



Committed: A Love Story

By Elizabeth Gilbert

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Look out for Elizabeth Gilbert's new book, *Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear*, on sale now!

At the end of her bestselling memoir *Eat, Pray, Love*, Elizabeth Gilbert fell in love with Felipe, a Brazilian-born man of Australian citizenship who'd been living in Indonesia when they met. Resettling in America, the couple swore eternal fidelity to each other, but also swore to never, ever, under any circumstances get legally married. (Both were survivors of previous bad divorces. Enough said.) But providence intervened one day in the form of the United States government, which—after unexpectedly detaining Felipe at an American border crossing—gave the couple a choice: they could either get married, or Felipe would never be allowed to enter the country again. Having been effectively sentenced to wed, Gilbert tackled her fears of marriage by delving into this topic completely, trying with all her might to discover through historical research, interviews, and much personal reflection what this stubbornly enduring old institution actually is. Told with Gilbert's trademark wit, intelligence and compassion, *Committed* attempts to "turn on all the lights" when it comes to matrimony, frankly examining questions of compatibility, infatuation, fidelity, family tradition, social expectations, divorce risks and humbling responsibilities. Gilbert's memoir is ultimately a clear-eyed celebration of love with all the complexity and consequence that real love, in the real world, actually entails.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Committed: A Love Story By Elizabeth Gilbert Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Reviewed by Amy Sohn How does an author follow up a smash international bestseller that has catapulted her from obscurity into fame and riches she never dreamed of? Very carefully. *Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage*, Elizabeth Gilbert's first book since the multimillion-selling *Eat, Pray, Love*, was written so carefully that it's actually her second attempt (she scrapped the first one after she decided the voice was wrong). The good news is her voice is clear and winning. The bad news is the structure doesn't work. Part history, part travelogue, *Committed* often makes for a jumpy read. Still, Gilbert remains the spirited storyteller she was in *EPL*, and her central question is a good one—how can a divorce-scarred feminist make a case for marriage? *EPL* ended in Bali with Gilbert falling in love with Felipe, a hot, older Brazilian divorcé. Book clubs across the country passionately debated her message: Is Gilbert saying I need a man to be happy?; What if I go to Bali and don't meet the love of my life?; and How did a woman who didn't want children land the only Latino hottie with a vasectomy in all of Indonesia? In the year following their meeting, Felipe and Gilbert cobbled together a long-distance relationship; he would stay with her in the U.S. for 90-day jaunts, and the rest of the time they'd live apart or travel the world. One day in the spring of 2006, they returned to the Dallas Airport and Felipe was detained at the border. A customs agent said he could not enter the country again unless he married Gilbert. Gilbert spent the next year in exile with Felipe—straining the relationship—and did a lot of reading about marriage. In jaunty, ever-curious prose she tells us that today's Hmong women in Vietnam don't expect their husbands to be their best friends; that in modern Iran young couples can marry for a day; and that early Christians were actually against marriage, seeing it as antireligious. It's all fascinating stuff, but ultimately Gilbert is more interested in the history of divorce than marriage. The reader can feel both her excitement when she tells us that in medieval Germany there were two kinds of marriages, one more casual than the other, and her rage when she recounts the ill effects of the Church on divorce as it turned marriage into a life sentence. For all of its academic ambition, the juiciest bits of *Committed* are the personal ones, when she tells us stories about her family. There's a great scene involving the way her grandfather scattered her grandmother's ashes, and a painfully funny story of a fight Gilbert and Felipe had on a 12-hour bus ride in Laos. The bus is bumpy, the travelers exhausted, and both feel the frustration of not being able to make a home together. They bicker, and she tries and fails at a couples-therapy technique, and a heated silence went on for a long time. Later in the story, when she is hemming and hawing about the Meaning of It All, he says, When are you going to understand? As soon as we secure this bloody visa and get ourselves safely married back in America, we can do whatever the hell we want. I am happy for Gilbert that she did a lot of research before tying the knot again, but she already did the most important thing a gun-shy bride can do: choose the right mate. *Amy Sohn is the author of the novel Prospect Park West.*

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From [Booklist](#)

Sure it garnered starred reviews, but who knew that Gilbert's memoir about her quest for psychic healing, *Eat, Pray, Love* (2006), would become what she describes as a "megajumbo international best-seller"? Or that she would be in demand as a relationship guru? Or that her relationship with Felipe, the Brazilian businessman she fell in love with in Bali, would get so complicated? An Australian citizen, Felipe was living with Gilbert in the U.S. on a visa-to-visa basis until Homeland Security denied him reentry. As post-traumatic-divorce syndrome sufferers, they swore never to remarry, but marry they must if they want to be together in the States. This effort involves a humongous amount of red tape and time, so they set off on a rambling trip across Southeast Asia, and Gilbert tries to banish her fears by embarking on a crash course in the history, practice, and meaning of marriage. Her far-roaming inquiry, much of it focused on the paradoxes

in women's lives, is presumptuous and trite one moment (her observations about women in Asia are cringe-inducing) and incisive and funny the next (her portraits of her grandmother and mother are sensitive and scintillating). Ultimately, she tells an irresistibly romantic tale spiked with unusual and resonant insights into love and marriage. --Donna Seaman

Review

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Janet Magnuson:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or maybe read a book eligible Committed: A Love Story? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have different opinion?

Michael Becker:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be revise about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This Committed: A Love Story is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and want in this era.

Scott Padilla:

Committed: A Love Story can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Committed: A Love Story yet doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial thinking.

Theresa Tompkins:

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