

[PDF] The End Of Your Life Book Club

Will Schwalbe - pdf download free book

Books Details:

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Author: Will Schwalbe

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Description:

Amazon Best Books of the Month, October 2012: Tissues at the ready, I braced myself for The End of Your Life Book Club, Will Schwalbe's memoir of his mother's death from pancreatic cancer. But Mary Anne Schwalbe is such a fierce, unsentimental heroine--and her son such a frank and funny storyteller--that what could have been an emotional roller coaster turns out to be a beautifully paced ride. Mary Anne loves a good book as ardently as she loves her kids and her causes, chief among them a campaign to build a library in Afghanistan. When her health starts to fail, Will joins her for hospital appointments. They wait, they talk, and they read together--everything they've ever wanted to discuss. As much an homage to literature as to the mother who shared it with him, Will's chronicle of this heartrending time opens up his captivating family to the rest of us. We should all be so lucky as to read along with the Schwalbes. --Mia Lipman

Amazon Exclusive: An Essay by Will Schwalbe

For twenty-one years I worked in book publishing, mostly in editorial, acquiring the rights to manuscripts, working with authors to help shape their works, and trying to convince the world to pay attention to the various, wonderful books we were publishing. I learned from some of the all time great editors and publishers. But part of my publishing education went way, way back – to before I could read a word myself.

When I was a young child, before I went to sleep, my mother, like so many parents, would read me a book. My brother, eighteen months older, got his own book read to him. Later, my sister, four years younger, would have her own.

My mother was a working mother (a phrase she always disliked, as she rightly pointed out that no one talks of “working fathers”), so she wasn’t always home at night. She sometimes worked late, and she travelled for business, and, even when she and my dad were in town, they occasionally were out for dinner. But if she was home, she read us each a book before bed.

My early favorites included *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf and *Harold and Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson. I loved that there was a bull who liked to smell flowers and wouldn’t fight, and I was amazed by the boy who could draw himself out of any jam. But the experience was far more than the books themselves. First, there was the comfort and security of being tucked into bed. (Is it coincidence that we use the phrase “tuck into” before three of my favorite things: food, bed, and good books, or is it because the pleasures of each have so much in common?) Then, there was the happy, selfish knowledge that, when it was my turn, I would be able to monopolize my mother’s attention just by sitting and listening.

But what I remember most is the way Mom made us feel that she was sharing something she loved with us, not completing a chore or performing a ritual. (Though I’m sure there were many nights when she was exhausted and would have loved to be in bed herself and fast asleep.) And when we shared the books, we also shared discussions about them. Why didn’t the men understand that Ferdinand just didn’t want to fight? There’s no one answer, but it’s a question Mom and I explored together time and again.

Later, I would start to read to myself of course. But it was the nightly reading with Mom that helped me become a reader – and probably pushed me toward the career in book publishing. From Mom, I learned that there’s a public pleasure in books as well as a private one; that sharing books you love and getting others to read them can create a powerful bond, not just between a parent and child, but among thousands or millions of strangers.

--This text refers to an alternate edition.

Review 'I was so moved by this marvellous book. Schwalbe has done something extraordinary: made a personal journey public in the most engaging, funny and revealing way possible. It is a true meditation on what books can do.' -- Edmund de Waal, author of *The Hare with Amber Eyes* 'Will Schwalbe gives us two love stories in one: That of his relationship with his dynamo of a mother as her horizons shrink, and that of their mutual devotion to the printed word, infinitely and insistently engaging. Tender and touching and beautifully done.' -- Stacy Schiff, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Cleopatra* 'A perfect book-club book about books and the community they create that also portrays the love between mother and son.' -- *Library Journal* 'Will Schwalbe's brave and soulful elegy to his remarkable mother, his recollection of their sparkingly literate conversations, is a timely reminder that one exceptional person, or one exceptional book, can be a torch in the darkness. You'll turn the

last page wishing you'd met Mary Anne Schwalbe, vowing to be worthy of her incandescent example - and promising yourself to read more.' -- J. R. Moehringer, author of *The Tender Bar* 'A wonderful book about wonderful books and mothers and sons and the enduring braid between them. Like the printed volumes it celebrates, this story will stay with you long after the last page.' -- Mitch Albom, author of *Tuesdays With Morrie* and *The Time Keeper* 'At last a book that celebrates the role books play within our own story. Will Schwalbe has created a tender, moving and honest portrayal of the precious relationship between a mother and son - an ode to that beautiful thing called love.' -- Cecilia Ahern, author of *PS, I Love You* 'an astonishing, pertinent, and wonderfully welcome work.' -- Publishers Weekly starred review 'An extraordinarily wise, witty, and quietly wrenching book about parental love, filial love, profound grief, and literature's great consolations. How wonderful to encounter a writer who combines erudition with great emotional honesty, and who isn't afraid of addressing life's most profound and baffling questions.' -- Douglas Kennedy, author of *Leaving the World* and *The Pursuit of Happiness* 'This touching and insightful memoir about the slow process of dying will appeal to readers of *Tuesdays With Morrie* and *The Last Lecture*, but also to people who love delving into books and book discussions. Like Mary Anne, who reads the ending first, you know how this book is going to end, but while it is a story about death, it is mostly a celebration of life and of the way books can enrich it.' -- Booklist (starred review) 'a moving and inspiring story' -- Choice Magazine 'What self-respecting reader isn't a sucker for a great book about other great books? The End of Your Life Book Club is that much and more.' -- BookPage 'a graceful, affecting testament to a mother and a life well lived.' -- Entertainment Weekly 'a tribute to a remarkable woman and an exemplary reader.' -- Salon 'Literature bridges generations in Will Schwalbe's thoughtful tribute to his late mother' -- Vogue.com 'A truly poignant read ... a moving tribute to a wonderful-sounding mum and the power of fiction.' -- Good Housekeeping 'It helps of course if you are a book lover and can relate to the passion for reading, but even prolific readers will find that the book teaches them not only about life and death but about the power of a really good book to move you and peel off the onion skin layers of "what you already know" and reveal truths.' -- Curious Book Fans 'a life-enhancing celebration of the power of books and reading, very much in the vein of *Tuesdays with Morrie*' -- Independent --This text refers to the edition.

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