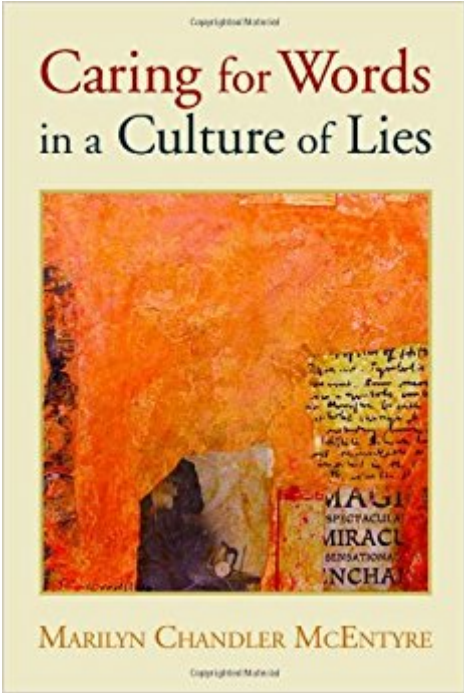


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# Caring For Words In A Culture Of Lies



## Synopsis

“Like any other life-sustaining resource,” says Marilyn McEntyre, “language can be depleted, polluted, contaminated, eroded, and filled with artificial stimulants. Today more than ever, language needs to be rescued and restored. Drawing on a wide range of sources, both critical and literary, *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies* is an engaging address to everyone concerned with preserving the vitality and precision of the spoken and written word. If every literate person in the United States read this book, the result could dramatically transform our society. . . . Written with modesty, keen insight, and grace, Marilyn McEntyre’s *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies* proposes a revolution of human expression that would bring precision, honesty, and felicity to the spoken and written discourse of contemporary culture. ”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Christian Century "Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies, Marilyn Chandler McEntyre's book on the stewardship of language, is a wonderfully composed treatise. . . If you wonder whether caring for words is worth the effort, consider McEntyre's reasoning to a young student:

"Language is the basic tool for preserving civilization. It seems useful to understand as much as we can about how it works since it's arguably one of the most potent forms of power that society has produced — that and the atom-splitter."

Marilyn McEntyre is professor of English at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California. She has written dozens of articles and reviews in such journals as *The Washington Post*, *Theology Today*,

Journal of the American Medical Association, and Christianity Today. She is also the author of *Dwelling in the Text* and *A Healing Art: Regeneration through Autobiography*.

I really enjoyed this book, and would recommend it to anyone who loves language and words. It's a very challenging book insofar as it pushes one to consider the words they use and why they use them. There is a call to bring our speech back to the kind that gives life, but also be people who are slow to speak and quick to listen. Can't recommend it enough!

This book with its 12 chapters is a wonderful manual for reading intelligently and writing well. Replete with examples of good writing as well as being well-written itself, this book could help create a literate culture. The 12 chapters are: 1. Love Words 2. Tell the Truth 3. Don't Tell Lies 4. Read Well 5. Stay in Conversation 6. Share Stories 7. Love the Long Sentence 8. Practice Poetry 9. Attend to Translation 10. Play 11. Pray and 12. Cherish Silence. These should give you an indication of what the book contains and how useful it is.

Insightful and delightful.

The book makes some great points about the diminished use of good words and vocabulary. No doubt our modern world uses too much hyperbole, figures of speech and slang which are often poor substitutes for proper grammar. Ms. McEntyre is obviously a very learned English professor and is passionate about this subject. She uses many examples from classical literature. I agree with most of her points but found her book to be a difficult read. I am accustomed to and prefer more concise and focused writing typical of business communications and non fiction literature. I especially liked her section on conversations. Good conversationalists show a keen interest in what others are saying and ask probing questions. One thing I learned in sales training many years ago was that the best salespeople are always good listeners. Unfortunately, she is correct that this is a dying art form. She really lost me in the section on falling in love with the long sentence. That may work with some people in fiction but is a non starter in communications forms I use and am familiar with. I believe I would have had a much shorter career if I had fallen in love with long sentences.

I LOVE the way this author writes, so much to think about and apply.

Very good and timely book. Author wonderfully illustrates what she recommends. will be reference

This is a deceptively short book, but it is like a fine meal to be savored bite by bite. The author appreciates language well used and it shows glowingly on every page. Although originally written for a religious audience, it's really fine for anyone who needs reassurance that there still are people out there who care deeply about such things. To be recommended for language teachers, students and those who continue the tradition of the love affair with the English language.

While I do not necessarily agree with everything Marilyn Chandler says, I find myself enjoying this book's lyrical prose and her reflections upon the importance of words. I especially enjoy her description of felicity and her exhortation to be truthful in descriptiveness. A friend who recommended this book claimed that it "changed her life." While it has not had that great an impact on me, I will enjoy poring over it at least several more times.

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