



Beyond Orange County: A Housewives Guide to Faith and Happiness

Lydia McLaughlin

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Real Housewives of Orange County fan-favorite, McLaughlin inspires readers to a life of purpose—not fame.

Beyond Orange County: A Housewives Guide to Faith and Happiness Details

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From Reader Review Beyond Orange County: A Housewives Guide to Faith and Happiness for online ebook

Beckie says

"Beyond Orange County" by Lydia McLaughlin is the telling of life lessons by a former reality show star. Lydia has been on a previous season of Housewives of Orange County. She brought to the show a Christian aspect; which is unusual for reality TV. She tells of past life-lessons, quotes scripture, and gives a behind the scenes view of the show. Let me say that first of all, I had never heard of McLaughlin, have never seen the show, and am not a fan of reality TV. I picked this book for the reason that my husband was raised and lived in Orange County until he was in his mid-twenties. Judging from his family, friends, and neighbors, I would have to say that McLaughlin's Orange County must be a little more affluent. She is also much more religious than average Orange Countian as well. So that being said, I really didn't have any type of back story going into this book. A lot more would have been taken from it if the reader were a reality watcher, or at least seen any of the Housewives shows.

Judging the book as an independent thing, McLaughlin is one heck of a writer. Removing the subject matter; she can string words together very well. There is no helper-writer mentioned, so I am assuming she did this entirely by herself. She incorporated the scripture into the writing so that one didn't especially notice when it was happening. This is a short book and a quick read. I would definitely recommend this to someone interested in her or into reality television. I received this book in exchange for an honest review from Worthy Publishing.

Sher♥ The Fabulous BookLover says

3.5 Stars

This is not a tell all about The Real Housewives, so if you're looking for that look elsewhere. This book is an honest account of Lydia's love relationship with Jesus. It's a great read if you're looking to strengthen your faith or if you're new to Christianity. I actually enjoyed reading this.

Katarina says

First off, I'm a fan of the show, and Lydia was one of my favourites. I thought the show showed her as a very thoughtful and kind person, who was focused on her faith and her family. She stayed away from the drama as much as she could. I respected that.

I was surprised to find out that this book barely makes mention of her time on the show. It's not really "beyond orange county", it's more like a different kind of bible study, with study guide questions.

So if you're looking for a unique kind of bible study, or looking to find God, then this is the book for you. If you are looking for a behind the scenes look at a reality show, then this is not the book for you.

The book was very repetitious, and full of bible quotes. She mentions a bunch of times how she was "called" to do the show and follow "god's devine path". Which is fine, to each their own, right?

There is very little biographical information about her. This book is Lydia's guide to life.

Alexandra says

I'm going to start out by saying that this book is not about the Real Housewives of Orange County. It is about Lydia's time on the show and her own personal struggles and faith. As of right now, the description of this book here on Goodreads is "Real Housewives of Orange County fan-favorite, McLaughlin inspires readers to a life of purpose—not fame." That is exactly what this book is about. Lydia wants to inspire people to be closer to God and to focus on the more important things in life: faith and family. She talks about her struggles filming the show and how she had trouble because she is a Christian and it doesn't always line up with what happens on the show.

I actually really enjoyed this book. I've been trying to read more about Christianity and I felt this was a great book for anyone who wants to learn how to be closer to God. She seems really down to earth and reading this book felt more like I was reading what a friend would say to me. I liked Lydia a lot on the show because she was one of the few nice people. And her reasons for not going back to do another season of the show made me like her even more.

I think this book didn't receive great reviews on here because people were hoping for a tell-all about the show, and instead they got a tell-all about her faith.

Melanie Johnson says

First, let me say that this is NOT a book filled with OC Housewives gossip. Actually, there are only a few lines in the book that really talks about Housewives of OC at all. This is a book about Lydia's faith and Christianity. It's a very inspiring, well-thought out account of how she wants to live her life through Christ. I really enjoyed it. If you are a fan of Beth Moore, read this book!

Advanced Copy received from NetGalley

IrenesBookReviews says

Let me start by saying I have seen the show this author was a part of. I do not think you have to have watched the show to enjoy this book. In fact I would recommend you read it whether you know who the author is or not. From the first page you will feel like you are sitting at the kitchen table talking to a close friend. I liked how you are taken behind closed doors and made to feel right at home. The author does an excellent job of discussing her issues and feelings without making judgement on others. I like how she admits to faults and does not come across as thinking more highly of herself because she has been on a television show. I would recommend this book to any Christian woman who enjoys reading about how others Christians work hard to make it in this world while keeping their testimony. I would also recommend the book to anyone interested in the lifestyle of a television personality.

I would like to thank the publisher for the copy of this book I enjoyed reading. I gave an honest review based

on my opinion of what I read.

Tonya says

Real Housewives of Orange County fan-favorite, McLaughlin inspires readers to a life of purpose—not fame.

