

ADVANCE PRAISE

Sweet Like Jasmine: Finding Identity in a Culture of Loneliness

By Bonnie Gray

"In a world crying out for kindness and belonging, this is a book needed for our times. *Sweet Like Jasmine* is the gift, a beautiful remembrance that God treasures each of our broken hearts in His sweeping story of redemption."

Ann Voskamp, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Broken Way* and *One Thousand Gifts*

Sweet Like Jasmine feels like having a cup of tea with a kind and brave friend who reminds you of God's love, grace, and how his unseen hand is in all of our stories. It's beautiful and powerful, life-giving and heart-freeing, deeply personal and also soul-touching relatable. I read it one weekend, savoring every word, and didn't want it to end.

Holley Gerth - *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author of *The Powerful Purpose of Introverts*

Bonnie has a gift! Her stories draw you in from the start, with raw honesty that captures the heart of all who are looking for love and belonging in a culture of loneliness and isolation. This book is a healing balm of beauty from brokenness!

Rebekah Lyons, bestselling author of *Rhythms of Renewal* and *You are Free*

"Bonnie has often led the way to freedom and truth by going there first herself. Her ability to invite us as readers into her stories, therefore into our own stories, only makes this world a better, more healed place."

Annie F. Downs, *New York Times* bestselling author of *That Sounds Fun*

If you've struggled with feeling like you don't fit in or aren't good enough, Bonnie's story of finding beauty and belonging in her brokenness will encourage your heart. I loved her poignant retelling of both the sweet and the bitter memories from her childhood and how she can look back and see God's goodness and faithfulness in the midst of it.

Crystal Paine, *New York Times* bestselling author, podcaster, founder of MoneySavingMom.com

In *Sweet Like Jasmine*, Bonnie Gray is an engaging storyteller reminding us of the grace woven through each chapter of our lives. This book is both poetic and insightful. Beautiful and honest. A worthy companion through the wilderness of learning to find our identity. Through stories, letters, cultural insights, and reflections, *Sweet Like Jasmine* generously provides much-needed language and permission to embrace the wholeness of who we are.

Morgan Harper Nichols, author of *All Along You Were Blooming*

No one tells a story like Bonnie Gray! Join her on a journey of vulnerability, discovery, and a growing awareness of God's redemptive power in our lives. Along the way, you'll see that it's right in our broken places that God shows himself strong.

-Kathi Lipp, bestselling author, speaker

"The best writers take us to a different time and place and give us experiences so real we feel we've actually lived them. Bonnie's story is like walking in her shoes as a Chinese-American, experiencing her life, her struggles, her victories. Her life changing words moved me and I know they'll move you too. I love this book!"

Lisa Leonard, jewelry designer, author

In *Sweet Like Jasmine*, Bonnie shares how a nation's exclusionary history collides with a restoring God who loves to cultivate beauty from ashes. Each of Bonnie's stories vividly colors how we are significant to God though we may feel insignificant in society. Because Bonnie concludes each chapter with these three pieces — an introspection, a connection to a creative concept, and a reflection — *Sweet Like Jasmine* is an ideal tool for fostering healing — personal and social.

Dr. Lucretia Carter Berry, instructional designer, author of *What LIES Between Us: Fostering First Steps Toward Racial Healing*

“Sweet Like Jasmine” is an exquisitely written memoir capturing the complicated and nuanced world of living in the intersection of eastern and western values as a Chinese American woman and follower of Christ. Full of hard-won lessons, heartache and redemption, insights into Chinese history and cultural values, and timely truths from God’s Word, Bonnie bravely shares her beautiful story and through it lifts the eyes of the reader to deeper understanding of God’s constant presence, faithful timing, and loyal love.”

Vivian Mabuni, founder and podcast host of *Someday Is Here*, speaker, author of *Open Hands, Willing Heart*

This is one of those stories that will stay with you long after you’ve turned the final page. Bonnie’s story is achingly beautiful, not only because it’s true, but because it is truly transformative. Our two life stories couldn’t be more different, yet Bonnie’s story is also mine. And it is yours. This is a story of the secrets and shame we all carry, and how God is working – always working – to bring beauty out of every broken moment. This book is a treasure.

Jennifer Dukes Lee, author of *Growing Slow and It’s All Under Control*

Sweet Like Jasmine is a love story that will bring beauty and healing to tender places in the heart and deeper compassion for those who have ever felt unlovable or unworthy.

Melissa Michaels, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Love the Home You Have and Dwelling*

Sweet like Jasmine is a beautiful reminder that we are loved and seen by a faithful God. It affirms that God is able to use every aspect of our lives (our past failures, hurts, mistakes, and feelings of unworthiness) and be glorified in it all.

Nia Allen, worship leader, recording artist

Sweet Like Jasmine mirrors the beautiful and sometimes painful complexity of what it means to be human. Bonnie Gray’s memoir honors her rich history as a Chinese American intermixed with the profound goodness of God as she navigates the very real challenges that come from surviving trauma. This is a gorgeous and redemptive story.

Aundi Kolber MA, LPC, therapist, author of *Try Softer* and *The Try Softer Guided Journey*

"I can't remember the last time I couldn't put a book down, but *Sweet Like Jasmine's* poignant story telling mixed with Gospel truths did just that. Bonnie tears away any superficial spirituality and welcomes us into a sacred story. Her hard and holy journey opened my eyes to a deeply personal redemption story that not only pointed to Christ in every chapter, but made me desire more of her courage, bravery and authenticity with each page turned. Don't miss this read."

Jen Schmidt, author of *Just Open the Door*, blogger at *Balancing Beauty and Bedlam*, Founder of *The Becoming Conference*

Bonnie has given her readers a precious gift: her life story. All of our stories deserve to be told, and I am so glad Bonnie has written hers here. In bravely telling her story, she invites all of us to look at the hardest parts of our own stories in a new way: with the light of God’s nearness and grace. You are a beloved child of your Heavenly Father. Read Bonnie’s words and rest in God’s love for you.

Kelly Givens, podcast manager at LifeAudio.com

A beautiful memoir with thought-provoking reflections, *Sweet Like Jasmine* is a captivating blend of powerful story and hope filled self-discovery. I couldn't put it down!

Renee Swope, bestselling author of *A Confident Heart*

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