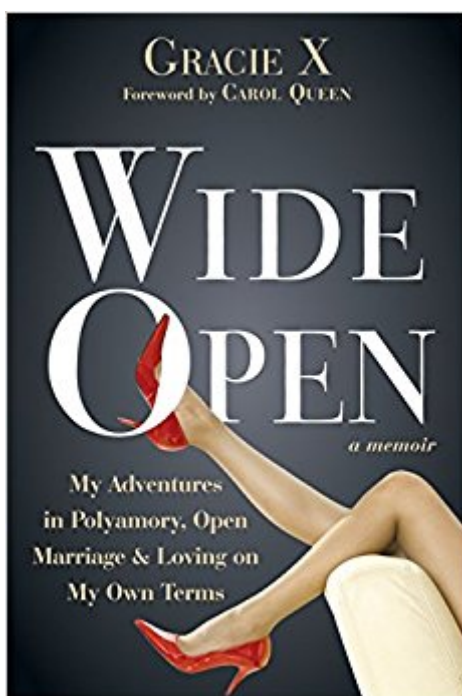


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# Wide Open: My Adventures In Polyamory, Open Marriage, And Loving On My Own Terms



## Synopsis

At a time when society no longer imposes many sexual taboos, why is open marriage still considered beyond the pale? Written by Gracie X, *Wide Open* is an enthusiastic, honest, and sometimes raw account of one woman's experience living polyamorously within the context of her average American family. Gracie X; a suburban mother of two; has been married to her loving husband, Hank, for 25 years. The problem is that their once-vibrant sex life has shriveled to nothing. Meanwhile, she has fallen in love with another man, for whom she has an overwhelming physical yearning. Frustrated and conflicted but determined not to give up her hard-won home life and wonderful husband, she is desperate for a creative solution. Can she somehow keep both men in her life without resorting to divorce or dishonesty? A friend introduces Gracie to polyamory: loving and being faithful to more than one person at a time.

Poly, it turns out, is a whole new world, with dedicated counselors, parties, and dating sites. Convincing Hank ended up being the easy part: he quickly found a girlfriend and accepted Gracie's terms. Their children, although upset at first, adjusted to having their parents' special friends around, and having Hank and his girlfriend in one duplex, with Gracie and her new boyfriend, Oz, next-door, seemed like an inspired solution. But would trying to go poly create as many problems as it was trying to solve? In her candid and provocative memoir, *Wide Open*, Gracie details the years she has spent exploring the poly lifestyle and creating her chosen family. A fiercely intelligent feminist, she challenges traditional ideas about monogamy, fidelity, and sexuality. From swinger parties and strip clubs to sex toys and pornography, this is an edgy and thought-provoking read. Yet erotica and tenderness share space here, with Gracie's true love for both Hank and Oz; as well as her two children; coming through very clearly. *Wide Open* reveals, with humor, integrity and heart; how one woman blended love, sex and marriage in unconventional ways and found the fulfillment she was looking for.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Vulnerable and vivacious, *Wide Open* is a deeply personal, beautifully written tale of one woman’s erotic journey to find herself and keep her family together. Gracie X bares her soul in this gripping memoir filled with pain and pleasure, growth, endings, and new beginnings. I couldn’t put it down!

• Elisabeth Sheff, author of *The Polyamorists Next Door: Inside Multiple-Partner Relationships and Families* (2014), and editor of *Stories from the Polycule: Real Life in Polyamorous Families* (2015)

“Gracie X has written an honest and engaging memoir about taking one of the biggest risks of her life—opening up her marriage despite warnings from friends and loved ones to not rock the boat—and her own fears. While honoring both her deep commitment to her husband and children and her reawakened sexuality, she shows us that, yes, we are capable of loving many people and receiving love back, as well as creating a marriage that is unique to our needs—a valuable lesson for all of us, whether polyamorous, monogamous, or monogamish.

• Vicki Larson, award-winning journalist and coauthor of *The New I Do: Reshaping Marriage for Skeptics, Realists and Rebels*

“For anyone who’s curious about how to approach polyamory or open relationships with your partner, *Wide Open* is a must-read. Gracie X graciously lays out her complicated journey in a funny, honest, and relatable way that will inspire others to follow their heart. Redefining the family and relationship model is not an easy task; however, *Wide Open* gives you hope that through honest communication, emotional maturity, and patience, anything is possible.

• Natalia Garcia, director and creator of Showtime’s *Polyamory: Married & Dating*

“I was moved by Gracie X as she shared a tender, passionate, and vulnerable memoir that inspires as it warns. This book is a must-read, authentic addition to the literature on open relationships and polyamory. As an intimacy counselor, I recommend her book for those who wish to experience the real-life joys, sorrows, challenges, and gifts of alternative relationship.

• Francesca Gentile, contributing author of *The Marriage of Sex and Spirit*, radio host of *Sex: Tantra and Kama Sutra*, and relationship and intimacy counselor

“This is a remarkable book. At a time when liberals and conservatives alike are

embracing marriage and the nuclear family, Gracie X sends us a life raft—the bold chronicle of her quest to create a family configuration that works for her, her husband, new lover, and children. Gracie X is not only creative and brave—she is also a consummate storyteller. Be prepared for a riveting tale of her journey into intense new love while her marriage simultaneously evolves and realigns itself. For anyone weary from the dry, didactic tone of poly how-to books, this memoir provides a wealth of information about the triumphs and tribulations of exploring polyamory. And it is an indispensable resource for those seeking to forge a new way with their partners and families, expanding the bounds of even polyamory itself.

