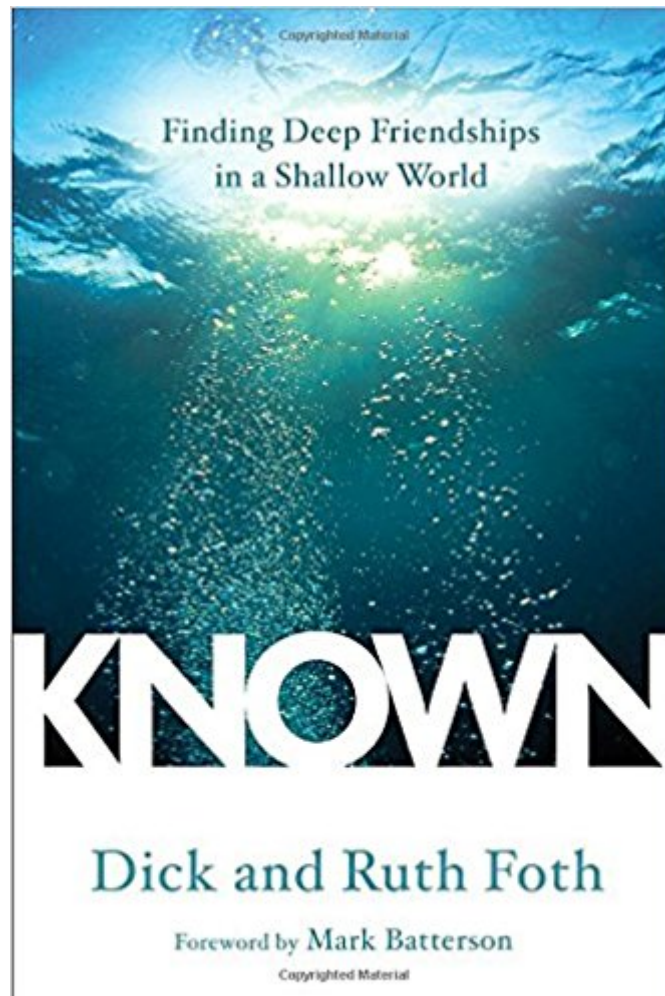




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Known: Finding Deep Friendships In A Shallow World



Synopsis

In an often shallow and fast-paced world, how can we really know and be known by another person? How do we make true friends? The Digital Age is all about change, but the need for true friendship never changes. You are designed for real engagement with others---for affirmation that goes beyond a simple “like” on social media, for connection over meals, for hope and excitement about the future. Above all, you need to be known and accepted for who you are. But how do you find and maintain this kind of friendship in a fluid and frenetic culture? In *Known*, Dick and Ruth Foth offer inspiration and proven practices to build relationships through personal storytelling and affirmation. They draw on years of mentoring, rich relationships, and the model of Jesus to show you why friendship is one of the keys to a full life and the greatest gift we can give to each other.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Most of us don’t get a how-to course in building lasting friendships; often we are left to figure it out as we grow up. Reading *Known* gave me a fresh look on friendship and its important role in my life. This fantastic resource of poems and stories from the Foths’ personal experiences will bring incredible meaning and longevity to your relationships.”
—Betsy Miller, director, StoryBrand Foundation
“I’ve been learning about extravagant love from Dick and Ruth Foth for over a decade. I asked Dick if he would come with me to a country in the middle of a civil war. He said “yes” without skipping a beat.

This is how the Foths are wired. They don't see opportunities and faith and friends as separate parts of their lives but as inseparable ones. They don't love people after they've arrived; they love their friends on the way. This is exactly what Jesus did. You're going to enjoy in these pages learning about friendships from the people who have been teaching me most of what I know about them.

• Bob Goff, chief balloon inflator and author of *Love Does* "In 1983 I was a college student and living in Boston where I met Dick and Ruth Foth. They invited me into their world of friendship, a place I have happily inhabited ever since. I found myself nodding with affirmation reading each page of *Known*. What they write, they live. Read this book if you want more meaningful friendships. Read this book if you want deeper conversations. Read this book if you're serious about being a better father or wife or sister or neighbor. Read this book if you want to be moved. Read this book, and you'll find yourself leaning into relationships the way Jesus intended them to be."

• Barry H. Corey, president of Biola University and author of *Love Kindness: Discover the Power of a Forgotten Christian Virtue* "I was twenty-eight when I got married. Standing beside me was a sixty-eight-year-old groomsman named Dick Foth. My friend. The stories and ideas captured in this book have been transforming lives through Dick and Ruth for decades. I've seen these pages in action. They have shaped my life, my family, my friends, and my community. I trust they will shape yours too."

