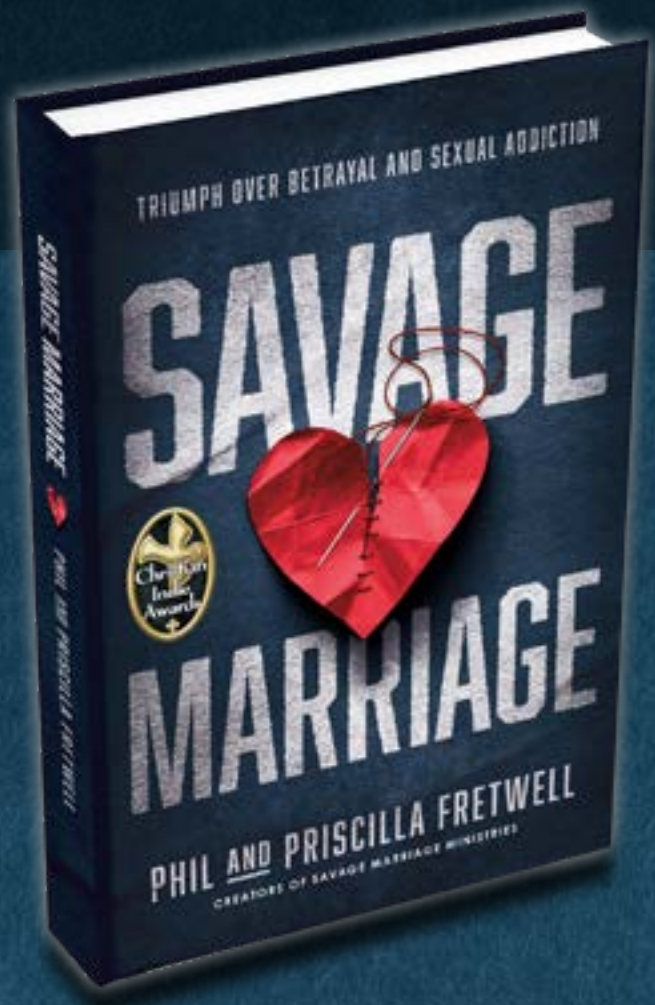


SAVAGE
MARRIAGE MINISTRIES

PHIL AND PRISCILLA FRETWELL

1st PLACE winner
of 2023 Christian
Indie Award!



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AUTHORS' BIOS

Phil and Priscilla Fretwell are the co-founders of Savage Marriage Ministries, equipping couples to overcome wounds of their past to find forgiveness, experience freedom, and embrace hope for the future. They are also authors of *Savage Marriage: Triumph over Betrayal and Sexual Addiction* and *Savage Marriage Small Group Study Guide: Overcome Your Past. Fight for Your Future.*

Phil and Priscilla's story was featured on Family Life Today on March 22-24, 2023. They are also the hosts of the popular podcast, Savage Marriage with Phil and Priscilla.

Based in Orlando, Florida, Phil was previously a managing director with a \$2 billion global consulting firm. In 2018, he was recognized by Consulting Magazine as one of the top twenty-five global leaders in consulting.

Priscilla has invested her life in the lives of others, starting in Brazil serving with her missionary parents, continuing through as a homeschool mother to five children and now as a coach to women in troubled marriages. She is fluent in English and Portuguese.



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BOOK SUMMARY

Savage Marriage is the true, raw, heart-rending journey of betrayal and healing of Phil and Priscilla's marriage. Each, from their own perspectives, describe Phil's confession of his secret betrayal that started with pornography and progressed to massage parlors, and betrayal that shattered their twenty-eight-year, picture-perfect marriage. Phil's admission launched Priscilla into her own process of brokenness and self-discovery. Their hearts of humility, commitment, and spiritual intimacy accelerated their healing and deeply-rooted their relationship. *Savage Marriage* invites you into their intimate journey that led them to share openly with their family, friends, business associates, and a growing community of savage marriages.

If you are looking for healing, or you simply want to gain more spiritual, emotional, and sexual vibrancy in your marriage, *Savage Marriage* is for you.



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TESTIMONIALS

If you and your spouse can relate to the feeling of not having it all together but making your way through life (and sometimes your marriage) posturing as though things are better than they really are, then you'll be inspired by Phil and Priscilla's honest journey. Their story will take you deeper into your own.

—David Robbins, President & CEO, FamilyLife

I've seen the results from couples Phil and Priscilla have worked with using the same principles found in this book. You will find hope, healing, and restoration for your broken relationships. *Savage Marriage* could be the miracle you've prayed for.

—Norm Dubois, Lead Pastor, East Coast Believers Church

Phil and Priscilla boldly tell their gripping, powerful story in *Savage Marriage*, filled with upheaval, pain, healing, and God's grace. They shine a light on powerful principles that can bring hope and restoration in the toughest circumstances. Their desire to make things right and live an open, transparent life is a model for all of us.

—Jay Fecht, President, The Fecht Company, Director of C12 Group

In these pages, a broken man and a shattered woman tell their story that reflects God's heart for restoration. Marriage doesn't have to end because of secrets and shame, but it does have to change. *Savage Marriage* shows you how.

—Dwight Bain, Nationally Certified Counselor, Executive Coach, Author

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TARGET AUDIENCE

Savage Marriage is an 80,000-word Christian living memoir, allowing you to feel and experience healing and restoration that's typically confined to the offices of pastors and counselors.

