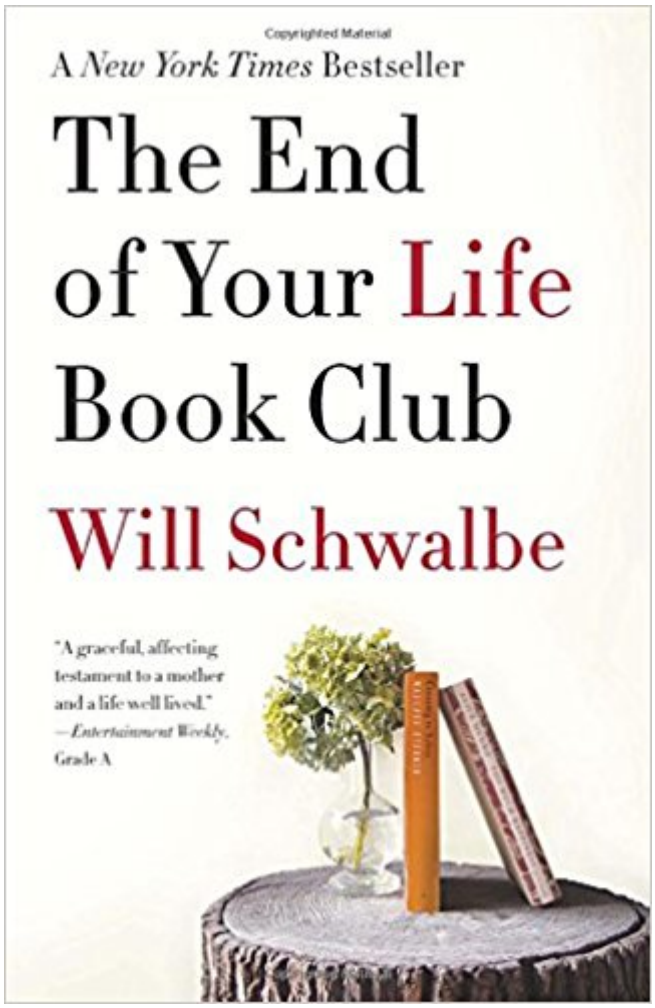
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

The End Of Your Life Book Club



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

An Entertainment Weekly and BookPage Best Book of the YearDuring her treatment for cancer, Mary Anne Schwalbe and her son Will spent many hours sitting in waiting rooms together. To pass the time, they would talk about the books they were reading. Once, by chance, they read the same book at the same timeÃ¢â ¬â •and an informal book club of two was born. Through their wide-ranging reading, Will and Mary AnneÃ¢â ¬â •and we, their fellow readersÃ¢â ¬â •are reminded how books can be comforting, astonishing, and illuminating, changing the way that we feel about and interact with the world around us. A profoundly moving memoir of caregiving, mourning, and loveÃ¢â ¬â •The End of Your Life Book Club is also about the joy of reading, and the ways that joy is multiplied when we share it with others.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Reprint edition (June 4, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307739783

ISBN-13: 978-0307739780

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 1,542 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #32,485 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books & Reading > General #76 inÃ Â Books > Self-Help > Death & Grief > Grief & Bereavement #955 inÃ Â Books > Self-Help > Personal Transformation

Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, October 2012: Tissues at the ready, I braced myself for The End of Your Life Book Club, Will SchwalbeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s memoir of his motherÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 theyÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve ever wanted to discuss. As much an homage to literature as to the mother who shared it with him, WillÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 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 Ã¢â ¬â œ 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 Ã¢â ¬Å“working fathersÃ¢â ¬Â•), so she wasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 wouldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 Ã¢â ¬Å“tuck intoÃ¢â ¬Â• 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 motherÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 IÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t the men understand that Ferdinand just didnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t want to fight? ThereÃ¢â ¬â„¢s no one answer, but itÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 Ã¢â ¬â œ and probably pushed me toward the career in book publishing. From Mom, I learned that thereÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Ã¢â ¬Å“A graceful, affecting testament to a mother and a life well lived.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Entertainment Weekly, Grade AÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Schwalbe . . . highlights not just how relevant but how integral literature can be to life.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Washington PostÃ¢â ¬Å“[This] book is robust with love and laughter.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Chicago TribuneÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Not only a sonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s heartfelt tribute to [his motherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s] courage and grace but vivid testimony to the enduring power of books to create meaning out of chaos, illuminate values, and connect us with each other.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Boston GlobeÃ¢â ¬Å“A loving celebration of a mother by a son.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The New York Times Book ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“A book that is expressly about books, about the purpose and pleasures of books, and the ways they connect us even as we read them as a solitary pursuit. . . . [ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s also] about, in part, the consolations we can find in art, books in particular, as we struggle to face the terrible awareness of our own mortality.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Plain DealerÃ¢â ¬Å“Moving.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •O, The Oprah MagazineÃ¢â ¬Å“An account of growing up in a bookish, artistic family, and a touching portrait of his energetic mother. . . . The [reading] choices that emerge are not a bucket list but an engagingly eclectic mixture of current and vintage, literary and commercial.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The New YorkerÃ¢â ¬Å“Uplifting. . . . So much life is lived, and such powerful lessons are shared on this familyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s journey that the reader canÃ¢â ¬â„¢t help but be moved and motivated.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Fort Worth Star-TelegramÃ¢â ¬Å“SchwalbeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s enthusiasm turns out to be contagious. As I was reading I found myself scribbling titles on a piece of paper so that I could order the volumes he and his mother cared about. Schwalbe is not just an avid reader, he is also an advocate, a cheerleader, a disciple.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Rachel Shteir,Ã Â The New York TimesÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“A warm reminder why we read and what our reading says about us and the ways we connect with others.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Columbus DispatchÃ¢â ¬Å“Completely engaging and difficult to put down. Hearing Schwalbe recount the effects that one selfless and loving person can have on the world is sad without being depressing, and deeply inspirational on a personal level to every imaginable reader.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The IndependentÃ¢â ¬Å“Touching and rigorously honest, this memoir is wise about the role reading plays in our lives and deaths.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •SlateÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“The most moving memoir of the year.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Sacramento BeeÃ¢â ¬Å“A tribute to a remarkable woman and an examplary reader.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •SalonÃ¢â ¬Å“A gentle, searingly moving memoir, at once a love letter and a generous, incisive set of instructions not about how to die but about how to live.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •More

