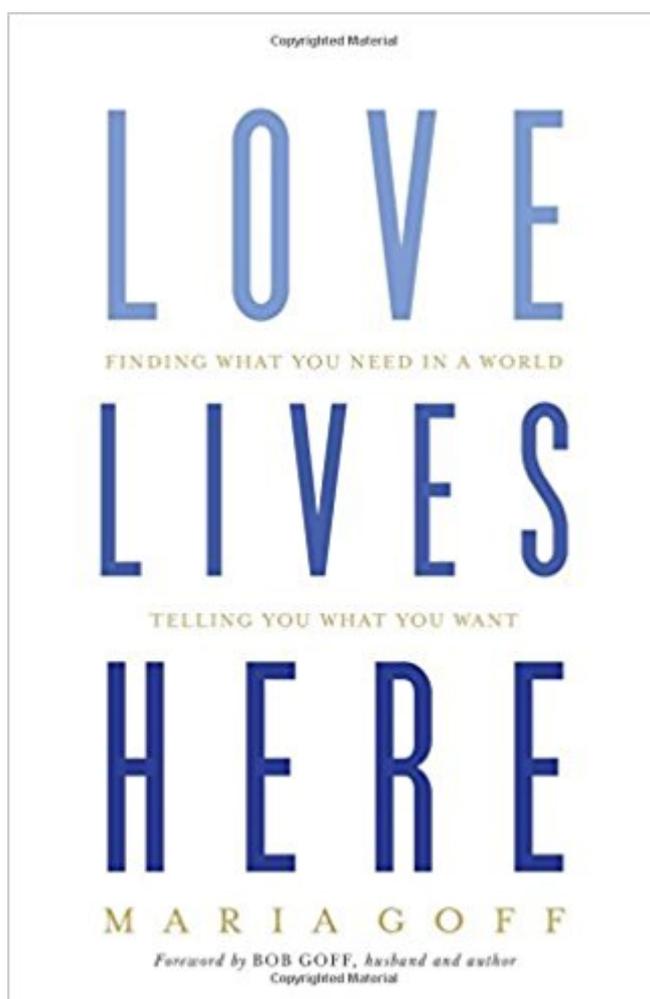


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# Love Lives Here: Finding What You Need In A World Telling You What You Want



## Synopsis

This is a book about discovering what we really need. There are a lot of second-best options, but we weren't made to live a second-best life. Finding what we actually need is different than what we are often offered. There are many books full of opinions, steps and programs. This isn't one of them. This is about craving the things that matter. Things that don't just work, but last. In a life that may seem to be all fun and games with an endless supply of balloons, author Maria Goff shows how this life is also lived with intentionality, passionate purpose, and a little planning—all of which make a life rich in legacy. But she had to figure out the help she needed first in order to live the beautiful life God wanted for her and wants for us. Love Lives Here is a collection of stories that include the ways Maria and her husband, Bob, navigated family their way, without clear instructions or a road map. It's about what they learned to make their lives meaningful and whimsical and how they created a space for their family to grow together while they reached outward. "What a gift to read Love Lives Here and find within it a friend who is as authentic and inviting as Maria Goff. Through her earnest telling of the stories of her life, she provides greater meaning to all our lives. We were thrilled to read this book." Donald Miller (bestselling author of Blue Like Jazz and Scary Close) with Betsy Miller "Grace is a contagious force we all crave and Maria contains so much grace it floods you from just a short time with her. May these pages overwhelm you with God's love, and hope that Maria knows so well." Jennie Allen, Founder of IF: Gathering and Author of Nothing to Prove (and more - see below)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Love Lives Here is every bit as warm and kind as you'd expect from an author known to most of the world as Sweet Maria. If you love the feeling of gaining a new best friend, read this book. If you've ever wondered how a life some may consider quiet can incrementally impact the world, read this book.

•Shelley Giglio, Chief Strategist, sixstepsrecords and Co-founder, Passion Conferences/Passion City Church "Grace is a contagious force we all crave and Maria contains so much grace it floods you from just a short time with her. May these pages overwhelm you with God's love, and hope that Maria knows so well." Jennie Allen, Founder of IF: Gathering and Author of Nothing to Prove "I've had the chance to visit many places over the years. Finding the purpose behind the places I go always intrigues me. I've been to Maria's home and I know it's purpose. It's simply a place where love lives. You're going to enjoy reading a little more in these pages about how we can each make the places where we live, places where love lives too." Jeremy Cowart, Photographer and Founder of the Purpose Hotel "Maria and her words are a gift to every one searching for love, meaning and a place to belong. My life is brighter and my heart is bigger because of what I experienced on these pages. I cried. I smiled. I felt loved. It's an absolutely incredible book!" Mike Foster, author of People of the Second Chance: A Guide To Bringing Life-Saving Love To The World "What a gift to read Love Lives Here and find within it a friend who is as authentic and inviting as Maria Goff. Through her earnest telling of the stories of her life, she provides greater meaning to all our lives. We were thrilled to read this book." Donald Miller (bestselling author of Blue Like Jazz and Scary Close) with Betsy Miller "In a moment in my life when I was desperately looking for direction, God used my friendship with Maria to rekindle in me a long-held vision for hospitality that I'd allowed to be obscured by far less important things. This beautiful book will do that same sacred work for so many people. Maria is an example to me--the kind of mother I aspire to be, the kind of gatherer of people I aspire to be. I'm so very thankful for this lovely book, and the heart and wisdom written on every page.

