inspired, and entertained by her story and ultimately you'll find the surprising secret to the lasting Love you're looking for. Erin Davis, author of the One Girl series There are not many words that describe this book . . . because it was amazing. I cannot tell you how much it related to me and gave me the example and Scripture I needed to get through my obstacles. I am really boy crazy and love the thought of love, but this book helped me in more ways than could be counted. Ginni Mathis, a teen reader Here is warm, wise, and clear headed counsel from someone who has dug past the surface and has identified the root cause of boy-craziness. Paula knows firsthand about the "expulsive power of a new affection." Take the quiz in the first chapter and see if this book is for you or for someone you know. With encouraging transparency, deep faith, and wisdom learned in the crucible of pain, Paula Hendricks invites us into her heart. As I read, I saw myself over and over again: as a "boy-crazy girl" and as a woman who has been taught by Christ that He "is in the business of transforming broken girls into beautiful trophies of his grace." Nothing is more

soul-satisfying than the realization that surrender of all to him is not a loss at all. If you are a boy-crazy girl (or woman) or if you're a mom or grandmother who knows one, this book is a wonderful resource. I heartily recommend it!

Elyse M. Fitzpatrick, author of *Found in Him: The Joy of the Incarnation and Our Union with Christ* Here is warm, wise, and clear headed counsel from someone who has dug past the surface and has identified the root cause of boy-craziness.

Paula knows firsthand about the "expulsive power of a new affection."

Take the quiz in the first chapter and see if this book is for you or for someone you know.

Bob Lepine, cohost, *FamilyLife Today* Paula allows us to take a peek into her life through stories, transparent journal entries, and God's guidance along the way. She's relatable, humorous, practical and just plain real. Gospel-saturated and biblically sound, *Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl* provides wisdom for young girls, teens, and moms navigating the tendencies of our boy crazy hearts. Paula has written a book that gives hope for every boy crazy girl.

Trillia Newbell, author, *United: Captured by God's Vision for Diversity* Paula Hendricks has charged right into the heads and hearts of most females with her *Confessions*. I wish I could've read this book as a young teen; it addresses so many common temptations and provides gospel-centered help. With refreshing transparency, Paula invites the reader into her struggles with image, beauty, insecurity, lust, and of course guys! Paula comes alongside the reader as a friend and opens her heart to tell her story. She doesn't run from the tough questions, but uses Scripture to grapple with the heart issues. If you're a teen, you need this book. If you're a parent or you have input into young women's lives, you need this book. May the life lessons Paula shares here impact the next generation for God's glory!

Kimberly Wagner, *True Woman* blogger and author of *Fierce Women: The Power of a Soft Warrior* Boy-crazy? It doesn't have to define you! There's a way to get your heart back. Jump inside *Confessions*, get to know Paula, and find your way out. And in the process, you'll discover that the true love you seek is actually seeking you.

Carrie Ward, author, *Together: Growing Appetites for God* *Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl* is so brutally honest and biblically encouraging that I wish I had read it when I was younger. Like Paula, I also believed that all I had to do was trust God enough and be pretty enough to attract a boy. Wrong! If you're the least bit boy-crazy like Paula (and like me) you will be thoroughly encouraged challenged in your faith and relationships.

Renee Fisher, the *Devotional Diva* is an author of four books including *Not Another Dating Book* and *Loves Me Not*. She writes for young adults at <http://www.devotionaldiva.com>. A great read that is both poignant and relevant to teens today. Paula speaks truth into the lives of her readers in a way that convicts, motivates, and inspires. I know it inspired me!

Katie, a teen girl In *Confessions of a*

Boy-Crazy Girl, Paula bravely opens her heart and journals to confess what many young women struggle with—a deep need for a guy’s approval. This raw and honest look into her journey will encourage others to seek the One worthy of seeking. Paula shares how God helped her step off the crazy cycle of heartbreak over meaningless crushes and get on to a more meaningful relationship with Him. Heather Patenaude, author of *Emotional Purity: An Affair of the Heart* “I’ve watched dozens of ‘boy-crazy girls’ wrestle with God on their journey of trying to find love, value, and acceptance in romantic relationships. In *Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl*, Paula intentionally reorients all girls to the gospel with gut-level openness and honesty, and for that I am grateful. Brad Neese, student ministry pastor (and daddy of two beautiful girls) *Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl* takes an honest look at the core heart issues that hide behind the lies and mind games that can keep you trapped in the repeat cycle.. Sprinkled with humor and filled with biblical truth and realistic wisdom it navigates you on your own heart-searching truth journey pointing to a new direction, purpose, and resolution. In the end, it will encourage you to believe unashamedly with Paula and others, “This was me before Christ transformed me from the inside out. This is the radically different person I am today—crazy after Christ!” Susan Henson, founder of Pure in Heart Conference Ministries, coauthor of *Life Lessons from the Princess and the Kiss* and *Life Lessons from the Squire and the Scroll*

