



# Spoken For: Embracing Who You Are and Whose You Are

By Robin Jones Gunn, Alyssa Joy Bethke

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## Say Yes to the Love Story of Your Life

A great romance was set in motion before you were born. A relentless Lover is pursuing you, and He has made His intentions clear. He wants you to be His forever. How will you respond to the One who longs for you to be His with your whole heart?

In *Spoken For*, Robin Jones Gunn and Alyssa Joy Bethke speak to your heart about what it means for you to belong to Christ, who you are because of His love, and how that affects the way you live. Drawing on biblical promises and their personal experiences, these two friends share what it's like to live out God's unfolding love story.

You are not up for grabs. You are spoken for.

*Includes questions for group discussion and personal reflection.*

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## **Editorial Review**

Review

### **Praise for *Spoken For***

“*Spoken For* is the kind of book every Christian teenage girl wants to read: a perfect mixture of truth and love story and Jesus and humor. Robin and Alyssa have practically written the handbook for every young woman looking to understand how God feels about them.”

—**Annie Downs, author of *Speak Love and Perfectly Unique***

“*Spoken For* is filled with life-changing truths that will help you discover, strengthen, or reclaim your true identity. This book will teach you how to embrace the person God has created you to be while dispelling the lies that keep you captive. A must-read for every young woman who longs to know her true value, beauty, and purpose.”

—**Allie Marie Smith, founder of *Wonderfully Made* and author of *Becoming Who You Are in Christ***

“I highly recommend this relevant and essential book to any young woman trying to understand romantic relationships, navigating her way through the dating world, or even considering marriage. Robin and Alyssa are candid, thoughtful, and wise as they share personal stories and universal truths. This would be a great tool for mothers and daughters, book clubs, and youth groups. I’ll be recommending it to my young-adult readers.”

—**Melody Carlson, award-winning author of the series *Diary of a Teenage Girl* and *TrueColors***

“Alyssa and Robin have written a book that is so tender and true, full of encouragement for all of us as we try to understand the love of the Savior. You will walk away from this book changed for the better and celebrating the fact that you are truly loved by the One who knows you best, the One who created you with a plan and a purpose.”

—**Melanie Shankle, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Sparkly Green Earrings***

“What makes *Spoken For* unique is the authors’ ability to internalize and understand that we are in the midst of a divine love story! Alyssa and Robin casually and eloquently remind us not only of who we are but whose we are and that we are wanted, loved, and spoken for.”

—**Bianca Olthoff, speaker, teacher, and chief storyteller for the anti-human trafficking organization *The A21 Campaign***

“In *Spoken For*, Robin’s and Alyssa’s gentle honesty and personal stories made me feel as if we were out having coffee together and talking about our love for the Lord. This book is a perfect reminder of how great his love is for us and how sweetly he cares for us.”

—**Erynn Mangum, author of *Paige Torn***

“Anytime two unique voices come together with a unified message, there is power in it. Robin and Alyssa have different perspectives and life stages, but both have experienced God’s relentless love and now want to give it away. *Spoken For* will help you remember your infinite worth because of Jesus Christ and what potential abounds if you will only embrace it.”

—**Jennie Allen, founder of the *IF:Gathering* and author of *Restless***

About the Author

**Robin Jones Gunn**, best-selling author of the much-loved Christy Miller Series and co-author of *Praying for Your Future Husband*, has had more than 5 million copies of her books sold worldwide. Robin's frequent speaking engagements have taken her around the globe. Robin and her husband live in Hawaii and have a grown son and daughter.

**Alyssa Joy Bethke** serves alongside her husband--speaker, author, and spoken word artist **Jefferson Bethke**--as they travel the world sharing God's lavish grace. Alyssa and Jeff live in Hawaii with their daughter and son and their yellow lab, Aslan. She enjoys reading, hiking, paddleboarding, and of course, coffee.

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One bright April morning Alyssa and I (Robin) were busy in my kitchen preparing food for a youth event at church. All the windows were open. A gentle breeze cooled us. The television was on in the background, but we weren't paying much attention. I reached for the remote to turn it off but accidentally changed the channel.

"Oh, wait," Alyssa said. "Leave it there. I love this part."

I had happened upon an oldie-but-goodie chick flick at just the right moment. It was one of my favorites too. Alyssa and I stopped what we were doing. We stood together in a sweet silence and watched as the fair maiden ran into the arms of her hero. We sighed and looked at each other. Alyssa had tears in her eyes. So did I. We pointed at each other and laughed.

"Why are we crying?" I asked. "I'm sure we've both seen this a dozen times."

"I know," Alyssa said wistfully. "But it's such a great love story. And love stories get me every time."

It's true, isn't it? Love stories draw us in. Honestly, who doesn't love a good love story? The pursuit. The suspense. The drama. The mystery. We cry, we laugh, we cheer—all for love. We are captivated by our favorite movies, television shows, and books when the romantic elements capture our imaginations and enliven our hopes.

Even if you don't see yourself as a girlie girl and didn't have a favorite Disney princess when you were growing up, you know in your core that you want to be loved like the heroines in all the best films and stories. You want to see love conquer all.

The desire to be loved, cherished, and adored never goes away. All of us long to believe someone is out there who wants us. Someone who will come for us. Someone who will take the role of the hero in our lives and love us, deeply love us, not for what we do or how we look but simply for who we are.

What if you could know that you are loved that intensely? You are sought after. You are the bride-to-be in a love story that's unfolding in your life right this minute. You are spoken for.

This love story began once upon a time long ago before you were even born. Almighty God, the Creator of the galaxies, thought of you. He carefully fashioned you—your voice, your fingers, your mind, even every one of your eyelashes. He carefully and deliberately crafted you. For all time there only has been and only will be one of you.

He saw all your days before you took your first breath. He knows all your thoughts before you speak them.

He knows everything about you. From the very beginning you were known, and you were wanted. He is pursuing you like a tenacious bridegroom with a perfect proposal. He has set his affections on you. Why? Because he loves you, and he will never stop loving you. You are his first love, and he wants you back.

How do you respond to such unwavering, unending, unstoppable love?

In this book we will unwrap the ancient truths from God's Word about what it means to be loved, to be sought after, to be spoken for. You will see how the Bible is a love letter written to us.

Through that love letter God makes it clear that he desires to be with us forever. Alyssa and I will share details from forever-love stories and show how our love for God grew as he pursued us.

Our goal is simple. We want you to see what happens when you respond to the invitation of the true Bridegroom and step into the center of an epic love story—yours.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Kelly Cohn:**

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**Cindy Coleman:**

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