The Unveiled Wife: Embracing Intimacy With God And Your Husband
As a young bride, Jennifer Smith couldn't wait to build her life with the man she adored. She dreamed of closeness, of being fully known and loved by her husband. But the first years of marriage were nothing like she'd imagined. Instead, they were marked by disappointment and pain. Trapped by fear and insecurity, and feeling totally alone, Jennifer cried out to God: What am I doing wrong? Why is this happening to us? It was as if a veil had descended between her and her husband, and between her and God—a one that kept her from experiencing the fullness of love. How did Jennifer and her husband survive the painful times? What did they do when they were tempted to call it quits? How did God miraculously step in during the darkest hour to rescue and redeem them, tearing down the veil once and for all? The Unveiled Wife is a real-life love story; one couple's refreshingly raw, transparent journey touching the deep places in a marriage that only God can reach. If you are feeling disappointment or even despair about your marriage, the heart-cry of this book is: You are not alone. Discover through Jennifer's story how God can bring you through it all to a place of transformation.

Although the title sounds like a Christian marriage advice book, The Unveiled Wife is mostly a chronological narrative of her relationship with her husband with discussion questions at the end of each chapter. I think that a person who has been married less than a decade probably does not have the perspective needed to write a marriage book. I am interested to see what kind of book she
writes in another ten years. Ok, now for the content--I would say spoiler alert, but can you spoil a marriage book by talking about it? Jennifer and Aaron did not have intercourse until they had been married for four years, due to the pain she felt--definitely a difficult and stressful marital problem. She waited a year (!) before consulting a doctor, who did not really take her distress seriously. Rather than find another doctor, or ask for a referral to a psychotherapist, they just kept sort of trying and occasionally asking for advice from couples at church. Throughout the narrative she suggests several factors that may have been to blame: teenage tension with her father, the church culture that focuses on virginity, not having a relationship with God that is intimate enough are just some of the possibilities she mentions. Finally, her husband recalls a comment about chemicals in products affecting a woman with an entirely different problem, suggests giving up ONE product and they consummate their marriage. Later they say that they do not know if the product made the difference or whether it was a placebo effect, but this has become one of her causes. I could not help but think that going to an endocrinologist would have been a great idea (because it may have been the chemicals, no one knows for sure) and going to a therapist would have been an incredibly awesome idea.

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