



## **Brazen: The Courage to Find the You That's Been Hiding**

*Leeana Tankersley (Preface)*

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## **Brazen: The Courage to Find the You That's Been Hiding Leeana Tankersley (Preface)**

There are so many moments in life when we choose to silence our intuition, abandon our own voice, and play small because we wonder, deep down: "Do I know who I really am? Is who I really am enough?" It's courageous work to learn to live from our essential identity--loved, worthy, whole. But what if God is calling us to shamelessly recover the woman he created us to be? What if God is urging us to be--for the first time in our lives--brazen?

The word "brazen" means "without shame." Leeana Tankersley wants women to be just that--to unapologetically move from shame- and fear-based living toward lives that are based on love and belonging. With moving personal stories and spot-on observations of the longings we all experience--to know we are loved, to feel comfortable in our own skin, to be heard--Tankersley calls women to honor that voice deep down inside of them rather than bowing to outside influences that push them to become someone they're not. Gritty and overflowing with grace, Brazen will set women free to be truly themselves in a world bent on molding them in its image.

## **Brazen: The Courage to Find the You That's Been Hiding Details**

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## **From Reader Review Brazen: The Courage to Find the You That's Been Hiding for online ebook**

### **Jennifer Pickwell says**

I am not sure where to begin with what my opinion is regarding this new book by Leeana Tankersley. I think if I had known a bit more about the book before, I might have skipped this title. There are just a few red flags that flew for me while reading Brazen. I could not be made to feel comfortable recommending it to a friend without knowing they had the ability to eat the meat and spit out the bones. Honestly, Tankersley offers some great advice and encouragement. However, for me, there are a few places in this book's pages that I found unsettling.

The chapter I found to be most helpful was twenty-three, You are That Girl. I love the way Tankersley goes after the insecure place in every woman I know. It is in this chapter I found myself wanting to tweet quotes from the pages. Tankersley eloquently nails the apprehension I feel about choosing things I want to do, but feel like I don't deserve to do. Everything from an outfit I feel like I can't wear, or an invitation I think I can't accept. I have a few friends I want to call and empower with the thought that they are "That Girl" too.

The places I found disagreement with Tankersley are random and scattered. It wasn't one particular chapter, but here and there. I think her reference to Oprah doing "the Father's business," with her new show Belief is troubling. While this is small, and one example, it is evidence of a different set of beliefs from a typical Christian Living reader. Therein will lie problems with other reviewers who will not be kind in their reviews or star ratings. I was given a complimentary copy of this book by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own and I have not been compensated.

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### **Julianna Rowe says**

"Who. Do. You. Think. You. Are?" What makes you think that you deserve to be loved, appreciated, let alone even valued as a human being? What makes you think you're so special? Dear reader, those who tell us such things are not our friends, nor should we allow their words to cause us to think any less of ourselves. As one of God's dear children, we are forever loved and so dear to Him. However, in our daily Christian walk, we are often beset by Satan, who in no wise wishes us to fulfill our God-given potential. It is not his voice that we should be listening to for guidance, but God's alone. Have you ever felt as if you were wearing a mask in public or could never fully be yourself because somehow it felt too 'brazen'? I'm sorry to have to be the one to break it to you, but that's no kind of life. When God created us, He had a very specific adventure planned out for us, even before we were born! Since God doesn't make us with any useless 'spare parts', maybe that something that you are trying to ignore really does have a purpose in His will for your life. That is what this reader had to realize for herself. After years of struggling through dark periods of low self-confidence, I was offered a chance to read this one book by Leeana Tankersley. Its very title seemed to call to my soul. It's called Brazen: The Courage to Find the You That's Been Hiding and it will revolutionize your life.

So, what is the main message of the book? Well, it's about becoming who God truly created us to be. Through it, we understand that what God has given us is enough, that we do not need to add anything to make us 'perfect'. "Do I believe God put something good inside me on the day of creation that I am to investigate, nurture, return to? Or do I believe the Soul Bullies - that I am a fraud and a fake and a fool for

thinking I am entitled to the eternity that God set in my heart?" If anything, this book will lead you to a closer walk with God and cause you to do some serious soul-searching. It brings home the underlying factors that make us question our value and what we can do to move past them all, one by one.