• Jeremy Vallerand, president and CEO, *Rescue: Freedom International* "Finding friendship and meaningful relationships can be both an art and an accident. Dick and Ruth Foth have given practical instruction to help navigate the relationships in your life. These tips will keep you sane and keep friendship alive. A must read!"

• Dary Northrop, lead pastor, Timberline Church, Fort Collins, CO "The world is full of storytellers, but starving for sages. When Dick and Ruth Foth write a book, we get the rare privilege of both! From Dick's anecdotes, to Ruth's poetry (and everything in between), this book is proof of the ancient truth that two are better than one! When I finished this book, I knew it was special! I felt a renewed sense of beauty and awe for the God I serve and the people around me. I haven't read a book on relationships like this one in a long time!"

• Chad Bruegman, teaching pastor and directional leadership, Red Rocks Church, Denver "I look for three things from an author: credibility, authenticity, and clarity of message. Dick and Ruth Foth have delivered on all three. *Known: Finding Deep Friendships in a Shallow World* is a masterpiece! Through their lives and their words, I will never look at relationships the same way again."

• Hal Donaldson, president, *Convoy of Hope* "Known is a heartfelt, poignant, and inspiring read. In this day of mobile, fast-paced

texting and e-mail, Dick and Ruth Foth teach us how to build deep friendships. Their lives exemplify what it means to be genuinely invested in and committed to others. This book beautifully captures their collective wisdom and is a gift to all who read it.

• Nancy and Curt Richardson, founders of Otter Products

“More beautifully than any other two people I know, Dick and Ruth show what it means to live in deep relationships with God and with people. Their book gives us a captivating glimpse of God’s heart for a world of vibrant friendship. Known is a transformative combination of theology and storytelling. It is exciting, finally, to have their adventures, experience, and wisdom down on paper for the rest of us to share!

• Peter Hartwig, theologian, the Bonhoeffer House at the University of Virginia

“This book provides insights that will enable you to become a better friend. It will guide you with a strategy for cultivating more authentic and vulnerable relationships by sharing your stories. This is a great read from two people who model this friendship strategy in an exemplary way. Read this book and find greater joy in sharing stories that enable you to know and be known.

• Dr. Barry C. Black, chaplain of the United States Senate

“This is a book of wisdom; Dick’s to challenge, and Ruth’s to inspire. Together, they transform. Whether you are black, white, or brown; young or old; single or married—whatever your stage or station in life, if you allow, Dick and Ruth Foth’s intensely practical yet otherworldly words will reach through the pages and gently beckon you to follow them into the deep warmth of relationships that nurture, heal, and equip you to live your dreams and fulfill your destiny.

• Dayna Bowen Matthew, author of *Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care*

“Let me confess up-front that I’m a bit biased. Dick Foth has become one of my dearest friends over the past twenty-five years. And I know the value of having real friends. That said, this combined effort of Dick (the quintessential extrovert) and his wonderful wife Ruth (a self-described introvert) is the best book I have ever read on the subject of friendship. It perfectly balances Dick’s salt air nature with Ruth’s peach cobbler disposition. The book is engaging, readable, and enjoyable. Dick is a masterful storyteller. His deeply personal style mixes comfortably with a keen intellect and profound wisdom born from experience. With a light touch, he plucks illustrative anecdotes from across cultures, from across the centuries, and from his own story to weave together a powerful narrative and unassailable argument for a simple truth: It is not good for the man to be alone. Our primary design function is relationship. It’s not a religious or cultural or ethical or moral principle; it is the fiber of our being. We are built to love God and one another. It is who and what we are as humans. Dick and Ruth offer an exhilarating voyage of discovery into this great unknown.

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•Lt. Gen. Mick Kicklighter, US Army, ret. “After living on a college campus for a few months, I often felt lonely, even though I was constantly surrounded by people; I knew I had friends, but still did not feel known. Dick and Ruth share their loving wisdom, engaging stories, and practical advice about how to intentionally building deep relationships. Not only do they inspire us to seek deeper friendships, but also to do what it takes to build and maintain those relationships. Dick and Ruth dare to speak the truth to this generation about authentic and God-centered friendships. This book helped me make sense of my college experiences like no other book I have ever read”

•Anna Luzinski, student at Colorado Christian University

Dick Foth is an author, storyteller, and popular speaker. He holds a master’s degree from Wheaton College Graduate School and a doctorate from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. He and Ruth have invested the last twenty-five years working in the marketplace of business and government to encourage leaders in their personal lives. Dick also serves on the teaching teams of four congregations, including the multisite National Community Church pastored by Mark Batterson in Washington, D. C. Ruth Foth has an English degree from Bethany College in California and she is a homemaker, gardener, and quilter. The Foths live in Colorado and have four children and many grandchildren.