This is an extremely well written non fiction account about a lady with terminal cancer, her end of life

journey, and her relationship with her entire family, especially her son. Certainly she was as close to her entire family, but the author is her son and a good deal of the story revolves around their part of this journey. Both the mother and son are life long readers. They spend a good deal of time together and form their own "book club" discussion group. Some, but not all, of the literature involves subject matter directly or indirectly to this current shared experience.The story is very sensitive. The author discusses many of the issues involved in end of life care. Seemingly simple questions, such as how one is feeling right now are evaluated. I found this personally valuable as I tend to be socially inept. The writing is of a modern style and flows easily. I listened it the book on audiobook while reading at the same time. The book would in most ways be an "easy listen" without contemporaneous visual reading except there are a lot of foreign names and locations mentioned.The author's mother had spent her life in various international projects and dealing with issues such as refugees, among other things. The author provided a good deal of information about many of these projects and issues, that I found very educational.As I anticipated, there was also a good deal of discussion about literature. As a lifelong reader, I am always interested in evaluating and comparing my reading experience and interests with others. I will tell you I learned a good deal about a good many authors and works with which I was not heretofore familiar. I purchased several works based on the literature discussed in this work. Coincidentally I am reading the works of Herman Wouk in chronological order. I had actually recently decided to skip a novel, "Marjorie Morningstar". I had never heard anyone discuss that book, ever.... Then that book came up in this work. I have changed my mind and purchased it and it is my next Herman Wouk book that I am going to read, although not immediately.In summary, I found he book to be very illuminating and educational while being very warm and sensitive. I enjoyed it very much and am very glad I had a chance to read it.

Were there a sixth star available, I would gladly up the rating of this outstanding book. Normally this is not the type of book I would read, which suggests something about my need to modify selection criteria. My wife acquired this book, and shared snippets with me until I could no longer resist the temptation to pick it up. Will Schalbe invites us to a front row seat as he sensitively and compellingly treats us to an homage to his mother. Indeed, a more worthy subject is beyond my comprehension. I could not put this book down from beginning to end. The author and his mom ARE the book club. Along our journey, we are treated to an impressive bibliography of their reading experiences. Bravo!

One of the members of my book club chose this book for our meeting in November. I started reading this thinking it might take me a while. I could not put it down. The story of the author and his

mother having their own book club was interesting. Even more interesting was the story of one courageous woman who continued to live her life to the fullest during the cancer years of her life. I love this book. I found that I was bookmarking things to go back to read later, then I went back and highlighted items. I love this book!!!