--My thoughts. Fabulous book. If you are looking for gossip about the show, this is NOT your book. Lydia really just hit home, talking more about herself and her faith and what God wants to grow in us and wants for us. This is such a wonderful book, I really enjoyed it more than I thought I would. Lydia was one of my favorites and I applaud her decision to not come back, her family is more important than a show. She has a discussion guide at the end of each chapter and this would make a lovely bible study. I hope to see more from her in the future, I think she is an amazing lady of God!

I received this book from Worthy Publishing in exchange for my honest opinion.

Erin Cataldi says

I'll admit, I have never watched an episode of The Real Housewives... ever, reality TV is not my cup of tea. So I was mildly interested in checking out this book that was written by a "Godly" housewife (seems impossible, at least from what I'd heard about the show). Lydia felt that she was called to be on season 8 of The Real Housewives of Orange County to show women that she could be a positive Christian role model. This book is part memoir, part devotional, part guide to female Christian behavior. It's an insanely fast read (short and large print!) and can be gotten through in several hours. It can also be used as a group discussion guide because there are questions at the end of each chapter. The different spiritual topics she touches on include: dealing with discouragement, family matters, forgiveness, finding peace, self-image and worth, and so much more. It's a memoir mixed with scripture, statistics, how to's, prayers, and more. It's primarily aimed at mothers or wives, but other spiritual women could still gain a thing or two from reading this. It's nothing groundbreaking, but it may reach the hands of some non-spiritual people who will only read this because it was written by a housewife, so it has the potential to seek out new audiences. A good introduction guide to spirituality for those unfamiliar with it or those who have lost the purpose in their faith.

I received this book for free from First Look Blog Tours in return for my honest, unbiased opinion.

JoJo Sutis says

I am so impressed with Lydia's book Beyond Orange County.

I really wasn't sure what to expect, but what I found was a young woman who loves The Lord, walks close to Him and has a desire to inspire and encourage other women to do the same.

I was in awe of her faith in the midst of "Hollywood".

As I was reading this book, I felt I was listening to a sweet sister in Christ share her testimony.

I was encouraged and thrilled that someone with her platform would use the spotlight to glorify Jesus.

Lydia is down to earth, funny, and serious about her Savior.

If you want to be encouraged and inspired, don't miss this one!
Includes great discussion questions at the end of each chapter.

Ella Drayton says

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Any thoughts and opinions are my own.

I was really impressed with this book. I love reality TV and *The Real Housewives* is one of my favorite shows, especially the Orange County ladies. I really liked how Lydia carried herself on the show and how kind she tried to be to all of the ladies. I know the writers of the show try to create drama and chaos and it was interesting to see Lydia hold her own and kind of go against that.

Anyone who expects to read this book and learn a bunch of gossip about the housewives will be sorely disappointed and that only makes me like this book even more. Gossiping about others is directly discussed in the Bible and is against the tenets of Christianity. In a world where Christians in the entertainment industry are few and far between or they start out as a Christian and denounce the faith for fortune in fame, it is really refreshing to see someone stand their ground and remain steadfast in their faith.

Christina says

Please support my blog and read my review here: <http://adventures-in-polishland.com/2...>

As someone who was once fully addicted to all things Bravo, I knew I had to request *Beyond Orange County* as soon as I saw it on NetGalley. I really enjoyed Lydia's "character" on *The Real Housewives of Orange County*. Her personality is refreshing and uplifting, and even though I'm not a Christian, I was interested to read her book. Now, before I jump into my review I want to mention that this is not a memoir, and it's not a book for someone simply looking for juice on the Housewives. *Beyond Orange County*, as the title suggests, is a guide to Christian faith aimed at married women. Thus, I recommend it for those wanting to learn more about Christianity, especially women in Bible study.

Beyond Orange County is a good book if you are looking to become a Christian, or if you are hoping to strengthen your faith. As someone who is not Christian, I still enjoyed learning about Lydia's spiritual journey, and I liked how she included personal stories along the way to illustrate how God fits into her life. *Beyond Orange County* includes several Bible passages throughout the book, and I found these to be well researched as they fit well into each chapter's theme. I also thought it was great that each chapter concludes with a discussion guide featuring questions that can be used for self reflection or group discussion. It's a practical book to keep on hand if you need some guidance with your Christian faith.

My main issue with *Beyond Orange County*, however, was the treatment of women in relation to their husbands. In Chapter 8 entitled "Love, Love, Love," Lydia discusses the love she has with her husband. I was quite disturbed when she recounts the time directly following the birth of her first baby with her husband, Doug. Lydia mentions she did not feel ready to be intimate with her husband again, but her doctor encouraged her to do so because, "You are first and foremost his bride, and then you're a mother." Not only was I shocked that a doctor would tell a patient how to act in her marital relationship, but the fact that Lydia

was seen as property to her husband and is there to please him is unacceptable to me. This theme of women being beneath men circulated a few times throughout *Beyond Orange County*, and was very disappointing to read.

Moreover, the writing style in *Beyond Orange County* was a bit weak. I never expect much from celebrity books, but there were several grammatical errors, and some of the sentence structures were quite awkward. I did receive this book from NetGalley, so I'm hopeful some of these issues were edited out in the final edition. I did take the grammatical errors into consideration when rating the book, but they did not weigh too heavily on my three star rating due to this being an eARC.