This is my first book review, and the first of many to come. I purchased this book on October 31, 2015, but I did not start this book until yesterday May 8th. I finished this book today around 12:53 pm. I first learned of Paula Hendricks from visiting her blog and after reading a few of her posts, decided to purchase the book. Why it took me this long to read the book, I don’t know, but I am fully confident in the scripture that says, "there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens." I don’t think I could have fully appreciated this book until now. This book, while non-fiction, reads like fiction as Paula details the various struggles she endured throughout her heart-rending journey of boy-craziness starting from an elementary schoolgirl. I felt like I was in some ways reading my own story. How often I had allowed crushes and the idea of being in a relationship to consume my thoughts even from a young age. There were points in her story where I yelled "NO!" like a crazy person in a movie theater. There were other points where I laughed. And other points where I wanted to cry. When I read books, I usually like to read straight through without taking notes because it slows me down. But while reading this book, I felt compelled to take notes on some of the things she said, so that I could soak them in and meditate on them. Because that’s where transformation comes from, by meditating on truth and allowing the truth to become a part of

us. Here are some of her thoughts that impacted me deeply: "I have to borrow Christ's thoughts by memorizing His words so I can replace my thoughts His". "But sometimes we'd rather lie to ourselves and do what we want than admit the truth and not do what we want" This is a quote from another book that she included in her book, but still awesome nonetheless: "Jesus preferred remaining ravenously hungry to moving out of line with His Father's will. He would await His Father's word and provision." "You are already loved completely and unconditionally by God. You don't have to fight for attention or find your worth in a boyfriend. I love how passionate she is for Jesus and for knowing God more intimately. You can see it in the pages of this book. Her transparency is incredible and inspiring and I am all the better for reading this book. There are some points in the book where it feels like she's talking to middle school and high school aged girls, and those without an understanding of scripture, but if you can humble yourself and move past that, you will receive so much from this book. I'm 23 and I was challenged by reading this book in ways I didn't think possible. If you're tired of fighting your desires for a relationship and for a particular guy (or guys), if you constantly feel caught up in the waves of your emotions and feel like you're going crazy.... if you are burnt-out on religion and need something new, fresh and honest, read this book and let God speak to your troubled heart. You won't regret it.

"Jesus neither suppresses his feelings nor lets them master him. Desire and surrender are the perfect balance to praying." She doesn't speak to putting to death our desire for a spouse but rather how to dig deep and surrender to God in the process (& embrace the "no's"). I often see so many strong, beautiful women lose themselves in a dating relationship or marriage (& I will be recommending this book). And the best part is that scripture is referenced in every example, because as she points out, the Word is always the way out of obsessing over a guy's affection (or lack thereof).

"All my life it's been God + _____. God + a relationship. God + health. God + a church where I feel respected and helpful. God + a schedule overflowing with activities. You've always been there, God, but I've really sought my happiness in everything but You. Thank You for answering my prayer that I'd be desperate for You. Thank You for continuing to destroy my idols. Thank You for the pressure You're applying to make me more like Jesus." --Paula Hendricks, Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl, p. 117
When I was a teenager, I (like Paula) wanted a boyfriend more than anything else. This desire was so strong that it took over my thoughts, governed my

activities, and dominated every conversation with friends. I 100% believed that a boyfriend was the key to my happily ever after. Early in my teens I was scolded for my boy-craziness. The adults in my life said I was too young to be thinking about boys. By the time I had reached an acceptable age, it was too late for adult guidance. I had been navigating relationships with the opposite sex by myself for years. Let's just say, I had to learn most things the hard way. Now, I'm a mom of a teenage girl. I understand the impulse moms have to shame their daughters out of being boy crazy. It's because I love her so much that I fear, if she gives her heart to a boy, he will break it. I would lock her up in a tower if I thought I could protect my beautiful girl from getting hurt. While that might protect her from outside influences, it would not protect her from her own idolatrous heart. On a regular basis, I have to lay aside my fear, make it safe for my boy-crazy girl to talk to me, and point her to Jesus. Paula Hendricks has written an authentic, yet light-hearted, book that will encourage conversations between boy-crazy girls and their fearful moms. In her book, "Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl," Paula makes it safe for young girls to ask the question: What should I do with these desires? "Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl" is written from the vantage point of a trusted older sister in Christ. Her vulnerability invites the reader to witness the same struggle most of us have/had but are afraid to admit. She exposes the idolatry of boy-craziness without shaming girls for wanting a boy. After all, the desire for the opposite sex is a God-given desire. If we are not transparent about this, our daughters will feel like there is something wrong with them. If we don't guide them, their hearts will be an open invitation for the enemy's lies. It is hard for girls to believe that boyfriends and husbands were never intended to satisfy our deepest longings. This is probably because most every book and movie out there portrays the opposite. I appreciate that Paula's book does not point to a Prince Charming as her happily ever after. Rather she points to the Savior, Jesus who loved His bride so much, He sacrificed Himself for her. I can't think of anything more romantic than that.

I would like to say that though this book is promoted to a younger demographic, me turning thirty in June, I find this book speaks to so many different woman suffering from idolizing men. Many revelations in this book God has been slowly teaching me over the years. About my neediness for a relationship when I need to work on my relationship with God. This book was a confirmation of what God was telling me. This book was also for the most part a very detailed reflection of my own life. It was almost like I wrote it myself. So many crushes, so many disappointments. I wish I had a book

like this when I was in a teen with the cute celebrity boys plastered on my bedroom wall. It would have saved me from much heartbreak over unrealistic dreams. I highly recommend this for not just young girls but those who are older and possibly still single.

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