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# I WANT YOU TO BE

*On the God of Love*

TOMÁŠ HALÍK

*Translated by Gerald Turner*

2017 Catholic Press Association Book Award, First Place in Theology

Foreword Reviews' 2016 INDIES Book of the Year Award, Gold, Philosophy

## Advance Praise . . .

"Seldom have I read a book that prompted me to think about the mystery of God's love in such surprising and delightful new ways. By turns profound, challenging, and unsettling, Tomáš Halík's new book is also a rarity in theological and spiritual discourse in that it is beautifully written, clearly articulated, and wonderfully inviting."

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"In this luminous book, Tomáš Halík embodies St. Paul's description of love—as patient, as kind, as bearing and enduring all things—in providing wise and gentle accompaniment to all those, believers and nonbelievers alike, who are seekers of transcendence in our perplexing times. In his exploration of the meaning of love of God and love of one's enemy, he mines insights not only from familiar figures such as Eckhart, Kierkegaard, and Levinas, but from surprising sources including Feuerbach, Marx, and Nietzsche. *I Want You to Be* adds to a body of work in which Halík has responded to Charles Taylor's historical-sociological-philosophical analysis of our 'secular age' with his own penetrating theological, spiritual, and psychological diagnosis of the conditions of post-secularity."

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"A one-time member of the Czech underground and advisor to Václav Havel, Halík explores the theological understandings of love, grounding his discussion in scholarship yet writing in a style that is accessible to nonspecialists. . . . With this important book Halík joins the conversation taken up by Charles Taylor in *A Secular Age* and Martha Nussbaum in *Political Emotions: Why Love Matters for Justice*. In addition to exploring the concept of love, Halík weaves important autobiographical elements that add personal depth to the conversation."

—Choice

"Seeking to apply his understanding of love in beneficial ways for our culture, Halík offers a diagnosis of our times throughout this book, rather than in a designated section. Echoing Teilhard de Chardin's assertion that love alone can unify all without destruction, Halík sees the need for a fundamental, unifying spiritual vision in the West, particularly in Europe."

—Reading Religion



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TOMÁŠ HALÍK worked as a psychotherapist during the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia and at the same time was active in the underground church as a secretly ordained Catholic priest. Since the fall of the regime, he has served as general secretary to the Czech Conference of Bishops and was an advisor to Václav Havel. He has lectured at many universities throughout the world and is currently a professor of philosophy and sociology at Charles University. His books, which are best sellers in his own country, have been translated into many languages and have received several literary prizes.

GERALD TURNER has translated numerous authors from Czechoslovakia, including Václav Havel, Ivan Klíma, and Ludvík Vaculík, among others. He received the US PEN Translation Award in 2004.

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