Overall, I'm glad I had the opportunity to review *Beyond Orange County*. At just over 200 pages, this is a quick read and I think any reader can get something out of it whether or not she is a Christian. However, I do recommend this for the suggested audience, as it truly is a guidebook for Christian housewives. With Mother's Day coming up soon, this might be the perfect gift!

Carolyn Comings says

Disclaimer: I received an electronic copy of this book for review at no cost from Netgalley.

I have never watched "Real Housewives" in any of its permutations, so I did not know who the author was before I read the book. The blurb on Netgalley promises that Lydia will reveal the inside scoop from the show. She does tell a few stories, but if you're looking for dirt, look elsewhere. She talks about what it was like to be thrown into instant celebrity status, and how it could easily derail a person without a solid foundation. She talks about being asked questions by complete strangers, and from this springboards into what the Bible says about taming one's tongue.

I might add that Lydia is not exactly what I would think of as a "housewife;" she and her husband own and run businesses (a magazine and an art gallery) while raising their 3 children. Apparently the TV show's creators play a bit fast and loose with the traditional definition of "housewife" when they choose cast members.

This book does a good job reminding the reader of basic truths in the Christian walk. It's an easy read, and each chapter has discussion questions at the end. I would recommend this as a group study in a new believers' class, or for those who need a refresher course on what it really means to walk with Christ.

Angie Fehl says

While I'm not a rabid fan of the Real Housewives franchise by any means, it seems near impossible not to at least know something of them. I have seen some of Lydia's episodes and was impressed with her general voice of calm in there among the chaos and needless drama the other ladies seemed to generate. I was curious to see what she had to say about life away from the camera.

I went in optimistically but I ended up closing the book with mixed feelings. I could appreciate Lydia's deep love of family and her desire for a normal, stable family time not tarnished by the spotlight. That being said, I struggled to relate to her on any sort of "just a regular girl" level. I also wanted to applaud her for her

decision to leave the show when her grandfather fell ill, but then she went on to say how she missed the money, fame, parties, pretty clothes, etc. I think she was trying to show that she struggles with trying to fight moral hypocrisy, but the sincerity seemed to be lacking.

There was something to her story that seemed to me to be something of a disconnect with the real world. She says she joined Real Housewives OC to share her Christian faith with a wider audience, yet she notes that she did not have overnight success. If you're there for your faith, why would you care? Then when the stress and drama of the environment gets too much for her, she is whisked off to family vacays in Italy and women's retreats in Malibu. Yet she wants the average reader to feel a kinship with her? She also refers to the magazine her and her husband created, Beverly Hills Lifestyle, to be a project showcasing "triumph of the human spirit." If we're being totally honest here, I have to admit a snicker slipped out of me at that one.

I also questioned the way in which she likened her life to some of the most powerful stories in the Bible. I don't know that Abraham's walk of faith or Joseph being kidnapped and bound into slavery is really all that comparable to McLaughlin's stress & struggles on a reality tv show she willingly signed up for. There are also a few faith-based beliefs she shares that my personal beliefs objected to, but to each their own.

Fans of the Real Housewives series might, out of mild curiosity, might like to check this out but I didn't find myself overly wowed. The writing is conversational but not all that impactful and the religious ideas she covers, while the messages are still beneficial to hear, are not groundbreaking.

FTC Disclaimer: Worthy Publishing and First Look Blog Tours provided me with a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review. The opinions above are entirely my own.

Dan says

*I received a complimentary copy of this book from Worthy Publishing in exchange for my honest review.

Being on TV. Being recognized at the store. Asked to do interviews on TV, radio, and the internet.

Lydia McLaughlin was on Real Housewives of Orange County: Season 8. In her book, she describes what all she experienced, learned, and why she walked away from it all.

I really enjoy how personal the book was. It is not easy allowing people into your life without exposing your faults and failures.

Mrs. McLaughlin was very honest about her struggles with life, television fame, and how to honor Christ with her actions.

Her desire to do what God wanted is woven throughout this book and would be a great source of encouragement for those ready her story.

Jessica says

I picked up this book because I loved Lydia on season 8 of the Real Housewives of Orange County and was disappointed when she didn't come back for season 9. I was ecstatic to see that she had published a book and was even happier to see that it was faith-based and explained why she felt the need to leave the show. Beyond Orange County doesn't end there though, it calls christian wives to dig deeper and look inside to see if what we're doing in life is done to glorify Him.

When reading this book I was easily drawn to her charismatic personality which encouraged me to really dig in to the discussion questions at the end of each chapter. I kept a journal by my side when reading along with my bible so I could follow along with how Lydia's faith impacted her life and her decision to publicly share herself with the world through the TV show. I know I always thought it was strange that someone with such a strong faith and conviction would go on such a crazy show, but she really did have her reasons which were admirable!

I overall really liked this book because it gave the scoop on the Real Housewives of OC, but also gave me something to strive for in my own life. It was a positive look at a show which can be so negative. I highly recommend this book!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through the Worthy Publishing book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review.
