

**FREE READING**

**The Recipe  
for  
Audacious  
Faith**



**BY MARIE ARMENIA**

***“A miserable marriage is never God’s idea.”***

*Molly’s Life Lesson #44<sup>i</sup>*

My parents were happily, joyfully, audaciously married for seventy-two years before they passed away within five weeks of one another. Our family was given a front-row seat to what I believe God intended marriage to be: two people going through life together cheering each other on. They were on the same team.

When I speak at various women’s conferences and events, many women ask me to reveal what my mother, “The Audacious Molly Bruno” taught me about being a wife. Because I have been married to the same guy for forty-eight years, they assume she must have taught me some complicated and mysterious marriage mentoring secret. They seem surprised when my first response is, “The way she used her words.”

The Bible says, “A wise woman builds her home, but a foolish woman tears it down with her own hands.” (Proverbs 14:1). I learned from Mom that wise words build the home. Foolish words tear it down. And the Holy Spirit will cultivate the self-control to choose wisely if we allow Him to

**The words she spoke TO him.**

I’m sure there were moments in those seventy-two years that my mother was so exasperated at my father that she wanted to bonk him on the head with a kitchen spatula, but I never knew about it. Mom was a feisty, opinionated, New York Italian woman but I never heard exasperation in Mom’s tone of voice when speaking to my father. I never heard her point out a weakness he may have had, or call him a derogatory name. Every sentence I heard her speak to him was covered in grace, love, respect and honor. Mom used to remind me that “children are listening to every word you say, whether you think they are or not.” As a result of the way she spoke to my father, I understood that I was expected to speak to him with the same honor and respect. So, I did.

## **The words she spoke ABOUT him.**

***“Your husband’s reputation is formed by the words of your mouth. Be careful with it.”***

*Molly’s Life Lesson #46<sup>ii</sup>*

Mom never sat me down and instructed, “This is what you should think of your father.” My opinion of my father was formed by what she said *about* him – to me and others. She didn’t complain about him to others when he wasn’t around. I don’t know if he ever broke her heart or betrayed her. All I know is that Daddy was a good, godly, loving, faithful man because that’s all I heard Mom say about him.

Mom used to caution me to choose wisely when you decide to speak about him to someone. Which leads me to the third and most important way my mother used her words. My mom spoke about my dad all the time. But not to just anyone.

## **Who she spoke to.**

Early in my marriage, my husband and I had a horrible fight. Mom heard it. She said to my husband, “If Marie was a praying woman, she would have spoken to the Lord about what you did and the Lord would have spoken to you.” How did she know I was not a praying woman? Because I was an angry, unforgiving one.

Mom prayed and trusted that her words to God were reaching the Only One who could actually change and soften hearts – including hers. The wisest way she used her words was deciding Who to speak them to. She never forgot and often reminded me that the real enemy in every marriage is not our spouse. “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood” (Eph. 6:12).

You may be struggling in your marriage and have lost any hope that anything will change. I learned a secret from my mom that is so simple I have often been tempted to brush it off as

insignificant. I discovered that honest, humble, heartfelt prayer is the most powerful tool any woman has to help her fight for her marriage and her family. Talk to God about your husband and give God time to talk to your husband about you.

My mother's secret to an audaciously happy marriage was knowing what to say and Who to say it to. Now it's your secret too!

*You can read more about marriage, Marie Armenia and Marie's mother (Molly Bruno) in her new book THE AUDACIOUS MOLLY BRUNO available in April 2018 whatever books are sold or at [mariearmenia.com](http://mariearmenia.com)*

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<sup>i</sup> "The Audacious Molly Bruno" – page 101

<sup>ii</sup> "The Audacious Molly Bruno" – page 108