As I read through the book, it felt as if I was sitting down with the author and having a heart-to-heart discussion. Intrinsically, we each have those inner hurts and secret longings that we feel so keenly about, but we don't often have the courage to talk about. Leeana brings them all to light so beautifully and with such gentle understanding. Yet, amidst the soul-baring journey that she takes you on, you ultimately realize that these are fighting words and there is a battle to be won. We fight a daily war against those Soul Bullies who tell us "How dare you" live and countless other lies. By the end of the book, you will feel as if you have discovered a hidden treasure that no one else in the world knows about: you have truly found yourself.

This book captured my attention from the opening pages with words such as these: " ..I end up feeling like an actor in my own life. I feel like I've lost myself, like I don't know for sure who I am anymore, like the best parts of me are hiding. And it's no good. In fact, it's soul death. Do you ever feel like this? Something true inside you is trying to emerge -- pressing up from the depths -- but because it feels sacred and mysterious and wildly free and therefore gloriously dangerous, some dark and tormenting Soul Bully is immediately on your case. A desire, whisper, longing, stirring is welling up, but so is fear, so is an unnerving anxiety. A bully is lurking and you find yourself in what could best be described as a soul tug-of-war. You find yourself skeptical of you." There are several other parts out that stood out to me, but the one that has stayed with me is " We hold our current reality in one hand and hold our longings in the other hand, and we ask God to show us how we can honor both." What are we to do when our dream dies? Trust Him anyways. Do we want security more than we want the Savior?

I loved Brazen and would most definitely recommend it to my friends, especially those who are more into non-fiction, inspirational, and self-help. One could certainly use it along with their daily devotions, in fact, you should. Its words will help get your day moving, but I will warn you now that you better have a box of Kleenex on hand once you begin.

I received an advanced copy of Brazen from Revell in exchange for my honest review. I was not required to write a positive review and have not been compensated for it in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Victoria W. says**

It seems to be the pattern that the books I hesitate to read the most are the books in which I find myself finding the most truth.

I wasn't keen on Leeana Tankersley's new book at first. Hot pink has never been my colour and brazen was a word I didn't hear very often, certainly never in a positive context. Yet, here was this hot pink book staring up at me from my computer, unashamedly asking me "what do you have to loose?" While my inner voices screamed up teen dozen reasons why I shouldn't and couldn't read this book.

So I started reading.

According to the back cover

There are so many moments in life when we choose to silence our intuition, abandon our own voice, and play small, because of that accusing voice inside that whispers, "Who do you think you are, anyway?"

Who you are is a human--loved, worthy, and becoming. Who you are is a woman created by God to be and to do something unique. Who you are, deep down, is brazen.

Brazen means "without shame."

Leeana would probably classify my inner reasons as soul bullies. I'm not sure she would be wrong in that.

In Brazen Leeana offers women a uniquely crafted call to living as they have been called, to be free in "the wild spaces." Equal parts unapologetic calling out and truth speaking is partnered with a grace for women and a heart for creativity and passion.

As far as the structure goes, the chapters are not overly long and could theoretically be read quickly. However, I found this was one of the slowest books I've read recently due to wanting space to reflect upon the material and attempt some of the homework given at the end of each chapter.

The layout with the short chapters and homework option would make Brazen a wonderful option for a women's group or book club and I think the community aspect could add an entirely new dimension if led well.

My only concern with Brazen is that some areas felt very "new age" to me. I'm not entirely sure whether it was unfamiliar practices (free and inhibited are not exactly the first choice people would use when asked to describe me :P ), cultural difference, or if it was borderline new age. Some more conservative readers may find this to be an issue.

Overall, I think Leeana has bravely and brazenly brought a new outlook on an issue that, while often written about, is still largely felt and requiring the new life she brings into the situation.

4.5 out of 5 stars

"Book has been provided courtesy of Baker Publishing Group and Graf-Martin Communications, Inc."

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## **Buffy says**

I listened to this book on audio. It is a Christian self-help book, but I would say less Christian and more self-help. In fact, the religiosity was about equivalent to the spiritual guidance you might find on Oprah's Super Soul Sunday series. Anyway, I am somewhat religious and very spiritual, so I found the tone to be just right. She described a lot of feeling states that were relatable to me and offered support and encouragement to fully embody yourself and your dreams. One star removed, which may seem unfair because it's almost the other side of the same reasons I liked the book. The author can sometimes seem too much "in her head". She describes fretting over anything, which is essentially anxiety. The author disclosed that she takes medication for a diagnosed mental disorder and I wholeheartedly support that! But at times I found myself having to do my own "reality check" and remind myself that she's describing crippling anxiety that not everyone (should) feel and to not get too wrapped up in the author's self-therapy for her particular mental illness. Some of the experiences she described are likely due to her mental illness, and thus less relatable if you don't have one. Otherwise nice book and I hope the writer makes it across from Oprah one day soon!

