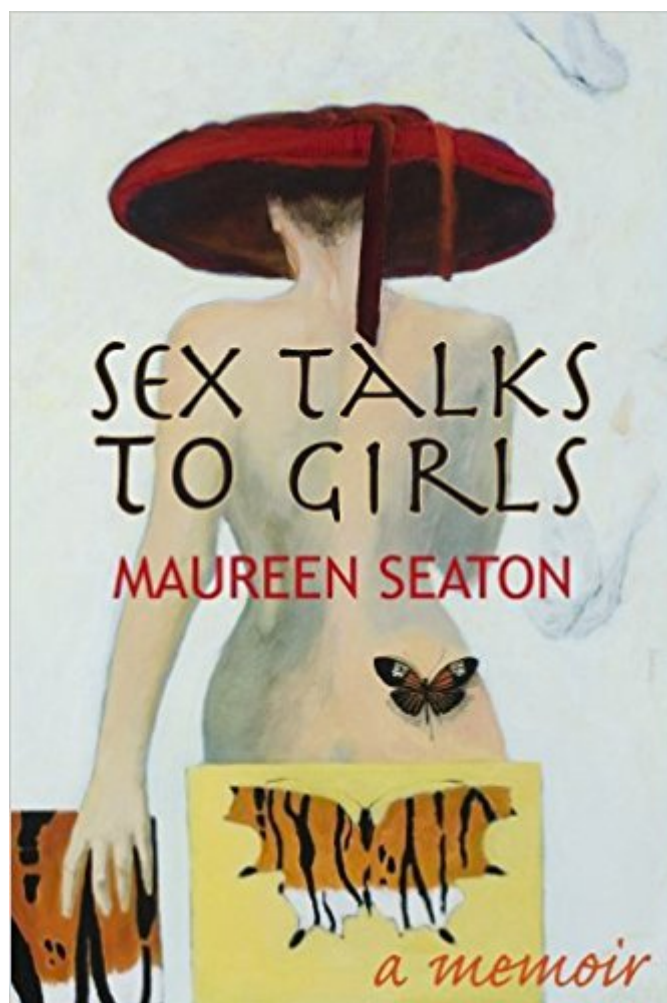


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Sex Talks To Girls: A Memoir (Living Out: Gay And Lesbian Autobiog)



Synopsis

Sex Talks to Girls chronicles the outward antics of a woman on an inward journey to self through the routes of religion, sex, sobriety, and kids. Recasting herself in this memoir as “Molly Meek,” Maureen Seaton interprets the emergence of Molly’s identity in luxurious and very funny prose. Molly alternately finds herself in the surprising company of winos, swingers, and drag kings; in love with Jesus H. Christ and a butch named Mars; in charge of two children; writing stories that shrink painfully to poems without her permission; and incapable of figuring out how she landed in any of these predicaments. She is, by turns, a little saint, a Stepford wife, a bi-mom, and a femme with super powers. Her transformation from near-nun to full-fledged sexual being, accidentally becoming conscious in the process and delighting in the spree is the story of a life set on play and a woman heroically committed to seeing it through. Winner, Lesbian Memoir/Biography, Lambda Literary Foundation Book Awards

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Seaton’s brief, sometimes half-page, chapters provide telling glimpses of moments and people recalled in the bumpy, often funny journey of alter ego Molly Meek as she moves from adoration of Jesus to adoration of anything alcoholic to sobriety and artistic success. Seaton/Molly does her best to raise small daughters Clio and Sophie (both destined for alcoholism and eventual

sobriety) after divorcing alcoholic husband Harper. At an AA dance she meets Charles Bronson-like Jamie, a combination “Chef of Blasphemy” and “Eagle Scout”-long-haired, strong, “quietly charismatic.” They are living in a tiny attic apartment with the girls, ages 7 and 13 in 1984, when now-sober and successful Harper and his second wife “a formidable Wall Street couple” woo the children away with visions of affluent consumerism. Molly is heartbroken. Before leaving Jamie, who has introduced her to porn and swinging sex, she works out her sexual identity, eventually falling for super-butch Mars, whom she initially mistakes for a man. Tears, laughter, separations, booze, interracial lesbian love “just like in the movies.” --Whitney Scott

