**Book Excerpt:**

**I Kissed Dating Goodbye – Joshua Harris (1997)**

Overview:

Very well peppered with anecdotes and highly relevant directions in life for a Christ-like love. Loved the fact that it has so many short stories, which makes it highly relevant to youths. I’m born in 1997, and am reading it now, when I’m 21. Still so clear and so full of wisdom for singles and couples alike, especially those who are still unmarried.

Recommended to read: 11/10.

Chapter 1: *So this is love? – Beyond what feels good, back to what is good.*

The story about Anna and David, where Anna dreamed about David at the altar, having another 6 girls standing next to him, as he repeated his vows to Anna, made me conscious. David gave his heart to the other girls in previous relationships, and what he has left, he gave it to Anna for the rest of her life. This is what it’s like to have exes.

When you repeat your vows at your wedding, how many people will come up to you and say, “Really? You mean it this time? For real huh.”. It’s heartbreaking to know the people you had been in a relationship with, coming as invited guests and bringing the heartache you left behind, as a wedding gift to your special day.

Be pure and blameless, follow God’s example of love. He will provide you the power for it, as a Christian, pursue His goodness and footsteps in doing what is good, not only what feels good.

Chapter 2: *The little relationship principle – The joy of intimacy is the reward of commitment.*

The joy of intimacy is the reward of commitment. What else can I say, we’ve come so far in society and developing our rights and standing up for what we feel is right, but we polluted our ideas of relationship.

The goal of the relationship isn’t romance; it isn’t just for fun or emotional dependency. Intimacy should come as a by-product of commitment. It isn’t about figuring out who is the right one by going on a dating rampage, or making yourself look desperate. Truly, there is beauty in being able to reveal oneself through commitment, in knowing that the other person would never leave you, this is the greatest form of intimacy.

True joy is found in God’s brand of love – love founded on faithfulness, love rooted in commitment. The joy of intimacy is the reward of commitment.

Chapter 3: *The seven habits of highly defective dating – Recognizing dating’s negative tendencies*

Tip: never shop when you’re hungry, make sure to pick a good cart.

Don’t go into a relationship because you feel like you want the emotional and physical comfort with another person, it’ll cause you to pick the wrong person. Picking a good cart means our attitudes towards a relationship will determine its direction. Dating can encourage the sinful desires of our hearts. The emotional trauma and hurt from any relationship is not worth the temporal happiness and insecurity from starting too early.

Defective dating:

1. Dating tends to skip the friendship stage of a relationship

Dating = “I’m attracted to you; therefore, let’s get to know each other.”

Friendship = “We’re interested in the same things; let’s enjoy these common interests together.”

Intimacy without commitment is defrauding. Intimacy without friendship is superficial.

1. Dating often mistakes physical relationship for love

God demands sexual purity. He knows that physical involvement can lead to unwise choices, and distort the two people’s perspective for one another. He also knows that we’ll carry the memories of our past physical involvements into marriage. He doesn’t want us to live with guilt and regret.

Physical involvement in a relationship, would probably mean all that the two people have in common, is lust.

1. Dating often isolate a couple from other relationships

Often people find that they isolate and not focus on any other relationship except their own. It requires a lot of effort to maintain the relationship and their current lives. The exclusive attention from each other often isolates the pair from their family members, even God.

1. Dating can distract young adults from their primary responsibility of preparing for the future

Being distracted will come at an expense of focusing on the present. Instead of serving, building character, education, people allow themselves to be consumed by the present needs that dating emphasizes. They forgo chances for the sake of the other. Yes, you may learn good boyfriend girlfriend skills, but it hinders you from developing yourself in becoming the perfect spouse.

1. Dating can cause discontentment with God’s gift of singleness

There is a season and time for everything. The gift of singleness means freedom in developing yourself. Let’s not lose this for our own good. Develop and invest in yourself before committing yourself to another person for the rest of your life.

1. Dating can create an artificial environment for evaluating another person’s character

Dating means the other persons puts up their best for you to see, you’re unable to judge correctly on the person’s true nature and character. You’d want to impress the other person and ensure that they see only the best of you, but that’s not how it’s supposed to be like in a family. What is the use if you’re unable to see how your spouse-to-be would respond in a stressful situation? It’s unrealistic and it’s unjust to show the best to those who will see you at your worst.

1. Dating often becomes an end in itself

It becomes a pattern of short relationships one after another. You enter a relationship without having the end in mind. What are you really doing?

It usually ends with people going, “I don’t know if she’s the right one for me”, even after dating for many years. Dating is just the end goal, not the bridge between friendship and marriage.

Chapter 4: *Counterculture Romance – Five attitude changes to help you avoid defective dating*

We should be putting off our old self, becoming a new person created in God’s likeness, righteous, holy and true.