Very helpful and positive perspective on relationships. I recommend it to everyone. If I want meaningful relationships, I have a tremendous amount of responsibility to be a friend myself. Dick and Ruth have both experienced this book in real life over many "trips around the sun." I had 77 trips myself and during this last trip, I learned from them!

Well written & insightful!!!

Great story of how living becomes exciting when you learn to walk in relationships. A fun read, great writing style!!

Known: Finding Deep Friendships in a Shallow World. Don’t we all want that? In this digital age of texting and Facebook, something seems to have been lost, or at least harder to grasp than it once was. I was hoping this book would have some insight into how to navigate these challenges and create more opportunities for deep relationships to flourish. While the book did well at describing the components of deep friendship, it did not address the struggle, and therefore lacked personal

connection for me. Using Scripture and story, the authors paint a picture of what deep friendships look like. Friends share stories, spend time together, and affirm each other. They are authentic, honest, and trusting. They pursue, invite, sacrifice, and remain. "Friendship - true, deep friendship - is found in a desire to know and the willingness to be known. It is choosing to walk with another person through whatever comes. A lasting friend knows you and still likes you. And a lasting friend, at the end of the day, is quite simply there." This book is written mostly by Dick Foth, with some comments added at the end of certain chapters by his wife, Ruth. When I read Ruth's comments following the introduction, I thought this book was for me. She was going to add in an introvert's perspective...just what I needed! But instead, her thoughts were mostly poems or stories that didn't address an introvert's struggle. Overall, this is a nice book about friendship...defining what it is and sharing some good stories as examples. It provides wisdom on how to be a better friend. But it may leave you right where you started...longing for a deep friendship and not knowing how to take the first step to find one. Just not quite what I had expected. *I received a complimentary copy of this book from Blogging for Books in exchange for an honest review.

"Known" by Dick and Ruth Foth is a very helpful read on a great challenge in today's digital age - forming deep friendships. Around 200 pages, the book addresses such topics as: 1. Asking people where they are from instead of what they do in starting a good conversation. 2. Sharing parts of your life with others so they come to know you better. 3. Giving affirmation to others. 4. 5 options to choose from in a conflict situation. 5. Going beyond saying good things to someone to actually doing something for them. 6. Finding other people you can share dreams with. 7. Intentionally making time to spend with others. The title is very readable, is full of helpful suggestions, and includes stories and experiences of a couple who have spent many years making friends in different settings around the world. A good read and challenge to put down your phone and spend more time in personal interaction with others. I was given a review copy by Blogging For Books in exchange for a fair review.

The original premise of this book is "that we deal with money and relationships our whole lives and it's the relationships not money that make us rich. Let's be sure we don't end up impoverished." In this crazy world where we go out to dinner or hang with friends, a large amount of the time is spent looking at screens and talking with people who are not there. Instead of interacting with the very people who are present in the same location with us. This book is filled with wisdom from someone who has made several trips around the sun and knows how to build meaningful

relationships. Dick Foth is a great example of a man who loves his wife and his friends well. In this book he outlines how to have a purposeful life by having purposeful relationships. Dick Foth has played many important roles throughout his life and has built deep friendships with well-known Washington DC politicians and unknown common people. One of those deep friendships is one of my favorite pastors to listen to on podcast, Mark Batterson (a best selling author). Dick Foth is a fairly frequent visiting pastor at his church, National Community Church in Washington DC. Each sermon is filled with words of wisdom, anecdotes with obscure references and good encouragement. Foth's book, *Known*, is the same. This book is a quick read, a good reminder of principles that you may already know, but filled with smart ideas to build better relationships that older, and especially younger generations, can greatly benefit from. Dick's wife, Ruth, writes a section at the end of each chapter. One of my favorite parts of the book is when Ruth describes keeping a journal of every visit that she had with each grandchild starting with the date she learned of their impending arrival. She would record their likes and dislikes, their interests, their growth, and what they did together. She would keep the artwork they sent and their photos. When they were young adults, she would compile everything in a little book and present it to them. What a special gift of cherished memories from your grandmother! I received a complimentary copy of this book from Blogging for Books in exchange for my fair and unbiased review.

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