

### *Sticks and Stones* endorsements:

Shellie Arnold's *Sticks and Stones* is an exquisite portrayal of lost dreams. It's the heart-wrenching story of a fractured family finding their way back and learning to forgive. I wanted to sneak in a chapter during lunch and couldn't stop reading until I finished it.

~ Ane Mulligan, bestselling author of *Chapel Springs Revival*

In *Sticks and Stones*, Shellie Arnold does a remarkable job of telling a captivating story that penetrates to the heart and soul of common marital blind spots and the roles we unintentionally adopt to deal with stress and conflict. Although merely fiction, the truths it brings to light about the complex destructive patterns found in many marriages are amazingly accurate. As a marriage mentor, I see these patterns all too frequently in marriages on the verge of collapse, and I'm thrilled to see a story that not only shows in meticulous detail how they develop, but also how couples can find resolution and reconciliation.

~ Linda Rooks, Author of *Broken Heart on Hold, Surviving Separation*

Shellie Arnold has done it again! I would recommend anything and everything Shellie writes...and here's why: she understands people and what it takes to make a marriage work. She also is tenderhearted toward the Lord. Adhering to the biblical principle, "Speak the truth in love," Shellie cuts through the typical sugar-coated advice and gets to the heart of the matter. I love the way Shellie puts solid marriage counseling into a story. The story she tells in *Sticks and Stones* is no exception. The struggles Rick and Julie Matthews go through clearly demonstrate the power our words hold—spoken and unspoken. But words don't merely hit the intended target. Collateral damage, in this case their children, is equally devastating. Healing is possible, but not typically achieved without intentionality. As a pastor, I intend to purchase this series to have in our church library to use as follow up for the marital counseling I do.

~ Tina M. Hunt, Pastor, Ashland First Church of the Brethren

*Sticks and Stones* offers readers an intimate peek behind the closed doors of the Matthews family and their pain—both past and present. This book has a something vital to convey to every reader, no matter their circumstance in life. In a transparent and powerful way, author Shellie Arnold reminds us that it is both the things we say and the things left unsaid that matter most.

~ Clint and Penny A. Bragg, Authors of *Marriage on the Mend—Healing Your Marriage After Crisis, Separation, or Divorce*.