—Ann E. Tweedy, poet and author of *Beleaguered Oases* (CreativePress 2010) and *White Out* (Green Fuse Poetic Arts 2013)

“To open her kimono and share how one woman and two families made sense of the paradox that is love, sex, family, intimacy, and honesty in our modern lives, is an act of tremendous courage and generosity. Her sassy, relatable, sexy truth-telling burns away the tarnish that convention can leave on our hearts. Even if our journeys look different than Gracie X’s (as indeed they should), let us stand up and shout out: Viva the moxie of Gracie X to open her heart and her mouth. Say it, sister!”

—LiYana Silver, mentor for Women’s Embodiment: Bringing Your Feminine Genius to Life (<http://liyanasilver.com>)

Gracie X is a writer, actress, and director. She lives in Northern California. Find out more about Gracie at <http://GracieX.com>, and connect with her online: Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GracieXauthor> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GracieXauthor> YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrpUKF87ojhzmV4uVNNyGAA>

Foreword writer Carol Queen, PhD, cofounded the Center for Sex and Culture in San Francisco and is author of *Real Live Nude Girl: Chronicles of Sex-Positive Culture*.

I got this book on recommendation from a friend thinking it would be a fun little voyeuristic romp of a read. Boy did I get more than I bargained for. Don’t get me wrong, it is a fun titillating read with many laugh-out-loud moments. It also is the most thought-provoking book I’ve read in a very long time. This book tells it all on so many different levels. It is a multiple-love story. Gracie writes poignantly about her love for her husband, Hank, her children and the family they’re all part of. She writes about falling in love with Oz, and trying to put that love away to maintain her family. Ultimately, she realizes that she needs to do something different but has no idea what that would look like. She starts to unpack what family, marriage, love and sex mean to her. Following her heart, (sometimes down some blind alleys), she is ultimately able to create a non-traditional vision of

family which works for all of them. Gracie takes the reader along on the ride, confessing her innermost thoughts, feelings, desires and frustrations. She pulls no punches, least of all on herself. Her writing mixes moxie, sheer determination and terrible uncertainty, erotic energy and vulnerability. It's an incredibly fun read, one which I couldn't put down. I finished it a few days ago, but it's still in my head. It's helping me unpack questions about my own life. What parts of it would I like to change, and how would I have the guts to do it.

If you are looking something to help you To understand what means or want to be sure that polyamory is the perfect relationship for you? This will not be the book for you. This book is more about a woman who became polyamory and is telling her own experiences. Did. It help me at all. As a person that just start a relationship with a marriage man and his wife. But if you are looking for a book to help you to educate you and help you and your polyamory relationship. I suggest to try "Some one you love is Polyamory" or " Love more than Two" by Franklin Veaux.

Gracie X tells a sometimes funny, sometimes moving, and always engaging tale of love in the 21st-century. Monogamy is not quite as mandatory as it was a couple of decades ago, and there's a growing acceptance of other options. But navigating those options and figuring out one's own authentic love style is not always easy. Despite progress and greater tolerance, alternative relationship styles are still stigmatized and can come at a cost, as is evidenced by Gracie X's unfortunate but very real need to write under a pseudonym. In addition, labels and identities (open marriage, polyamorous, etc.) may feel awkward. At first glance, Wide Open may seem to be a misleading title, suggesting a wild, licentious, anything goes mentality.

That's not the author's mindset at all. Hers is a conscious and intentional exploration, and where she lands is somewhat unconventional but far from extreme. The possibilities, however, are wide open, and it's that openness that made it possible for the author to land where she did.

All through this book, I could relate and then not as the author and main character found her way through life and figuring out what she wanted and needed. I cheered her on from afar, even though some part of me felt that this triangle she found herself in was not Polyamory the way I knew it yet who are we to decide what is what to anyone else? In the end, I'm just glad that things found a way to work out for everyone involved in this story.

Interesting.... I was just curious about the lifestyle and wanted to read up on it. But I wonder....has this worked for anyone else?

This book was incredibly entertaining and insightful. Gracie conveyed intense moments of pain, humor, concern, and enlightenment in her journey to a poly life. However, midway through the book I got this overwhelming feeling that everybody and every thing was a satellite that orbited Gracie. She came across as the queen of wanting to have her cake while eating it and nothing was too high of a price to pay in order to have both. I lost count of the number of times where I asked out loud, "is she serious?" Don't get me wrong, I'm all for self-discovery and getting what you want but, sometimes you have to be able to appreciate the costs. Despite the many positives, I think I ended up not liking her very much.

Certainly thought provoking and entertaining. With some brilliant writing, this book is an open and honest exploration of intimacy with self and others. It is about more than just sex - though Gracie's life is well spiced in this regard - it is about creative relationships and family.

Gracie is the bomb

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