I had cancer in my mid thirties....and I am a mother. In other words, Will Schwalbe's writes about my worst nightmare: dying from cancer prematurely. For that reason, I really hesitated before picking up this book and it took some convincing.Boy--am I glad I did.The End of Your Life Book Club begins like a memoir about cancer, but fairly quickly, it lets you in on the fact that this is really a story about a remarkable life. One of the joys in this book is getting to know his formidable Mary Anne Schwalbe--a woman who accomplished and experienced more in her lifetime than most. For indeed, Mary Anne Schwalbe led both an enviable and remarkable life of public service and accomplishments all the while raising her family that includes equally accomplished children and grandchildren. Brilliantly, Mr. Schwalbe doesn't go there on page one. Instead, he introducers her in pieces. At the beginning of the book, you see her through his lens: a spry, elderly and over involved mama. You end the book wanting to give Mrs. Schwalbe a standing ovation of the type of life she led and it is a feat of writing that this is revealed slowly, versus the tomes that are read, and the anectodes he shares.A person that productive and that effective is bound to be able to teach a lot of life lessons and I did find myself highlighting all kinds of little nuggets of wisdoms. The book is highly quotable as Mr. Schwalbe's (using his mother's voice) puts forth beautiful turns of phrases and incredibly lyrical passages.The love affair with books will likely impact my view on reading for the rest of my life. Truly--this book made me think and feel differently about the activity of reading--more of an active pursuit as opposed to the passive reception of information. Indeed, walked away with a reading list--especially since at the beginning we learn that Mrs. Schwalbe's favorite books were mine as well: John Irving's A Prayer for Owen Meany and Margaret Mitchell's Gone With the Wind. Thus we learn this is a woman who both likes to read and who loves great stories, all in the midst of the ending of her particular tale. The obvious connection between the author and his mother tugs at the heart throughout and especially in a very touching scene towards the end of the book when he begins to face what he will be missing once she is gone.Here is what I did not like....or rather the reservations I would feel recommending this book to a friend.For one--the Schwalbe family's patrician lifestyle is not particularly relatable to the average reader. For example--not many of us have friends who will casually drop a million dollar contribution for our charity on a whim nor do we have the means to start a charity that funds a library system in Kabul. Had Mr. Schwalbe addressed

this nuance up front, I might have been more apt to give this book a rating of five. However--his assumption that we would either "get it" or perhaps just understand that a card-carrying WASP, "we just don't talk about it" fell short. It needed to be addressed. How can we absorb the simple life lessons all the while noting the immeasurable differences in our manners of living?Similarly, Mrs. Schwalbe has two gay children: Mr. Schwalbe and his sister. I speak both as a mother and a fervent supporter of gay rights in saying this, but I found it discomfiting that her reaction to both children coming out was never discussed. Don't get me wrong--it was refreshing to have it seem like a non issue, but it was not exactly presented by an objective third party. Even if he had spent ONE paragraph on this, it would have been illuminating. After all, no matter how progressive Mrs. Schwalbe appears to be, she is still a product of her era where a gay son and a gay daughter must have at least given her one moment of pause. Again--a paragraph could have addressed our curiosity and could have informed the rest of us how to make the non-issue it needs to be.....In the end, this is still a wonderful read and the two minor issues should not prevent a serious reader from this wonderful book. I am privileged for having met Mrs. Schwalbe, albeit in a literary setting, and I walked away inspired with my own life and eager to read some of the books in the club.

I truly loved this book. It was inspiring and uplifting. He writes about his mother with such respect and love. That in itself made it a poignant joy to read. The other wonderful thing is all the book recommendations. I think I have ordered a dozen new books since I started reading it. Some like 'Crossing to Safety' I have been meaning to read for a few years. Suddenly I'm obsessed with reading again. It's a book I'm grateful for.

Download to continue reading...

The End of Your Life Book Club Prospect's Bible: "How to Prospect for a Traditional, Law Abiding Motorcycle Club" (The Motorcycle Club Bible Book 1) Prospect's Bible: "How to Prospect for a Traditional, Law Abiding Motorcycle Club (Motorcycle Club Bible) (Volume 1) Tokyo Art Directors Club Annual 2004 (Adc Tokyo Art Director's Club Annual) Dawn and the We Love Kids Club (Baby-Sitters Club, 72) The Doctor's Baby Dare (Texas Cattleman's Club: Lies and Lullabies Series) (Harlequin Desire: Texas Cattleman's Club: Lies and Lullabies) The Camel Club Audio Box Set (Camel Club Series) Annals of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club 1903-1965: History of the Club's founding; granting of the Royal Charter; prominent early yachtsmen; racing ... and Gulf of Georgia, British Columbia, Canada The Deserts of the Southwest: A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide (Sierra Club Naturalist's Guides) Indian club-swinging: one, two, and three club juggling The Sierra Club Guide to the Natural Areas of Oregon and Washington (Sierra Club Guides to the Natural Areas of

the United States) The Adirondack Mountain Club Canoe Guide to Western and Central New York State (The Adirondack Mountain Club Canoe Guide Series, Vol 1) End of Days (Penryn & the End of Days Series Book 3) A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose (Oprah's Book Club, Selection 61) Organize Your Life, How To Be Organized, Productive & Happier In Life,Declutter Your Home and Be Productive at Work. (How to plan your life, Get Organized Book 1) Sixty: The Beginning of the End, or the End of the Beginning? Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - Parts One and Two: The Official Playscript of the Original West End Production: The Official Playscript of the Original West End Production End of Days: Predictions and Prophecies about the End of the World Inflation, Unemployment, and Government Deficits: End Them: An economist's readable explanation of America's economic malaise and how to quickly end it Don't Put Me In, Coach: My Incredible NCAA Journey from the End of the Bench to the End of the Bench

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help