“What can I say? I loved this book! From the first sentence, *Sex Talks to Girls* caught me, held me often torn between laughter and tears in the bold, brave palm of its generous hand. A fierce, fresh, funhouse ride through the mirrored maze that constitutes one woman’s coming of age and into her own full powers. A. Manette Ansay, author of *Limbo* and *Vinegar Hill* “The journey toward authenticity, toward becoming whole is made palpable in Maureen Seaton’s *Sex Talks to Girls: A Memoir*. It shines its considerable light on the passage from religion toward faith, from self-medication to sobriety, from daughterhood to motherhood, from being the disembodied “good girl” to embracing her own bad lesbian self. In crisp chapters, Seaton leads us, step-by-step, over this harrowing and blissful road, so distinct from yet so much like our own. Terry Wolverton, author of *Insurgent Muse: Life and Art at the Woman’s Building* “*Sex Talks to Girls* presents us with a recognizable life, not the one with a happy ending but the one that is lived one day at a time. Seaton fills her pages with pathos and humor. Elena Georgiou, author of *Mercy, Mercy Me* “In *Sex Talks to Girls*, Maureen Seaton compellingly narrates her passage through a host of roles: pious adolescent, Stepford wife, recovering alcoholic, sexual adventurer and bi mom on the way to discovering her identity as sober lesbian poet. . . .Fast-paced and engaging, Seaton’s memoir builds momentum with snappy prose and very short chapters, some merely a few sentences, none longer than three pages. One can discern a poet’s sense of economy in these brief chapters. Katherine D. Stutzman, *Pleiades*

A perpetual ingenu with more lifestyle choices, ‘Molly’ (Seaton) comes from left field and her sincerity breaks your heart. Confessional/romance/self-help for fellers who don’t read confessional,

romance or *least of all* self-help! Let's see the mass market paperback out there please. Though a bit too 'segmented' or stop/start for the beach (a fresh chapter practically every other page for Pete's sake!) it's quite a page-turner - though it does rather turn to slush before the end[See also the English Cutting up Playgirl and The Importance of Music for Girls]

if i were feeling more articulate i'd say something more than just WOW. maureen seaton knows how to write, baby. if you've read her poetry you already knew that, but now you know she can wield prose, too, and make it wickedly funny, too. this should be a story of pain (alcohol, the search for self, coming out later in life, suicide of loved ones, poverty, divorce) but seaton makes it all fluffy and foamy with maraschino cherries on top, and you forget to feel the pain. in fact, you have the impression she didn't feel any pain -- not at the time, not in writing it -- which is of course impossible, but there you have it. it might be a letdown for some, because some of us take the (many) dark parts of life very seriously, and like to see them described with twice as much seriousness. we take comfort in serious pain. we feel less alone. but seaton says in the intro that this book was a present to her daughters on the 30th year of her sobriety, so it figures: who would want to give a "poignant" story of pain to one's daughters, however triumphant at the end? (note: this is not triumphant at the end or anywhere else: it's just funny). anyway, i don't feel alone. i find pleasure in poignant stories of pain, too (check out my bookshelves!), but don't feel any of the darkness belittled in this brilliant little book. i find it elevated to humor and dazzling, life-giving language.

I am dumbfounded and maybe even jealous that Maureen Seaton wrote and dedicated this no-holds-barred gem of a memoir to her daughters. It's alternately crushing and triumphant, funny and heart-wrenching. And scandalous! She's a swooning mystic, a would-be nun, a delightful drunk, an odd Wall Street wife, a sex-club attendee, a growling mama bear, a non-proselytizing AA poster child, a reluctant poet, a red-headed, interracial fem, and periodically, [last but not least] a displaced New Yorker. If I have left something off the dizzying list, you'll forgive me. The gal and her book of dazzling vignettes manages to chronicle all of that and more. What a role model for living every day to its fullest. And upon reflection, not trying to gloss over any of the shame, the pain, or the delight. I laughed. I gasped. I cried. And repeated passages out loud because the language was so apt. Thanks Maureen!

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