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### **Bonnie says**

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. It's not likely I would have sought it out otherwise. There were some nuggets of wisdom here and there, but though it was marketed as Christian living, it was a mish mash of personal stories, secular examples (e.g. Oprah), "wisdom" of other world religions, and a few Bible verses. The book emphasizes finding yourself, but not doing this in the pursuit of becoming more like Christ. The Bible verses that were used seemed to be stretched out of context and in at least one case, completely contradicted. Maybe I would have had an easier time if this book didn't call itself Christian, but it just was too thin on Christianity to be something I feel I could recommend.

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### **Deitra says**

Another insightful book by Leeana Tankersley. She is so adept at putting into words what I am thinking, feeling, experiencing. I loved this book and highly recommend it.

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### **Candy Shepard says**

Soul-digging, to the created core! What would you find in your Created Center?

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### **A.E.M. A.E.M. says**

I adored this book!?

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### **Natali says**

Leeana's writing speaks to my soul. We all could be more brazen in our lives.

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### **Amanda says**

"There I was...me catching up with me...realizing, once again, something eternal lives and breathes in me, and it is good. God-given good." (page 24)

This is what Brazen does for me. Leeana's perspective and guiding voice helped me to see old Truth with new, fresh eyes. A deep calling out to deep.

Leeana breaks her book into three soulful sections: Receive Your Identity, Reclaim Your Soul, and Recover

Your Soul. Her words resonant in chapters like, Unhook from Heavy, Keep Casting your Nets, Allow for Expansion, You are That Girl, and Unlearn.

She asks us to confront those Soul Bullies who ask us, "Who do you think you are?" It's not a step-by-step instruction manual but instead, a guide for the reader to believe he/she can trust the process as he/she answer the question for himself/herself. A guide that turns us toward our Creator and the Created Self he put within each of us.

As I flip through the pages, I see many underlinings and highlights that I will revisit and unpack. To sit in for a while and look forward to drawing closer to God.

A note on the form of her book: I love quotes and enjoy when an author uses them under the chapter headings. At times these quotes can seem like filler, but in *Brazen* they were well thought out and utilized. I highlighted several along with Leeana's own words throughout the chapter. In addition, at the end of each chapter are helpful, reflective questions. I found them to be pointedly reflective. They are questions that engage with each chapter rather than asking for a regurgitation of the chapter. I look forward to thinking through them during rereads.

If you've read and enjoyed books by Shauna Niequist, Emily P. Freeman, or Angie Smith you may find Leeana Tankersley to be a name to add to your list. An author who shares how God has shaped her life and invites you, the reader along for the journey. She challenges you to see how He can and will shape yours too.

I was given an advanced copy of the book in exchange for my honest review. (Thanks, Revell!)

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## **Angie Kaye says**

### **Thought provoking book**

I highly recommend this book, the author points out the real truth about the soul bullies we listen to in life.

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## **Julia says**

Here is the truth:

Brazen comes out today.

I haven't finished it.

This is kind of hard for me since I put so much gosh darn pressure on myself to have things done the day or at least a day before.

But that did not happen with this book. And I don't know if when I finish, I'll be able to review because there are so many topics in here that have hit me hard.

So, I'm about to review this with 8 chapters to go. This also feels illegal, but I'm not going to apologize (this

is something Leeana talks about in her book) for the fact I'm a writer. And writers need to process.

The word, brazen, to me, has this sandpaper quality. Without knowing that it means, "shamelessly unapologetic," I think of someone who goes out there and doesn't take no for an answer. I did not think that it had anything to do with creativity or the soul. Or your voice.

What I think I've loved most about this book is Leeanna's open confession with the struggle of Soul Bullies. You know the voices inside us that things like:

How dare you desire.

How dare you follow an inkling?

How dare you love what you offer this world.

How dare you write.

Or in my case: How dare you write a review when you aren't even done with the book.

