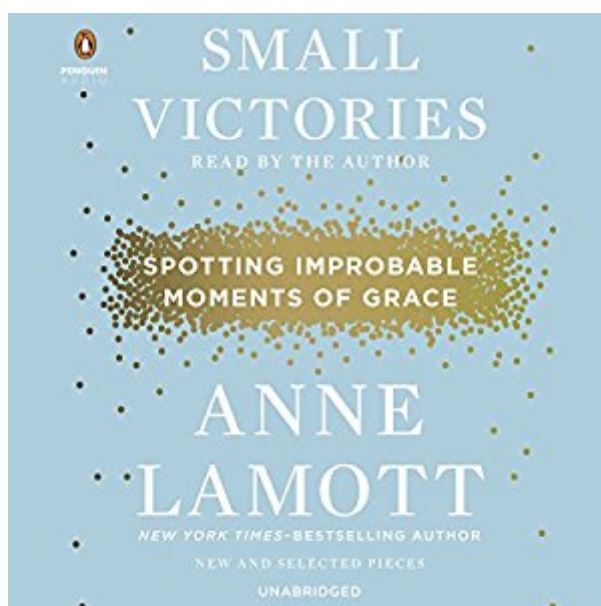


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Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments Of Grace



Synopsis

From the best-selling author of *Stitches and Help, Thanks, Wow* comes her long-awaited collection of new and selected essays on hope, joy, and grace. Anne Lamott writes about faith, family, and community in essays that are both wise and irreverent. It's an approach that has become her trademark. Now in *Small Victories*, Lamott offers a new message of hope that celebrates the triumph of light over the darkness in our lives. Our victories over hardship and pain may seem small, she writes, but they change us - our perceptions, our perspectives, and our lives. Lamott writes of forgiveness, restoration, and transformation, how we can turn toward love even in the most hopeless situations, how we find the joy in getting lost and our amazement in finally being found. Profound and hilarious, honest and unexpected, the stories in *Small Victories* are proof that the human spirit is irrepressible.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 5 hours and 35 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Penguin Audio

Audible.com Release Date: November 10, 2014

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00OZ6XDKE

Best Sellers Rank: #87 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Literary

Collections #566 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Essays & Correspondence > Essays #1605 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Religion & Spirituality

Customer Reviews

I've been a huge fan of Anne Lamott ever since my wife introduced me to her books about four years ago. Our family spent several years going through a very difficult time--my oldest son's addiction--and reading Anne's books has been like therapy to me. This may sound silly, but I often times consider Anne to be my higher power. Her writing is so honest, thought provoking, and profound, full of themes like hope, faith, grace, family, and gratitude. (She is the reason I have "HOPE" and "FAITH" tattooed on my arms.) She also has a wicked sense of humor. For me the connection to Anne is there on so many levels."Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of

"Grace" is a collection of new essays and selected pieces from Anne's older books. Through these essays Anne assures us that we can prevail over the pain and suffering in our lives, and that these small victories change us--for the better--along the way. While the stories she tells are about her own life, so much of what Anne writes resonates with me. (I went through almost a whole pad of Sticky Notes marking passages I don't want to forget.) Her take on the world is so refreshing and she writes about spirituality without making you feel like you're being hit over the head with a Bible. For example, in "Forgiven" Anne writes: "The Scripture reading came from the sixth chapter of Luke: 'Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.' Now, try as I might, I cannot find a loophole in that. It does not say, 'Forgive everyone, unless they've said something rude about your child.' And it doesn't even say, 'Just try.' It says, If you want to be forgiven, if you want to experience that kind of love, you have to forgive everyone in your life--everyone, even the very worst boyfriend you ever had--even, for God's sake, yourself." Amen, Anne. You will find yourself thinking hard about a lot of lines/passages in this book. In "Trail Ducks," I found myself reading this line over and over again: "Getting found almost always means being lost for a while." In "Dad," this one really hit home: "Addicts and alcoholics will tell you that their recovery began when they woke up in pitiful and degraded enough shape to take Step Zero, which is: 'This s*** has got to stop.'" Of all the amazing words in "Small Victories," though, I think this passage from "Mom--Part One: Noraht" might be my favorite: "Grace means suddenly you're in a different universe from the one where you were stuck, and there was absolutely no way for you to get there on your own. When it happens--when you stop hating--you really have to pinch yourself." In "Market Street," Anne describes how she feels after praying: "I don't feel so alone. I feel better." That's exactly how I feel after reading an Anne Lamott book. And "Small Victories" is no exception. Thank you, Anne Lamott. Your words heal me and your books are like little treasures. "Small Victories" is no exception. It's a little first-aid kit between two covers. "Right this minute, we understand that this is all there is, so let's really be together." --Anne Lamott

Can't believe I would ever give Anne Lamott anything but 5 stars- I love her writing and she speaks the truth in so many important ways. But I was so disappointed that only 11 out of the 23 essays are new- the rest have been published in previous books. This would be a good book for someone who hasn't read much of Anne Lamott's previous work. I wish there had been some kind of statement that this was a compilation of both new and old essays- I wouldn't have felt so scammed by the publishers.

I am a HUGE fan of Anne Lamott. That's why I was extremely disappointed to find that this book was, for the most part, a compilation of essays from previous books. There were a few new ones scattered throughout, which were written in true Anne Lamott fashion, but mostly it was old material. I wish I had known, and feel a little "taken"...

Saint Annie tripped a little in this one. I normally adore her work, but this one was too political. Annie is a raging Democrat who fiercely believes in all things on the left. I'm a raging independent who firmly believes both sides are screwed up & our only hope is Jesus. I got tired of reading the Democrat dogma.

Anne Lamott has a gift for seeing spiritual significance in almost any situation. In her latest book, *Small Victories*, she succeeds in encouraging the reader to stay present, to live with faith, to keep a sense of humor. But honestly, I would love more from Ms. Lamott about writing. *Bird By Bird* is one of the best writing resources out there, and I want more. I sometimes get bored reading about the many walks she takes, her son, her grandson, her church, her relationship with God. I think she sometimes writes herself into a bubble. She's a wonderful writer, but I'd like to see her venture away from her comfort zone.

Anne Lamont fills my soul as no one else can. Her struggles mirrors many of my own. I was especially moved by her challenge to either learn "patience or suffer in wounded silence." She writes about grace and God better than any other writer I know. A treasure to read and read again and again.

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