



It's All About Him

Denise Jackson, Ellen Vaughn

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Written by Denise Jackson, with co-writer Ellen Vaughn, this inspirational book gives the reader an all-access look into one of country music's most famous couples: their love story, struggles, dreams, success, the near-collapse of their marriage, and the rediscovery of their faith and how that has dramatically shaped their lives.

It's All About Him Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2007)

ISBN :

Author : Denise Jackson , Ellen Vaughn

Format : Kindle Edition 273 pages

Genre : Biography, Nonfiction, Autobiography, Christian

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Jo says

I debated between giving it two stars or three, but it's better than okay even if the writing is a bit simplistic sometimes. It feels real & grounded, and is the story of a woman who found herself when she (re)found God and saved her marriage after they had separated, by surrendering and dedicating her life to God. The parts dealing with her spiritual growth are not sappy or heavy handed, but then again it's not as deep as I was sort of looking for either. Her list of resources is good, and would be especially helpful to newer Christians.

In addition, it's a book about being married to country star Alan Jackson & his career (and their accumulation of expensive "stuff") and working on their marriage. If you're an Alan Jackson fan, you'll like it. I was surprised to learn that he cheated on her (he always seemed so shy and dedicated), and even more surprised to learn about it in an almost throw away fashion after chapters dedicated to her perceived failings as the wife he needed. She was very honest about her codependency issues.

I'm still ambivalent about the book. It's a fast read. Some will love it. I guess I just expected more (& maybe less dwelling on extravagant material goods), though it's really not bad either...

Ash Wilson says

I am a HUGE Alan Jackson fan! I love, Love, LOVE his music! I love everything I've ever heard him say about his family. I have loved Denise in everything I have ever seen and heard of her. I love how brutally open and honest they have been about their lives, the struggles within their marriage and their spiritual strength and deep rooted faith in our Lord.

But sadly, this book just disappointed me. And I can't even exactly pinpoint why.

I loved some of the stories, writing, and advice, but then some of it, (especially in the second half of the book), came off as really preachy to me, which I did not care for.

And there were parts where I felt Denise came off as very snobby and full of herself such as when she talked about her house keepers, bragged about her fancy lifestyle and material items or her need to always look fabulous on the outside and have her hair done up perfectly and what not. I was really surprised at how I ended the book feeling negatively toward Denise.

I don't know. Maybe I just came into it with my expectations set too high because I am such a big fan of Alan's music & had always felt so positively about public pieces Alan and Denise had shared over the years regarding their private lives, but this book just did not really click for me and I am really bummed about that.

Oscar Maquito says

*4.4/5

Bethany says

I enjoyed this book, even though I felt like the author could've gone into a lot more depth on some subjects. (Her brother's suicide clearly changed the trajectory of her life, but he is only mentioned twice throughout the book). It isn't some dishy celeb bio about Alan Jackson and his troubled marriage. It is, however, a sincere look at her life from the wife of a man who is in the spotlight. Denise writes about her life growing up in a small town, meeting Alan, and their marriage at a young age. These things affected her perception of what their marriage should be like and her attitude toward marriage in general. As tragedy struck, her heart was opened toward living a God-centered life with her husband.

This book was grounded and real. Denise takes responsibility for at least some of the issues in her marriage, but also doesn't let Alan off the hook either. Now, they both play an active role in sustaining their marriage through faith. This is an affirmative read, one that makes me wish she had delved a little deeper. The writing was just a bit too simple. Although her issues are not the same as mine in my marriage, it inspires me to try to focus on God as the creator and sustainer of marriage.

Tess says

I pretty much devoured this book. Aside from being a huge country music fan since I was a little one, I'm also a huge God fan. Put that combination into a book, and it's a winner for me.

It was inspiring to read about Denise's journey through surrendering her marriage to the Lord, and allowing Him to step in and heal something that she could not even fathom could be restored. This book brings to light the ultimate, true purpose of why we are created, and whom we should be setting our eyes on day to day, whether the day is awesome or whether it is difficult. I appreciated Denise's revelations in coming to understand that in the brokenness of her marriage, she was able to comprehend that to heal, she had to find her identify in Christ, and in Christ alone. This element was essential to her healing, and ultimately in her forgiveness. Her writings on forgiveness were spot on, as she describes that through our prayers, we can imitate Christ's example to forgive our fellow brothers and sisters, as our Father forgives a wealth of our sins miles wide. The intimacy she discovered in her relationship with Jesus was the foundation to her moving forward, and what allowed her to maintain who she was as a wife in a God-centered marriage. I cried at her description of the passing of her Daddy and how her Mother sat by his side whispering how much she appreciated and loved him, as it reminded me so much of what I experienced with my Grandma recently as she passed away peacefully with my Grandpa by her side. That the ending of one's life brings forward the preciousness and greatness of all things truly important in life, shadowing over emotions of resentment, anger, or miniscule negative feelings. That the ending of one's life is truly the beginning of a beautiful, infinite love story with our Savior that we all have the freedom to experience, if we accept it.

This is a tender, precious love story-- one that I will look forward to reading again and again.