• Shauna Niequist, NYT bestselling author of Present Over Perfect and Savor "Through every page, I loved discovering the powerful, mighty woman whose gentle voice and warm heart belies her strength. Maria opens the door of her heart to reveal life is found in rubble, in broken dreams, in oozing hot lava, and--most importantly--love is found in the places we least expect it. With every chapter I felt like welcomed into her home, invited to sit, and pull up a chair to listen to how to love, live, and act towards others. Not only did I walk away wanting a friend like Maria, I wanted to grow up and BE Maria Goff." Bianca Juarez Olthoff, bestselling author of Play With Fire "This book is the hug you didn't know you've always needed. Maria's words of hope, purpose and vulnerability ring true in the

deepest parts of my soul, inspiring me to live and love better."Ryan Oâ™Neal, author of *Sleeping At Last* "Maria has cultivated a beautiful heart and home where the Lord dwells richly. *Love Lives Here* shows us how we can experience amazing joy from the inside out. This book will change you and your family."Lysa TerKeurst, New York Times bestselling author and president of Proverbs 31 Ministries "Maria Goff is the wise, gracious, and witty mentor you always wanted. With hospitality and vulnerability, she invites you to sit in the coziest chair of her home, warm cup in hand, as she tells you her stories. And in the telling, you hear anew your own stories and God's stories too."Katherine and Jay Wolf co-authors and co-founders of *Hope Heals*

Maria Goff has made a career out of loving her family, serving her neighbors, and turning houses into homes. She is married to Bob Goff, whom she calls the most helpful and interesting man in the world. Theyâ™ve journeyed to Uganda, Nepal, and Northern Iraq to start schools for marginalized kids. They have three adult kids, who are starting families of their own. She lives in San Diego where she and Bob continue to dream about fun and adventures yet to be had with their growing family.

"*Love Does*" was one of my favorite books of all time, and when I saw Maria Goff wrote a book, I needed to read it. Maria seems like the complete opposite of Bob, and I was definitely able to relate to Bob more, but this book was great as well. Personally, I was worried I wouldn't be able to get into it, because lots of the writing is very metaphorical and artsy sounding (which I'm not a huge fan of) but the actual stories she told I absolutely loved. Some parts were a little hard to stay focused on, like when there was an extended metaphor about soil. While I understand the idea of "growing deep roots" and all that, it was a little too much at times, and a lot of the metaphors are kind of over used. Overall, though, it is a great book, and is written very well if you're a fan of writing that isn't just 'say exactly what you mean', and I really admire the author's openness about her faith and struggles and though I'm not currently a wife or mother, she is definitely someone I would want to learn from when the time comes.

I haven't read her husband's book, and really didn't know what to expect from *Love Lives Here*. After the first few chapters I felt as though I was reading a diary of random thoughts on not one particular topic. I've come to find that I'm not a fan of this genre, so if you are, you won't agree with me and that's fine. I don't like kale either, we find value in different things. I found a few good take-away thoughts initially, but again, after the first few chapters they were too few and far between for me to

recommend this book.

Reading this book reminds me of hot summer nights in Indiana, sitting on the front porch listening to my grandma share stories about her life. Simple. Honest. Fulfilling. This is not Love Does, Part 2. Its strictly Maria's unique storytelling..her sweet voice weaving stories together on life, love, family, and faith. Gather some friends and family together and just let love live among you. It's really that's simple.

My boss recommended "Love Lives Here" thus my expectation was it's another management book. I was pleasantly surprised by Maria's loving candor which transformed life into faith based lessons. Each chapter felt like a devotional of her simplicities and complexities, setbacks and scenery as a wife and mother, all processed through the filter of God's love. As a mother and wife I thank you Maria, for this inspiring book.

When I read Love Does, I too wanted to live a secretly incredible life, throwing fear to the wind and living in a manner of lavish love for my neighbors and the world. Bob Goff had me convinced. I had but one question: but how do I do that, as a female who isn't an attorney? Maria Goff, his wife, answers those questions in this book. With heartfelt transparency, she tells stories of adventure and loss, fear and faith, and directs our thoughts to living with more love. The stories are more simple than extravagant, ranging from tales of tradition to moments of trauma, but all practical and full of wisdom and an example of what living by faith really looks like. Love Lives Here answered many of my questions about how to raise kids who extravagantly love, become contributing members of society, and still come home for Christmas. Hearing Maria's stories of recovery give me hope that I can yield the same authentic life and home.

Absolutely incredible book. So cool to learn more about Sweet Maria's story and how she and Bob lead incredibly loving lives. She talks about how Bob is the more (extremely) extroverted of the two and how she prefers to find herself at home and cultivating a loving and welcoming atmosphere there. The two pair together to show a more complete picture of Jesus and the way He loves. Amazing read!!

Inspiring! Maria Goff lives and writes about the love I want to leave my family as a legacy. From finding your own board of directors to making home despite any lacks (even a house itself) she

speaks to the importance of building love into the lives of the people around you. If you are wanting to love the people around you with a renewed passion, this book is an excellent place to start.

I feel like Sweet Maria and I have just spent the last several days together. I'm a busy Granny Nanny to our two littles, so finding a solid chunk of time to read is not in the daily equation. That doesn't matter with this gem. It reads like our dearest of friendships .... you just pick up where you left off and keep on going. This will definitely be a well worn book in my house! A must read for anyone wanting to deepen their journey with Jesus, family and friends.

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