

Jim & Jill Kelly: Candid Interview



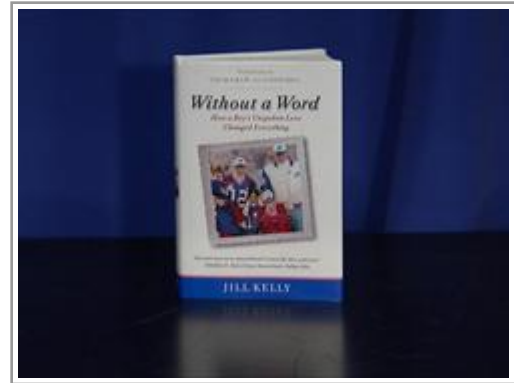
Reported by: [Ginny Ryan](#)
Email: gryan@13wham.com
Last Update: 9/09 4:01 pm

[Print Story](#) | [ShareThis](#)

Buffalo, N.Y. - It may be the most indelible memories ever for fans of the Buffalo Bills. Before a screaming sold out home crowd, the Bills retired the number of Hall of Fall Quarterback Jim Kelly.

At his side that day, his wife, two daughters, and son Hunter.

That picture graces the cover of Jill Kelly's book out Thursday. It tells the story of how Hunter Kelly changed their lives.



The book is also the story of Kelly's rocky marriage.

No one's marriage is without flaws. They all have struggles, but as the Kellys told me, the odds were stacked against them right from the beginning.

It was a fairy tale wedding. The bride even graced the pages of People Magazine.

But the extravagant ceremony and beautiful pictures did not make for a fairy tale marriage.

In her new book, Jill Kelly writes she was plagued with insecurity and doubts right from the beginning.

Jill was busy with their young daughter, Jim with football and appearances.

Jill Kelly says, "We never really had a chance to really know each other. The communication wasn't there."

A year later, when son Hunter was born with Krabbe's disease Jill threw herself into caring for him, the marriage took a back seat and Jim pulled away.

"I got to the point I didn't care where Jim was or what he was doing," Jill Kelly said.

Jill writes that she turned to her faith while Jim turned to other women.

Jim says, "We stayed together for the kids but after Hunter passed Jill thought we were done. I didn't. I really don't know why."

Jim and Jill began marriage counseling. Jim slowly began learning more about Jill's faith journey.

The turning point came in a counseling session in which Jim admitted to his infidelities.

This time Jill says Jim was different. "He was authentic and honest with me."

In 2008 the Kellys renewed their marriage vows, a very different ceremony than their first in many ways.

"I have forgiven Jim. It's real. We are totally different people now, " Jill says.

Jim agrees. "I love my wife more today than when we got married."

Jill Kelly says she wrote the book as a way for her daughters to remember their brother and to show how far they've come. She also hopes it helps someone else.