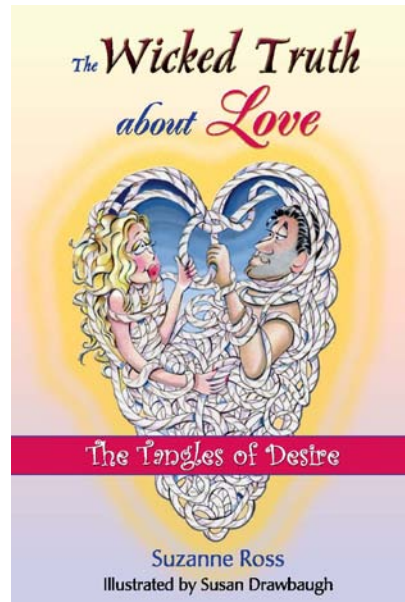


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Contact: Meg McAllister
meg@mcallrow.com
416-410-8466



And they lived happily ever after...
Fantasies, Myths, and *The Wicked Truth About Love*

Does the search for the “love of your life” keep turning up empty? Been in one too many dead-end relationships? You say you haven’t found your “soulmate” – you’re not even sure what a soulmate is. If you’ve ever asked yourself “WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?” – you need to know the truth, the *wicked truth* about love. Many of us grow up believing that the man/woman of our dreams will magically appear one day, bells will ring, sparks will fly, and the two of us will ride off into the sunset together. According to human relations expert Suzanne Ross, if you believe this, “you must have fallen asleep reading a Harlequin romance or during a Love Boat repeat. It’s time to wake up and stop dreaming!”

In her new book, *The Wicked Truth about Love: The Tangles of Desire* (DOERS Publishing; May 2009) Ross explores the path we take to finding “true love”, but while love may indeed be true, the path is crooked and faulty. Why? Because if love is a mystery – and that’s okay – humans are also a mystery...to themselves! – and that’s not quite so good. We all operate under the false belief that we are free-thinking individuals who know our own mind, and act independently. The sad reality is that far too few – if any of us – actually fit this description. The choices we make, the reactions we have, the ideals and attributes of our “perfect mate” are actually the product of outside influences that condition our emotions, direct our goals and desires, and impact our responses.

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1620 Avenue W, Brooklyn, NY 11229 * Phone: 718.336.0716
44 Jackes Avenue, Suite 504, Toronto, ON M4T 1E5 * Phone: 416.410.8466
WWW.MCALLROW.COM

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- 2 -

In *The Wicked Truth About Love* Ross illustrates how the wiring of the person we think we are but really aren't begins from birth and continues all our lives. What gets us into trouble is our uncanny ability to deny that we are influenced by others. Think of a child stomping his foot and declaring haughtily, "You're not the boss of me!" The paradox is that others become the boss of who we are becoming as a direct consequence of our denial! When this faulty perception is applied to finding love, the Love Boat often turns into the Poseidon Adventure.

Unlike self-help tomes that attempt to take the reader on a journey of gentle discovery, and often confuses or bores them to tears, *The Wicked Truth About Love* is refreshingly frank, but also delightfully fun. Filled with pop culture references from TV, film, music, theatre, and literature, Ross brings the reader face-to-face with reality – the one that actually exists, not the one they've created – and in an engaging but no-nonsense way, Ross exposes the flaws in our love logic and sets readers on the road to better reasoning.

The Wicked Truth About Love compiles research from experts in psychology, anthropology, sociology, theology, brain physiology and philosophy to untangle how human desire works, what triggers it, and what causes it to misfire. Ross guides the reader in an exploration of their personal romantic patterns using a survey based on the triangular nature of desire. A practical guide, full of science, common sense, honesty, and humor, the *Wicked Truth About Love* reveals:

- Why love is a mystery – and that's okay!
- The influences of desire – you go after what you want...but do you *really* want it?
- What's Your Love Pattern – take the quiz and learn how to get over...yourself!
- Why love may be blind – but you shouldn't be deaf & dumb!
- Recognize that love is a gift – learn to accept it and give it freely.

So what is the real *wicked truth* about love? Says Ross, "it's always worth it, and no matter who you are or what you have already done or may yet accomplish, love is the greatest thing you'll ever do."

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ABOUT THE BOOK

The Wicked Truth About Love: The Tangles of Desire

By Suzanne Ross

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Suzanne Ross is a graduate of Bucknell University and a certified Montessori educator. She has extensive experience as a corporate training consultant, and is a former editor of the literary journal, *StoryQuarterly*. She is the former Director of Christian Education for a United Church of Christ congregation. As a member of the Colloquium on Violence & Religion, she has attended and presented at the annual conferences.

In 2007, Ross co-founded the Raven Foundation with husband Keith, Based on the principles of mimetic theory, the foundation seeks to make religion reasonable, violence unthinkable and peace a possibility by challenging conventional wisdom and opening the door to new reasoning.

Suzanne Ross lives, works and plays golf with her husband Keith in Glenview, Illinois.

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