Leeana heard these Bullies during one of her 20 minutes of soul time. This is where she sets a time for 20 minutes for 20 minutes and writes whatever her soul is saying to her. At the end, she asks God what he would look to say to her.

I don't know why more than anything else, her admission to having Soul Bullies has stayed with me. Maybe it's because I automatically assume those that are older don't struggle with these things. I mean, they've been around longer than me which means they have experience. Ways to overpower the Soul Bullies without constant need to tell them: how dare you tell me who I am?

Or withdraw for a bit, because maybe they're right.

Leanna's honesty has had me hooked, how we all struggle with being brazen. How we should not only embrace our brokenness, but our belovedness. How we each have a child, a mother, and grandmother inside us. Guides that show us who we are. How we are allowed to take up space in this world and not apologize for it. To become.

There's so much in this book that only having a week and some time to read and take in, I couldn't do it. The Reflection & Expression questions have stopped me in my tracks. They are hard and I want to bypass them, but I just want to sit them. Because I know I won't go back to them for months. Years maybe.

And did I mention she encourages all to make a Brazen board? Can I just say I'm so glad she prefacing the book with a note we do NOT need to be Martha Stewart?

Thank you, Leanna. Thank you.

This is a book that you need to spend time with. And I'm honored to continue taking this journey to come out of hiding and see Jesus along the way.

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### **Joanna says**

This is the second book I've read by Leeana Tankersley and I love her writing style. She is lyrical, almost poetic in the way she used words to give you a bit of a kick in the butt.

In *Brazen*, she calls on the women of the world to be who we are, authentically and wholly. To step into our personhood and unhide all those parts of ourselves that we keep hidden because we might offend or be too forthright or whatever it is that might displease someone. We don't have to be superwomen, we don't have to be, do or have it all - we just have to be who we are meant to be in each and every moment. That is enough.

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### **Jeannie says**

This is the kind of book you almost hate to finish because you'll miss the author's voice and the encouragement she brings.

For fans of Shauna Niequist or Emily P. Freeman, *BRAZEN* reminds us to silence the soul-bullies and turn up the voice of our Father.

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### **Sharee says**

I became a fan of Leeana Tankersley when I read her book *Breathing Room*. You can see my review here. *Brazen* is just as FANTABULOUS, if not better. My highlighter poised, I was whipping through this book. There's so much great material...so many quotes you'll want to remember. And it's a book that will make you stop, reconsider, reevaluate and then, if you're willing, make you RENEW the way you think.

My favorite part of this book is where she talks about Soul Bullies. The ones sent from the enemy to drag us through the mud and convince us through lies that we missed our calling, missed out on the things God had planned for us. Best of all, she talks about how to get rid of those bullies and move forward into the life where our purpose can have a powerful impact. Where we can exist, *Brazen*. She calls the Soul Bullies hope slayers, oh how I loved that.

*Brazen* is not a prosperity preaching message. Not at all. I personally detest that kind of thinking. Rather, it's a wakeup call to stop moving robotically through life and be intentional. In this book, Leanna encourages the reader to create a *Brazen* board and to add things to the board after each chapter. Colors that are bold and audacious that free your brazen. Images that provide encouragement toward letting go of those unreasonable expectations. It's a beautiful exercise and demonstration of the inward battle, with freedom birthing, even if you're not the artsy crafty type. And if you're not into that sort of thing, well, she still offers great exercises to encourage your inner brazen through the Reflection and Expression sections. There's not a ton of questions to answer because there doesn't need to be. One, maybe two simple thought-provoking queries to solidify that chapter.

Rarely does a book come along that has me so excited, I want everyone to read it...but this one is it. *Brazen* is a book I've already shared with friends. It's a book that gives you more than peppy cheerleader talk. It gives you a chance to see your God given ability to be who He created you to be. I cried, I laughed and I dug in deep, killing the soul bullies. Leeana's writing is transparent and deeply moving. She is truly gifted in sharing her message and speaking to the heart of a woman.

Brazen is tremendous. There's so many words I could use to describe it but the most important thing I can say is that it goes beyond a five-star rating. Beyond a "great read". It's a book that I'm digesting like a scrumptious meal at a fancy restaurant where you savor every single bite.

I received this book from the author and Revell Publishing in exchange for my honest opinion, which I've provided here.

<https://wordynerdyblog.wordpress.com/...>

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