Judy Benvin says

Didn't like her til 3/4 through the book. Way too much about all the 'stuff' that she owns (typical cheerleader) Writing style very choppy. Could have left out the whole first chapter (where she listed all the houses, cars,

jewelry, cloths that she has) Even when she joined the bible study group it was still all about her. The book should have been titled "It's All About Me".

Leila says

An inspiring book which spoke directly to my heart. I laughed, I shed many tears and I identified so strongly with Denise in her "life in the spotlight."

I highly recommend it.

Greg says

Denise Jackson did a fantastic job with being so descriptive and detailed in her journey and how her faith helped her get through these problems in life that all of us could potentially face. She not only deals with the problems and effects of a stranded relationship but the normal everyday small choke-ups everyone of us might face or are already facing but subconsciously. Denise begins with explaining how the fame and fortune of living a celebrity life might not be the happiest or most fulfilling. She also speaks very honestly about her feelings and thoughts during the temporary separation with her husband. This very personal books gets readers thinking about their own relationships, it teaches us to treasure the ones we love and the relationships we have right now. She shared about how the people around us that we often forget about or take for granted could be taken away from our daily lives for many reasons but there are also a group of friends who will stick by and with you through anything at all. And also, to choose your friends wisely. I deeply enjoyed this and though marriage doesn't really apply to me right now, this woman of God taught me much about appreciating my relationship with family, friends and of course, Jesus, and how important the people around you are. Even if you're not a Christian, get it and be inspired to live and love.

Brenda says

I don't even know who Alan Jackson is, but needed something to read while my daughter had a medical procedure so I grabbed it as I went out the door. I thought it was excellent. I really did not expect to like this book so much, just knew it would be a quick read, which it was. I read the whole thing while my daughter got a myelogram. I found it highly inspirational and I am planning to reread it soon. It is a book about Denise Jackson's walk with Christ and all I can think to say is that it spoke to me.

Yulia says

Thank god Denise used her faith to save her marriage when others without such commendable devotion and cunning would have simply admitted their partners had married for the wrong reason, outgrown its "use," or simply weren't invested in making something wrong work. If only I could manipulate others to stay with me when I'm just too afraid to be alone or unwilling to find someone else more compatible . . . I imagine Denise Jackson has made every struggle into one fabulous celebration and victory. Bravo!

Pardon my cynicism, but the basis of their marital reconciliation does repel me.

erica says

written very simply, but more like a women's bible study than i anticipated. with bits of their family life and struggles thrown in. too needy for me.

Pat says

I was disappointed in this book. It wasn't as revelatory as I had hoped on either the personal level or about their life now. I was hoping for more on the celebrity lifestyle, frankly. The emphasis on religion was not my cup of tea, either.

Denise says

The back cover says it all -- "An all-access look into one of country music's most famous marriages." Denise Jackson tells her gripping story of how her marriage fell apart and how they managed to put it back together - one piece at a time!

This is an amazing and inspiring story about Denise & Allen Jackson, how to fight & work hard for something & in the end achieve the greatest love of all. Their bond of faith, not only with friends & family, but their strength together as a couple leaves me in awe. Their desire and passion of how they grew, learned about themselves and each other and their faith made for a true uplifting story. I have the upmost praise and respect for Denise and her faith supporters. I cherish 2 of her prayers, taken from a book, "The Power of a Praying Wife," that touched my heart and incorporated them into my own prayers from time to time. Thanks to mama Jackson for requesting a gospel cd called, "Precious Memories," it's a treasure!

Keasmea says

Alan Jackson is one of my favorite country singers (and Troy's too). But when I found out he cheated on his wife, I then thought he sucked and all his songs started sounding hypocritical. But his wife tells about their tough times--postpartum depression, being poor, the onset of fame, and their separation. She explains how her relationship with JC and HF was how everything got fixed. It's pretty Bible thumping--she's from the south and is from the whole baptist thing. She even gives little tid bits behind some of Alan's hits. Needless to say, I realized he wasn't a hypocrite but that his songs actually were very honest about his life/marriage and the different phases his life/marriage were in at the time he wrote certain songs. His wife also gives wonderful inspiration to better your relationship with JC and HF, including some great journal tips that I think I'll try.

You can finish reading this in a day or two...very easy reading.

Ruth Hill says

I have been an Alan Jackson fan for several years now, but I honestly did not know a lot about him or his family. I had the supreme joy of seeing him in concert this past summer, and I was impressed. I really enjoyed it.

I heard about this book a couple years ago when I was listening to a country radio interview with Alan Jackson (it was shortly after the Tiger Woods scandal). I was totally shocked when I heard that he had cheated on his wife, and their marriage had survived it. I saved this book to my list.

I happened to win this book (I selected it as my winning book), and I finally had a chance to read it. And I was completely impressed! I knew that they were Christians, but suddenly a few things made sense. There is a portion of Alan Jackson's career that just doesn't really impress me, and his music seems so "worldly" during that time. I now understand why.

I was completely impressed with the way Denise told her story. She did not ever put her husband down. She even took responsibility for some of the issues in their marriage. She explained that when her husband became famous, they kind of forgot about God, and that is when the trouble started.

Her message in the book was simple but sincere. God can work through any situation. He is always faithful even when we are not. This book will strengthen your faith, and it can truly encourage you in the midst of your trials. It sure did for me!