It's essential reading for:

- Couples suffering from marital trauma, including infidelity, sexual addiction, and the wounds of their past,
- Individuals wanting to avoid relationship pitfalls, or improve their spiritual, emotional and sexual intimacy with their spouse,
- Small group leaders who want to use their own story to impact the lives of others, and
- Pastors and counselors who help people with troubled marriages.



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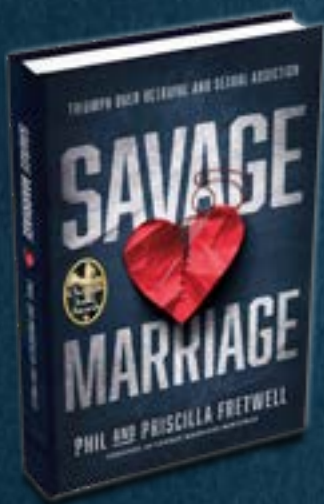
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BOOK EXCERPT

CHAPTER 1: TWO CROOKED STICKS

Priscilla

“Hello?” I answered.

“Hi, this is 16,000 Movies calling about some videos that were rented this past weekend. It looks like they weren’t returned.”

“What videos? I didn’t rent any videos.” I had been out of town with some girlfriends. The clerk quickly rattled off strange, unfamiliar titles. I was a movie buff and read People magazine cover to cover but didn’t recognize any of these movies. “I’ve never heard of them. What are they rated?”

The clerk replied bluntly, “They’re triple X, for adults only.”

I paused. We had an account at 16,000 Movies, but I didn’t like going there because the adults-only section wasn’t completely closed off, and it was hard to keep track of my kids as they ran through the store, eagerly picking up movies and begging to rent them. “We don’t rent movies like that,” I replied curtly, embarrassed that someone had our name and number associated with a list of people who watched X-rated videos. After all, we were good churchgoers and certainly didn’t watch filth like that.

“Well, ma’am, we have a camera that records everyone who rents videos. If you’d like to come to our store, we can show you the footage and figure out who’s renting on your account.” ▶

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BOOK EXCERPT

This has to be a mistake. Phil and I had been married for ten years, and I trusted him completely. “No, that’s okay. I’ll call my husband.”

I’d never suspected Phil could be watching porn. For the first four years of our marriage, we hadn’t even had a television. Phil’s going to say, “No, I didn’t rent any videos,” and I’ll call the store and tell them their system is messed up. I didn’t rent the videos, and Phil didn’t either.

I quickly dialed Phil’s number. “Hey, it’s me. I got a call from 16,000 Movies. They said two movies were not returned from last weekend. Did you rent any movies?”

Phil

Priscilla’s simple question sent me reeling, and images from the previous weekend flooded my mind. My breathing turned rapid and shallow as my thoughts swirled, momentarily disabling my usual calm and logical thinking. I wanted to run and hide.

The weekend Priscilla had spent away with some girlfriends, I had stayed home with our three children, ages eight, seven, and five. That Friday after work, I’d stopped by 16,000 Movies because it had an adults-only section, unlike the video store we usually frequented. Since age ten, I had struggled with porn and masturbation, but I’d never shared this with Priscilla. Porn was a constant noose around my neck, something I’d learned to live with, reasoning that all men dealt with a “normal” level of lust. I had occasionally gone inside adult video stores and gazed at the covers, wanting to see more, but had never been brave enough to buy anything. It was too risky.

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INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did it take twenty-eight years for everything to come out?
2. Why did you also confess to your children, family, friends, and business associates?
3. Priscilla, when Phil came clean, why didn't you kick him out?
4. Priscilla, how important was it to know the details of what Phil had done?
5. Priscilla, how were you able to forgive Phil?
6. Phil, after coming clean, how did you stay clean?
7. Priscilla, did you also have problems that contributed to your marriage breakdown?
8. What were the keys to transforming your marriage?
9. What's changed in your sexual relationship?
10. What was the hardest part of your reconciliation?
11. Priscilla, how were you able to rebuild trust with Phil?
12. How has your story affected your family?
13. What's the most important thing you do that keeps you feeling close?
14. What would you say to a couple who's struggling with betrayal and sexual immorality?

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STORY IDEAS FOR REPORTERS

1. Isn't there a "normal" level of lust that we have to learn to live with?
2. What's the problem with porn usage between consenting, married adults?
3. What's the impact of masturbation on marriage?
4. How do you get rid of sexual baggage from previous relationships?
5. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in sexual intimacy?
6. How does shame from your past affect your marriage?
7. What do you wish premarital counseling had covered?
8. What makes accountability groups effective?
9. Does it really take 5-10 years to heal from infidelity?
10. Should your spouse be your accountability partner?

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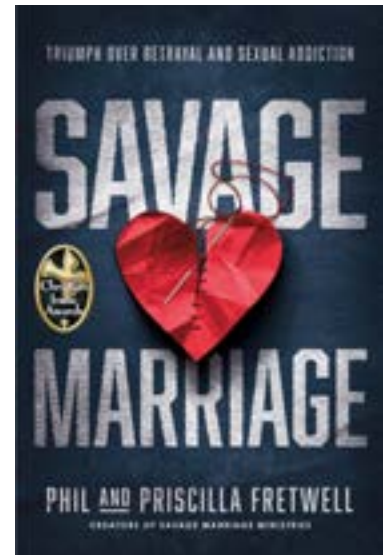
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