



For Immediate Release

Contact: Pamela McClure, 615-294-5073

Pamela@mmpublicrelations.com

“I NEVER FELT LIKE I BELONGED”

BONNIE GRAY’S MEMOIR, *SWEET LIKE JASMINE*, EXPLORES FAMILY SECRETS, CULTURAL IDENTITY & WHAT IT MEANS TO TRULY BELONG

*“I was following everyone else’s journey, but now I have found my place in this world.
I have found my true self. I am God’s beloved.”*



Eugene, Oregon (June 1, 2021) — Growing up as a Chinese American daughter of a mail-order bride and a busboy working in San Francisco’s Chinatown, Bonnie Gray never felt like she belonged. She spent her childhood at the corner of ‘East meets West,’ never feeling truly seen, loved or beautiful. Then, at 39, Bonnie found her birth certificate in an old file cabinet and set out to find her childhood home and her father who abandoned her.

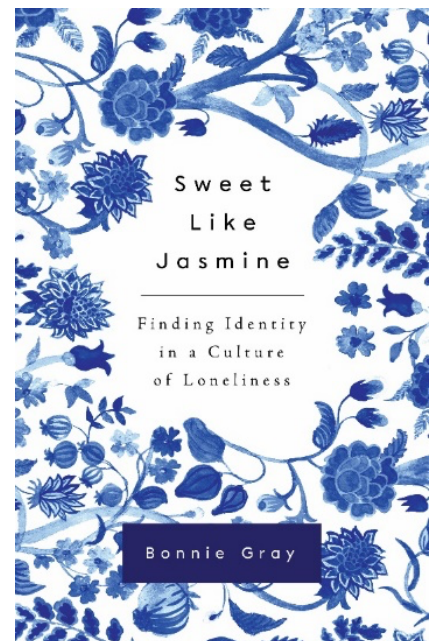
Bonnie Gray’s new memoir, ***Sweet Like Jasmine: Finding Identity in a Culture of Loneliness*** (October 2021, Harvest House), describes a complicated life at the intersection of cultural expectations and her identity as a woman of faith. Tapping insights from Chinese history and truths from Scripture, Bonnie reveals how God uses broken stories to create a beautiful mosaic of His love. “Well into my adult years I was hiding the things that made me feel different and broken,” Bonnie

recalls. “I was following everyone else’s journey, except my own.”

For the first time, Bonnie Gray writes her Asian American story of faith overcoming hardship and abandonment. Bonnie empowers readers to listen to their lives and treasure everything that happens—beautiful and broken—because flaws are meant to be celebrated, not erased.

“I gave up on myself. But God didn’t give up on me. He tenderly gathered all the broken fragments I tried to throw away,” Bonnie writes in ***Sweet Like Jasmine***. “He whispered, ‘What no one wants, I cherish. You are worth loving. You are My beloved.’”

Sweet Like Jasmine allows readers to walk alongside Bonnie through the streets of Chinatown on a vibrant, cultural journey through the sights, sounds and stories of her childhood. Bonnie reveals how she uncovered family secrets (why her father abandoned her), found her true worth (in spite of what her mother told her), and witnessed brokenness made beautiful (finding her father and introducing him to her sons). As Bonnie brings her own secrets to light, she empowers readers to see God in their stories and celebrate their belovedness.



Takeaways:

- ❖ The Problem of Loneliness: Bonnie built a cookie-cutter life, hiding the wounds of “Chinese Bonnie” who lived in a dysfunctional home in poverty, so she could be accepted as cheerful “American Bonnie” who excelled on the school speech and debate team. She invites readers on a journey of self-discovery, one that leaves behind lonely people-pleasing, performance, and striving so they can rest in true belonging.
- ❖ The Revelation of Your True Worth: Bonnie’s sons had never heard Bonnie’s family stories until she embarked on the healing journey described in ***Sweet Like Jasmine***. When she began viewing her life’s brokenness as beautiful, rather than shameful, Bonnie could share her childhood stories with a sense of deep worthiness. She encourages readers to embrace their worth, bask in the light of God’s love, and reflect that love to others.
- ❖ The Joy of Celebrating Your True Self: Bonnie gradually learned to make peace with her difficult past, embracing the flaws which made her human and connected her to faith and to other people. Bonnie helps readers stop trying to look like everyone else and start celebrating their true selves.

Bonnie Gray is supporting the release of ***Sweet Like Jasmine*** with speaking events, Facebook and Instagram videos featuring authors and webinars. Harvest House has launched a pre-order campaign (as of June 1) alongside national marketing and publicity campaigns. Interviews with Bonnie are available now.

Bonnie Gray is the author of *Whispers of Rest*, *Finding Spiritual Whitespace* and *Sweet Like Jasmine*. An inspirational speaker and podcast host of *Breathe: The Stress Less Podcast*, Bonnie touches thousands of lives using storytelling, soul care, and prayer. Bonnie’s global following of readers come to her for inspiring Christian content in her authentic, unique voice. Her writing has been published and syndicated across a broad online audience. Bonnie lives in California with her husband and two sons. www.thebonniegray.com

Harvest House, a Christian publishing company based in Eugene, Oregon, publishes more than 100 books per year and carries a strong backlist offering more than 1,300 titles. Over 140 million Harvest House books have been sold worldwide through diverse distribution channels, and additional millions have sold in over 75 different languages. www.HarvestHousePublishers.com

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Sweet Like Jasmine: Finding Identity in a Culture of Loneliness

by Bonnie Gray

www.thebonniegray.com

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Pamela McClure, McClure Muntsinger Public Relations, pamela@mmpublicrelations.com