

I would like to thank Joshua Harris and his staff for providing this book to me for the purpose of evaluation and assessment. I found many things in this book informative and helpful.

For those not familiar with Joshua Harris, he is a pastor/author that ministers in the Washington D.C. area. His first book, *I kissed dating goodbye* is a well-known book addressing the controversial courtship side of the dating debate. He followed that book up with another entitled *Boy meets girl* and now has written a third book *Not even a hint*, subtitle: "guarding your heart against lust". It is this third book that I will be discussing.

The title, *Not even a hint* comes from the NIV translation of Ephesians 5:3:

*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people."*

The author sought to write a "PG-rated" book so as not to drag the reader's mind through the gutter. In my opinion, he came close to his goal, but missed it in a couple of places. I would give it a PG-15 or 16 rating, if such a rating existed.

The author's main premise is that believers should not have a "diet mentality" towards lust. We are not commanded to merely cut back to smaller portions of lust, but to totally get rid of it from our lives. He points out that the payoff for lust is a "continual lust for more" (Ephesians 4:19) which contributes to the ongoing problem. The cycle must be broken through the power of Christ.

A main theme throughout the book is fighting the battle against the heart. In discussing certain sins, he states that "we obsess over the act and neglect the more important issues of the heart" (99). This philosophy should invade our thinking on every sin. We are not fighting to overcome certain sins, we are fighting to keep our hearts pure before God.

Though he ties a loose connection between music and lust, he only presents the dress and lyrics as problems. This is not surprising since many of the author's friends are ccm artists. My point of disagreement is that the music can have just as much of an impact on us as the lyrics. You may doubt this, but ask yourself why you listen to the music you listen to. Is it filling a need or is it filling a desire? Lust and desire are synonymous. Feeding your lust for music only weakens you from fighting lust in another area.

Ironically, later in the book Harris cites the following quote by Susannah Wesley: "whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may be in itself". He obviously doesn't see an application to music here.

I do not recommend this book be handed out to everyone, but rather, I think it should be used as a tool for specified purposes. It could be used as a counseling tool for those struggling with lust. It could be used as a reference tool or a study aid if working through some of these issues in a group setting (perhaps youth pastors could use portions of chapters in bible studies). It could also be used by parents to help their teens stay pure. I see a potential danger in exposing an innocent mind to some of this material in that it can lead a curious mind down a dark path. For those already engrossed in a pattern of lust, this book could be a powerful tool to direct them to Christ for strength.