



More Than Enchanting: Breaking Through Barriers to Influence Your World

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“Jo Saxton is a leader, visionary, practitioner, and voice that leaders need to hear. This book is an essential resource for anyone serious about investing in the emerging generation of women leaders.”

— Brad Lomenick, author and speaker

Wading the Murky Waters of Leadership

Women have always wielded enormous influence, whether in our homes, jobs, communities, or churches. But as we lean into those God-given opportunities, we often experience substantial barriers, whether from other people and systems around us or from our own insecurities and struggles.

Jo Saxton has faced her own challenges in her journey of uncovering her leadership potential. But she also knows what can happen in the church and the world when women are empowered and released to maximize their giftedness.

*In this updated version of her highly praised book *More Than Enchanting*, Jo shows that if you have ever wondered whether God can use you to have a greater impact in the world, if you have faced challenges in using your gifts for the church, or if you are weary of battling against those who want to quell your voice and ministry passions, then this book is for you. You will find encouragement, inspiration, and strength to break through the barriers that are keeping you from exerting your full influence for God and his kingdom.*

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I never set out to be a woman leader. I just wanted to use my gifts for the good of others and the glory of God. As it turns out, one of those gifts is leadership and I happen to be a woman. So here I am: a woman leader.

I didn't give much thought to this label until the first time a couple left our church because I was a woman in a position of leadership. It grieved me. I'm one of those people who always takes disproportionate responsibility for everything and everyone within my sphere of influence. So I felt responsible. "It must be me," I thought. "If only I had led differently, or better." Insert self-loathing, insecurity, and every feeling of inadequacy. That one minor episode (and truly it was quite minor) rocked me and triggered a lack of confidence that plagued my leadership for many more years.

My leadership journey, while certainly challenging at times, has not been as difficult as many of yours. Too often I hear stories from women who have abandoned their leadership gifts because the resistance was just too much. Exhausted and feeling defeated, they have walked away and sidelined their gifts.

Leadership begins with influence, and influence by definition means *the power to change or affect someone*. Think about this for a minute: The power to change or affect someone. This is a huge responsibility! And yet women do this every day. Mothers, wives, sisters, and friends — we as women have tremendous effect on the lives of those around us, but time and again we shrink back from our influence and neglect to develop the budding leadership gifts within us.

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BOOK EXCERPT

*"In the mid 1970s, when women were leading faithfully and effectively at Willow Creek Community Church, I knew that many people questioned our commitment to gift-based ministry. But I never imagined that many Christians would still be questioning that commitment in the twenty-first century. I'm so glad Jo Saxton chose to embrace her calling to lead – and to share her experience and wisdom in *More Than Enchanting*. Thoughtfully grounded in Scripture, Jo writes from both a global and personal perspective, offering inspiration as well as practical tools for women navigating the complexity of leadership in the church. I highly recommend this book!"*

– **Lynne Hybels**, advocate for global engagement, Willow Creek Community Church

More Than Enchanting is a resource I wish I'd had years ago as a young leader. Jo Saxton is one of those rare leaders who has waded the murky waters of leadership and come through graciously resilient. She understands the fears, doubts, and challenges that plague us women as we peek around the corner to sneak a glimpse of our potential. She believes in us. She believes in God's power to work through us and she has the wisdom to guide us to living out the purpose that God has designed us for.

I'm praying ginormous prayers for you as you read this book. I'm praying that God awakens within you every gift that has lain dormant. I'm praying that the doors swing wide for your influence to flourish. I'm praying that you catch a glimpse of the power and potential of God's work in your life as you embrace your gifts of leadership and passionately use them for the good of others and the glory of God. You were made to influence the world in ways that no one else can, and I'm quite confident that *More Than Enchanting* will be another tool that God uses to bring that influence to life!

— *From the foreword by Jenni Catron, leadership coach and consultant, author of The Four Dimensions of Extraordinary Leadership*