

# A CALL FOR STORIES!

## **Book project 2012:**

“Halos with Horns: A Christian Women’s Guide to Dealing with Mean Women in the Church” by Janell Rardon

### **Premise:**

On my 6th birthday, as a first grader at Holy Spirit Catholic School in Jacksonville, NC, I had to stand on the “white line” that ran in front of the convent. Center stage for the entire school to see. Instead of playing with my friends, I stood alone. Humiliating is the best way to describe that moment in my life’s story. If memory serves me, I talked too much. Surprise! Surprise! It seems that from a very young age, my inability to remain silent was an issue (smile). It seems my childhood served as a foreshadowing to my future vocation as a speaker, author, and Christ-follower. It’s true, I love to talk. But, more importantly, I love to talk about the inspiring truth of God’s Word and how it offers everyone of us a fresh start.

This isn’t always easy. I’ve been avoiding this book project for many, many months, but feel compelled that now is the time. I have to give voice to a silent killer in the community of faith: *mean women*. Let me be clear: this won’t be fun and games, but the end result will be well worth the time, effort, and risk. Perhaps women who have left the church will come back. Return to loving environments where they feel accepted, loved, and fulfilled.

Experts say, “Write what you know.” Well, I know about mean women. Even, “well-meaning” women. In fact, I’ve been one. Oh, no one could tell. I hid it really well. Murdering others with my eyes. Silently assaulting them with my thoughts.

I want to show with my words what has happened in my life. From being barked at in elementary school to being locked in a roller skating rink bathroom bullied by a group of middlers to once again being cornered in a bathroom in high school after winning the high school beauty pageant.....I know mean women.

*Halos with Horns* is a book:

1. Designed to call women all across the world to a higher standard of relationships, laying aside their differences, their egos, and their personal ambitions and agendas in order to create a community in which a true spirit of unity exists.
2. Written to transform the way women, particularly Christian women, relate to each other. By taking the tough topic of disunity, as expressed through unhealthy

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patterns of communication, such as jealousy, envy, comparison, inferiority, insecurity, oppressive attitudes, facade, apathy, etc., this book heralds a message that will change the face of women in the community of faith. When women gather *in unity*, i.e., put off these unhealthy communication patterns and put on authentic healthy communication, and exist in a community where every member understands the greater goal of putting community before self, an indomitable spirit of unity makes great movements happen.

3. Written by women for women. A honest conversation that will bring healing, hope, and hearts united for the cause of Christ.

This is where you come in. Join the conversation and share your story. Perhaps you have been wounded by the words of a “mean woman” disguised as a sincere sister in Christ; been the object of a fellow sister’s jealousy or envy (sometimes subtle, sometimes not); been derailed or sidelined by the power of a strong personality; been humiliated and made to stand on the “white line” of disapproval; been held at arm’s length because you don’t fit into the mold of certain “sisters” rules of religion. This isn’t a “tell all” or “slam your sister” expose, but an honest look at the state of Christian women or “churched” women, we might say. Here’s what I am looking for:

- a. Your honest story. Tell the truth in love.
- b. Names can be changed, so self-disclosure will be anonymous.
- c. No church names will be given.
- d. No denominations will be mentioned, only to clarify a point. such as in my story, “I was tired of tiptoeing through the tulips of reformed theology. No longer could I be a square peg in a round hole. It would be the death of me. The harder I tried to be accepted as a teacher, the harder I fell.”
- e. Keep your story to 750-1000 words.
- f. I’ll edit and rework, if you need help! :)

Will you join the conversation and help bring healing to the hearts of hurting Christian women all over the world! Let’s do this! I can’t wait to see God move.

Please send your story to [janellrardon@me.com](mailto:janellrardon@me.com)