

# Q&A with Becky Thompson

author of

## Hope Unfolding

On sale date: 03/15/2016

Tradepaper ISBN: 9781601428127

e-Book ISBN: 9781601428134

WaterBrook Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House

**Q1. Becky, your hugely successful blog, Scissortail SILK, began as a fashion blog. How did it transform into a place to share your heart with other young mothers?**

I began my blog, Scissortail SILK, because a boutique owner asked if I was fashion blogger. It's an interesting story that I actually share in *Hope Unfolding*, but my intentions were to simply post fun outfits and glimpses into my life. As I began to write, I quickly realized that I didn't just want to tell women how to feel good by wearing certain clothes. I wanted each reader to know that her worth is found in Jesus. I wanted her to be confident of God's love for her. I suppose the most authentic story we have to tell is the one that always rises to the top. For me, encouraging other women and reminding them of God's love is the truest message I have to share.

**Q2. Your blog receives more than a million page views each month. In the beginning, did the overwhelming response from women surprise you?**

Six months after I first began the blog I wrote a post late one night about the importance of remembering to be a wife after becoming a momma. When I woke up the next morning, I was shocked by the response. The post was shared over 700,000 times, and my readership grew from one thousand monthly page visitors to one million monthly page visitors. In the months following, I received thousands of messages from women across the world who had been encouraged by what they had read. It was a lot to process as these women trusted me with their stories and shared their hearts with me. But I knew that if I always pointed them back to Jesus, if I always reminded them of God's goodness and His grace, I would always have the answer that they needed to hear the most.

**Q3. For those of us who aren't in the daily trenches of motherhood, what are some of the greatest *unexpressed* needs among mothers today?**

More than anything, I think moms need to know that they are not alone. They need support, but they also need to feel seen in the stories of their own lives. Beyond this, they need to know that their best is good enough and that God doesn't expect perfection from them.

**Q4. Loneliness is one of the main topics discussed in *Hope Unfolding*. With women connecting online in ways previous generations were never able to, what role do you think social media has played in either increasing or decreasing isolation for young mothers?**

I think that social media has created a way for mothers to be connected unlike any other generation before us. But while we live so much of our lives online, with access to millions of other moms, I

don't think that there has ever been a time when mothers have felt more alone. I fear we lack authentic relationships and community as we exchange them for digital friendships. We know facts about one another, which makes us feel like we are known, but we don't get to connect deeply by sharing the realest places of our hearts. This is why I am so passionate about the online community of Scissortail SILK. As mothers across the world reach out for friendship and support from other moms, it is my hope that Scissortail SILK exists as a grace-filled place where women can encourage one another and say, "You're not alone. You're welcome here. I have been there too! Let's talk about what really matters."

**Q5. The notion of grace seems to saturate many of today's Christian messages. Why is a true understanding of grace so important to a mother's emotional and spiritual well-being?**

Mom-guilt is a real thing. We are constantly replaying the moments in our day where we feel like we have been less than perfect. We wonder if we should have handled certain things differently. We fear we are ruining our children with our own inadequacies. The truth is none of us are perfect. That's why we need Jesus and His grace. He is forever filling in all of our gaps and the places where we come up short. And this includes our mothering. When we realize that it is okay to not be perfect, we find freedom from our own self-imposed expectations, and this brings a new sense of hope to a woman's heart.

**Q6. What kind of response have you had from your readers as you move from the world of blogging into the publishing arena?**

I truly think of my readers as my friends, and as I have shared news with them about different parts of the publishing process, we have all been excited together. Many of my readers have said that they are excited to share this book with other moms not just because they are excited about the words inside, but because they feel as though they are offering other women an opportunity to join us in the adventure of grace-filled motherhood! We are looking forward to sharing our community in book form!

**Q7. What surprised you most about writing this book? What did God reveal to you during this experience?**

As I was writing *Hope Unfolding*, I considered how women outside of motherhood would also relate to many of the grace-filled truths found within the text. The truth is the issues that we face as mothers aren't just as a result of having children. They are often lies that we have believed or fears that have taunted us long before motherhood held a magnifying glass over them. The truth is we all need to find grace for who we are and hope in Jesus. That is the promise of *Hope Unfolding*. It could be for anyone.

**Q8. What is your greatest hope for those who will read *Hope Unfolding*?**

More than anything, I want those who read *Hope Unfolding* to encounter Jesus. I want them to find confidence in the truth that He loves them, is continuously with them, and wants them to live in freedom. I want them to experience the promises of God's love, and as they tune their hearts to His voice, I hope that they discover the one true Hope who will sustain their hearts.