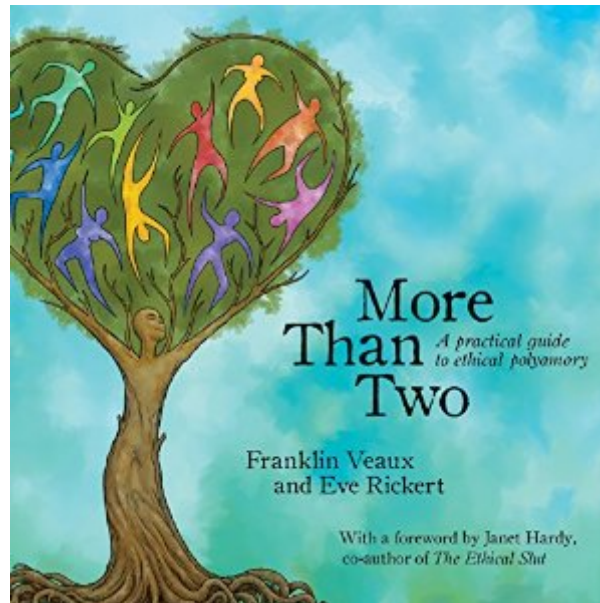


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More Than Two: A Practical Guide To Ethical Polyamory



Synopsis

Can you love more than one person? Can you have multiple romantic partners without jealousy or cheating? Absolutely! Polyamorous people have been paving the way through trial and painful error. Now the new book *More Than Two* can help you find your own way. With completely new material and a fresh approach, Franklin Veaux and Eve Rickert wrote *More Than Two* to expand on and update the themes and ideas in the wildly popular polyamory website morethantwo.com. From ancient Greece through the many dynasties of China and to current practices of nonmonogamy, people have openly engaged in multiple intimate relationships. Not until the late 20th century, however, was a word coined that encapsulated the practice, philosophies, edicts, and ethics: polyamory (poly = many + amore = love). For Franklin Veaux, who has been polyamorous for his entire adult life, the emerging framework and subsequent vocabulary for his lifestyle was a light in the dark. Candidly sharing his experiences and thoughts online catapulted his website, morethantwo.com, among the first dedicated to the poly lifestyle, to one of the top-ranking on the subject. In recent years, as more people have discovered polyamory as a legitimate and desirable option for how they conduct their relationships, Franklin and one of his partners, Eve Rickert, saw that there was a growing need for a comprehensive guide to the lifestyle. *More Than Two* is that guide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Living in polyamorous relationships for several years myself now, I really can't praise and recommend this book enough. It touches most of the topics I found important myself and reflects on

them in a thoughtful, intelligent, ethical and humorous way. Amongst other things the book talks about different polyamorous relationship types (hierarchical and non-hierarchical relationships, mono/poly-relationships, veto-power-agreements, "opening up" from a couple, ...), nurturing of relationships, communication strategies and pitfalls, how to deal with jealousy, the difference between rules, agreements and boundaries, self-empowerment in relationships, sexual health, the everyday sides of polyamory ("Sex and Laundry", polyamorous relationships and being parents, coming out as polyamorous or not, ...), et cetera. Based on the premise not to treat people as things, the authors examine which approaches to polyamory are most promising to be able to live (polyamorous) relationships in a way that is fulfilling for everyone involved. Unlike other books, "More Than Two" does not proclaim "the one true way" to polyamory, but empowers the readers to think and decide for themselves. The authors use personal stories and the experiences of other people to illustrate the ways that can lead to happiness in polyamorous relationships or to the contrary. Instead of being judgmental, the authors assume that people are essentially good and that "bad behavior" in relationships is often the result of fear or ignorance, not malicious intent. "More Than Two" is down-to-earth and non-esoteric, it's written intelligently, warmheartedly and humorously. It has everything, that I have missed in other books about polyamory and just speaks from my heart. I hope it will get translated into other languages soon and that plenty of people, who are interested in polyamory, will read it and enjoy it as much as I did.

By far, the best book on relationships out there. Notice I didn't say "poly relationships", although it is that. I said "relationships". This book is the only book I've ever read to address relationships from an ethical perspective *and to get it right*. Before we start talking about structures and finding new partners and managing conflict, we have to start with the foundation - ethical treatment of other human beings. Everything else springs from that foundation. If you don't have good ethics at the base of your relationship, then the structure doesn't matter, how many people are in the relationship doesn't matter, how or where you find new partners doesn't matter, and conflict resolution strategies don't matter - all of that can be used to create abusive, coercive, harmful, or just plain old unsuccessful relationships. However, if you *do* have good ethics at the base of your relationships, then the structure, the relationship rules, the number of participants, etc. all flow naturally from there to what works best for the people involved. But it's not all abstract principles either. This book doesn't just discuss big philosophical issues, it gives readers a solid framework on applying those considerations in a practical way that can make a difference in our every day lives and relationships. Each chapter ends with questions that readers can use to apply the principles in that chapter to their

own relationships that prevents the book from coming off as being "too preachy" and makes the authors seem as though they're really on our side in our quest to improve our lives and relationships. Everyone should read this book, regardless of what kind of relationship they're in or what kind they want. But poly people in particular NEED this book. We have a unique opportunity to structure our community before it gets away from us. We have lessons we can learn from other communities that are plagued by abuse, discrimination, and other social ills because the communities didn't deliberately plan for ethics within the community. We can change this in our own community. We can change this in our own relationships. We can change this in our own lives. We can be the model for healthy, successful, happy relationships in our own individual partnerships and in our communities for the entire world to see. Or we can just develop healthy, successful, happy relationships for ourselves to make our lives better.

I've read a lot about polyamory over the years: informal interviews, family profiles, "how to" advice columns as well as talking with a number of close polyamorous friends. I doubted that a book on polyamory would have anything new to for me but after I read some of the essays at the More Than Two website I bought it and I'm glad I did. This is a book that anyone in any romantic or intimate relationship should read. Period. The discussion on ethics in relationships is thoughtful, principled, and regurgitates none of the often-repeated glib "rules" I've heard from online poly how-to sources; likewise the discussion on jealousy is deeply reflective. It's clear that these are ideas grown from years of learning and unflinching self-examination rather than years of repeating the same mistakes over and over. The tone assumes that readers are emotionally and intellectually mature people seeking to improve our relationships, our capacity for intimacy and our relation with ourselves. There are no easy answers or flip solutions, but there's also an undertone of compassionate reassurance that all manner of thing shall be well. The bottom line is that this is a resource for adults willing and able to self-examine in order to have more satisfying, joyful and organic intimate relationships rather than people seeking high-school-like hierarchies and rules to ensure that no one encounters pain, doubt or jealousy.

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