

# The Comparison Trap

By: Peggy Barnell

(setting: a coffee shop - one woman is waiting at a table, sipping coffee or tea, the other enters)

**Becky:**

Hey, Susan! Oh, I'm so glad to see you!

**Susan:**

I know, I know... It's been too long. (some ad lib here from both of them for greeting)

**Becky:**

I've been hungry to get back to some fellowship with my best girlfriend - and this book study!

**Susan:**

Me too - iron sharpens iron, right? But hey - how are you? How are the kids?

**Becky:**

Oh, I'm great, and the kids are great, great. Jason is on the academic team - third year in a row now, and Rachel is half way into her freshman year at UNC. We're still waiting to hear about the promotion for Hal, but it's looking very promising. We just seem to be really busy all the time.

**Susan:**

I know! Life just seems to be a whirlwind - I can hardly balance football practice for the twins, cheer-leading and volleyball for Nicole, zumba and work and trying to be a mom and wife... Jim is hardly home since starting the new business. Anyway, I'm so glad to get out for some girlfriend time - some 'me' time. And, I *love, love* this book!

**Becky:**

I know, right? I could hardly put it down once I read the first chapter.

**Susan:**

**I know! It's so... thought provoking. I know we were supposed to read Chapter 1 & 2 so we could discuss, but I'm half way through Chapter 3 already...**

**Becky:**

**Chapter 3? How in the world could you stop there? I mean, that's where the author really gets to the core of the spiritual implications that are set up in the first two chapters. Though I'm a bit sleep deprived, I literally could not put the book down. I read through it in 2 days last week and I'm half way into Book 2.**

**Susan:**

**Book 2?**

**Becky:**

**Yes! I took the liberty of picking up Book 2 & 3 at Lifeway because I knew you would want them, too. Exciting, huh?**

**Susan:**

**Ahhhh... did I say Chapter 3? I meant Book 3 of the series. I downloaded the series and I've been reading ahead. Funny that I get so absorbed in something like this, it just takes me to a whole new spiritual level. I can read all night long. I find I don't even need to sleep.**

**Becky:**

**Really?**

**Susan:**

**Yes, it's like I'm on this whole new spiritual plane.**

**Becky:**

**No sleep at all?**

**Susan:**

**Amazing, I know. It's a God thing, I guess.**

**Becky:**

**Well, lets dig in - I'm anxious to hear your take away on the author's spiritual quest.**

(Susan removes her book from her bag and realizes it is wrapped in cellophane. She tries to discreetly unwrap it under the table. Meanwhile Becky takes out her book and is trying to highlight or underline some paragraphs in her own copy of the book without Susan seeing what she is doing)

**Susan:**

**Ok, wait. This is ridiculous. What am I doing?**

**Becky:**

**What? (she is still trying to highlight/underline)**

**Susan:**

**I have to apologize to you, Becky.**

**Becky:**

**What? No...**

**Susan:**

**No really. I keep trying to one-up you - on everything. The kids, the house, your clothes, your spiritual walk...**

**Becky:**

**Clothes? Spiritual walk? Come on...**

**Susan:**

**I do. It's awful. It's a bad habit.**

**Becky:**

**Well, I appreciate you admitting that.**

**Susan:**

**I always see you as 'near perfect'.**

**Becky:**

oh no, no... Truth be told, I'm a mess. Jason has become this sarcastic, disrespectful teenager - and Rachel is failing two of her core subjects in college. I can't keep the house clean, and... I eat a slice of cake - and I gain 3lbs.

**Susan:**

You think that's bad? The twins have been benched for starting fights, Nicole has to pay back \$200 in texting charges on her cell phone. I'm too embarrassed to have anyone in my kitchen - and I gain weight if I so much as smell sugar!

**Becky:**

I made cookies last week. I didn't eat them - I just touched them and (snaps her fingers) four lbs!

**Susan:**

I gained two lbs yesterday...

**Becky:**

That's not so bad -

**Susan:**

While on a fast!

**The End**