The financial decisions we make in our lives are sometimes not the easiest to discuss but have long-lasting effects. [Opdyke’s advice] has opened the door in my relationship to conversations that were a long time coming.

—Josh, regular reader of Opdyke’s Love & Money column, Florida

Real answers to real questions about money and relationships: I have too much debt and my credit isn’t very good. How can I fix my financial problems? And how do I break the news to my boyfriend? How do I teach my kids the value of money, when my parents shower them with expensive gifts? My wife makes more money than I do, does that give her a greater voice in our financial decisions? Are we still equal? How much should I give my child in allowance? And will it really help him learn the value of a dollar? We want to have our first baby, but we don’t know if we can afford it yet. How much money do we really need to have in the bank? If you’re like most people, you’re struggling with questions like these. Whether we like it or not, money makes a big difference in the choices we make and the lives we lead. Unresolved questions about money can put unwanted stress on even the healthiest relationships—between spouses, between parents and children, and even between friends. In Love & Money, columnist Jeff Opdyke offers practical personal finance advice, as well as strategies for dealing with touchy financial topics—so that money doesn’t end up costing you something even more valuable.

My Personal Review:
This book is an excellent companion to other financial books. Rather than tell you how to save or invest, it talks about the personal sides of money in life. Although most of the book comes from the standpoint of someone in a marriage, much of the material will be relevant for everyone. The point of the book is to make us think about the "other" questions that personal finance implies, such as dealing with financial compatibility with others, kids & allowances, supporting parents in their old age, deciding what you...
actually want to do with your retirement, and some others. I appreciate Opdyke's candor in talking about the conversations he has with his spouse, as I have similar talks with my wife. This book has given me much to think about, and more to talk about with my wife. All of this is done in a pleasant, easy-to-read style that is not at all "preachy" about what you "should" be doing. A great read, and highly recommended.

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