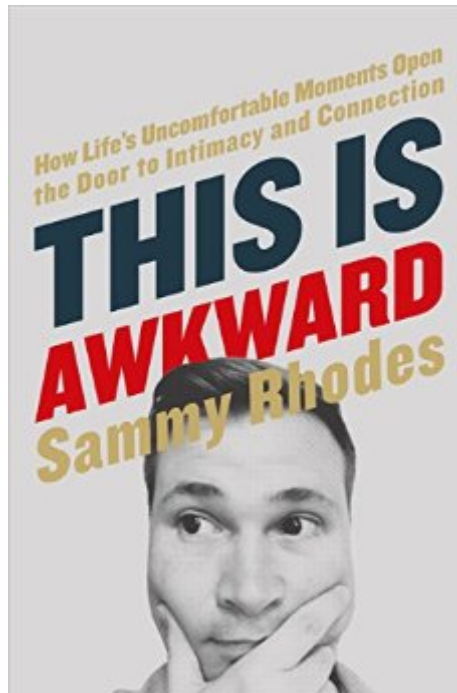


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# This Is Awkward: How Life's Uncomfortable Moments Open The Door To Intimacy And Connection



## Synopsis

Don't waste your awkwardness. One of the saddest realities of life is that the things we need to talk about the most, we tend to talk about the least—from bouts with depression to sexual struggles to parent-wounds that never seem to heal. Raise these issues out loud, and wait for the awkward silence. But those awkward moments are precisely where we find connection with God and one another. In *This is Awkward*, Sammy Rhodes talks directly, honestly, and hilariously (because sometimes we need to laugh) about the most painfully uncomfortable subjects in our lives. In chapters like "Parents Are a Gift (You Can't Return Them)" and "D is for Depression," he boldly goes where most of us fear to tread, revealing that we can be liberated by the embrace of a God who knows the most shameful things about us and loves us all the same. Because nothing is too awkward for God.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although this book is written by my son, a fact that could cast tremendous doubt as to the authenticity of this review, I assure you that is not the case, and it is indeed an excellent book. I read a lot, and I read a lot of different things, some good, some bad. Sammy's book, I think, is more than good. It's good not just because of the awkward private moments he shares and points out to the reader how these moments are there to embrace and a defining point from which one can grow. It's good because it touches the soul in a delightfully humorous way - a way that allows us all to view our ego with a great sense of liberating, self-deprecating humor. It's beauty is that it is freeing in the sense that it teaches us to see all of our warts and decisions that were made without a brain being

involved, without beating ourselves up over it, or trying to sweep them under some rug and pretend that they do not exist.. It is a well written "from the heart" book with lots of wit and humor balanced with just the right amount of reverence and serenity, and one that you should definitely read

An imperfect book by an imperfect person, and that's what I enjoyed so much about it. I've noticed a few readers have found issue with the writing style, especially with the seemingly random journal entries, but I liked them. I found they broke up some heavy moments and helped show that he knows he's not a perfect person with perfect answers. I found the writing sincere and the general message powerful. There are several areas of his story I can identify with and they hit home hard. There is a lot of truth here. There are a few references and jokes that don't land, but this added to the real awkwardness that would have been more egregious had they been removed in editing. This is a book I needed to read at this point in my life and one I'm glad to have owned to mark up and be able to re-read later.

In "This is Awkward," Sammy Rhodes addresses topics no one else wants to address, especially in the Church, but also in the general population. Every time I've heard Sammy speak it reminds me of Brad Paisley's "Letters to Me," where Sammy is 30-something me, talking to 23 year old me. "This is Awkward" evokes the same feeling. In Chapter 6, Sammy shares some of the best wisdom I've ever heard on marriage. Chapter 10, "Tweeting Ourselves to Death," resonated with me deeply, having been the guy behind the social media of two large ministries during college. Finally, Chapter 11, "Side-Hugging Jesus," was nothing like I expected it to be but everything I needed to be. Sammy doesn't just tie up loose ends and put a pretty bow on the book. It's real, raw, and honest. "This is Awkward" certainly didn't disappoint me, and I bet it won't disappoint you either.

Hilarious and humbling book to read/LOL/cry through. The honesty in Sammy's writing is not only refreshing, its also convicting of the hearts' tendency to withdraw from hard topics to talk about instead of moving toward them. This is not just a book about spilling all of your insides out and feeling better, its a strong call to vulnerability, confession and repentance in which only real growth can occur. I am thankful this book was written-so timely and needed. The end was amazing. A beautiful way to make the point come all the way home and to the heart of the gospel: "...there is no glory without the cross." and "This means the way to glory is through the path of suffering. It's in the seasons of suffering that our hearts are most revealed to us". Everyone should read this

because..everyone is awkward. "The Lord loves awkward people for there isn't any other kind" is a quote I want to have written down on note cards and pass them out in elevators.

I have to say bravo Sammy Rhodes on a great book. But for me it is more than just a book it's a resource for ministry. In my local church I serve as a deacon and a student life group leader. As an introvert the counseling side of the ministry can often be awkward and difficult for me. It doesn't make it any easier that our average attendance weekly is around 7500 people and our average student weekly attendance is around 1300, so yeah that's a bunch of people to simply interact with much less try to help counsel when needed. Did I mention my student ministry role is in middle school, the most awkward time of any of our lives. This book covers so many topics that so many people struggle with but don't want to talk about and Sammy does a great job of being open and straight forward about each of them. Thank you Sammy for such a great resource for ministry. And before anyone pulls a Jesus juke and says "I only use my Bible for counseling" let me save you the time...I use my Bible to:).

I am so glad to have this book! It's been so encouraging. I've always considered myself a pretty awkward person, so the title alone sold me. Reading this book has made me feel not so alone. I really love when people mix humor and truth, and this book does it so well. I've already been brought to tears because the things he says really hit home and are powerful, yet I also find myself bursting out laughing at certain parts. It's been a joy, and I would highly recommend adding it to your list of books to read, if you haven't already. I think we can all find a little bit of ourselves in it to relate to, learn from, and grow together.

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