

Soul Mates: Honoring the Mystery of Love and Relationship

By Thomas Moore

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This companion volume to *Care of the Soul* offers more of Thomas Moore's inspiring wisdom and empathy as it expands on his ideas about life, love, and the mysteries of human relationships.

In *Care of the Soul*, Thomas Moore explored the importance of nurturing the soul and struck a chord nationwide—the book became a long-term bestseller, topping charts across the country.

Building on that book's wisdom, *Soul Mates* explores how relationships of all kinds enhance our lives and fulfill the needs of our souls. Moore emphasizes the difficulties that inevitably accompany many relationships and focuses on the need to work through these differences in order to experience the deep reward that comes with intimacy and unconfined love.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

As of this writing, therapist Moore's last book, *Care of the Soul* (1992), has resided upon the national best-seller lists for nearly a year. This follow-up is to be issued in a 100,000-copy first printing. As the quick-march timing between the two books might suggest, *Soul Mates* seems a make-hay-while-the-sun-shines rush job of empty rhetoric. Its major thesis is the coverall that people are complex and contradictory--that, as Moore says, there are too few oxymoronic words like *bittersweet* to describe the richness of felt experience--but that each of us has a soul that strongly desires both intimacy and the social intercourse of everyday life. Despite Moore's ability to bring many myths, some literature and art history, a smattering of therapeutic anecdotes, and references to Jungian psychology to bear upon this theme, there's precious little else to the book but the encouragement to be imaginative and open-minded in the search for intimacy. The large readership that embraced *Care of the Soul* will probably line up for this second helping of Moore's mildly awestruck rap, but those who want the impression, at least, of substance may find it just so much frustrating therapist's nattering. *Ray Olson*

From Kirkus Reviews

More spiritual self-help from the author of the bestselling *Care of the Soul* (1992--not reviewed), this time focusing on relationships among spouses, family, and friends. Moore occupies a middle ground in the thriving subgenre of pop-psych/religion books: less jargon-infested than John Bradford but sometimes as platitudinous (urging "the importance of being individuals" and proclaiming that "every relationship calls for a unique response"); less anecdotal and less penetrating than the master of the form, M. Scott Peck. Perhaps his most notable achievement has been to turn "soul" into a buzzword, never defined but apparently synonymous with "psyche." Here, Moore tackles soul-to-soul relations, drawing from mythology, theology, literature (from Plato to Emily Dickinson), his own life, experiences of patients in psychotherapy, and the writings of Marsilio Ficino, a 15th-century Florentine thinker. Predictably, Moore counsels people to court imagination and feelings and to beware of excessive rationality. The shoptalk is neo-Jungian, as filtered through James Hillman and other modern depth psychologists. The practical advice--write letters to, and strike up conversations with, friends; tell your spouse your dreams; forgive your parents; guide your children, and so on--is innocuous and may well be helpful. But by far the most invigorating moments come when Moore swims against the tide of current opinion by declaring marriage "a sacred symbolic act," rather than a financial or social convenience, and by upholding the ancient virtues of chastity and obedience. Underneath the pop-psych sheen lies a devout traditionalist, which may explain Moore's great success. There's no mystery about where this one is heading: right on to the bestseller lists. -- *Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

From the Back Cover

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"I devoured *Soul Mates* like some comfort food for the spirit. . . . Moore moves love off the fast track and into the realm of mystery and imagination where it belongs."—*New Woman*

“An eloquent, passionate, often mystical exploration of how we mere mortals might better understand ourselves and others in a society in which so much emphasis is placed on interpersonal dynamics and so little on introspection, care, grace, gratitude, and honor.”—*Detroit News*

Users Review

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