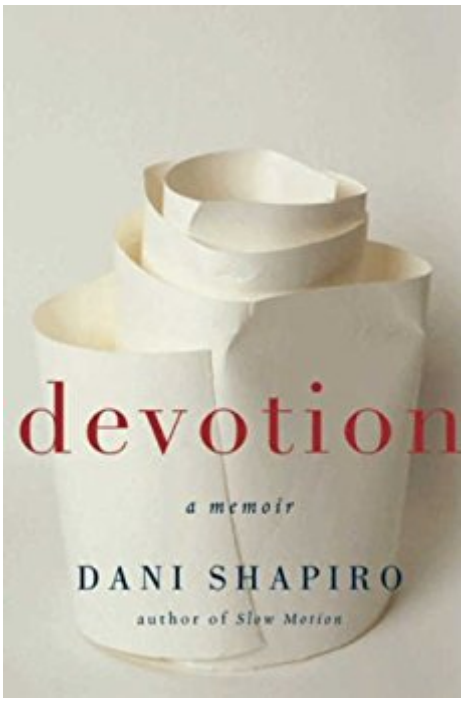
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Devotion: A Memoir



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“DevotionÃ¢â ¬â„¢s biggest triumph is its voice: funny and unpretentious, concrete and earthyÃ¢â ¬â •appealing to skeptics and believers alike. This is a gripping, beautiful story.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Jennifer Egan, author of The Keep Ã¢â ¬Å“I was immensely moved by this elegant book.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Elizabeth Gilbert, author of Eat, Pray, Love Dani Shapiro, the acclaimed author of the novel Black and White and the bestselling memoir Slow Motion, is back with Devotion: a searching and timeless new memoir that examines the fundamental questions that wake women in the middle of the night, and grapples with the ways faith, prayer, and devotion affect everyday life. Devotion is sure to appeal to all those dealing with the trials and tribulations of what Carl Jung called Ã¢â ¬Å“the afternoon of life.Ã¢â ¬Â•

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Customer Reviews

I’m a sucker for books about spiritual struggles as I’ve been having my own for about ten years. It gave me a lot of insight into the Jewish faith as well. I was initially drawn to this book because of the spiritual side but I found solace in her writing about her son’s seizure disorder. My daughter also

suffers from severe epilepsy and it’s not something written about in this context often. How she described not wanting to to socialize with other mother’s at preschool with their "normal" kids and the constant fear of the next seizure are both feelings I’ve lived with. I’ve read several negative reviews about this book being overly materialistic or self absorbed and in other books that may have bothered me too but here it didn’t. No amount of things or money can bring any comfort when watching your child have uncontrollable seizures. This came across to me as she was describing her affluent lifestyle. Overall, I thought it was a thoughtful memoir and I’m better for having read it.

I have a visceral dislike of inspirational books, the kind where someone seeks, finds her answer and then blissfully believes anyone can do the same if they do what she does. So this book sat on my Kindle for several months because I was afraid she would be like that. This rainy Sunday I started reading and I simply could not stop until I finished this evening. I could see myself in her and rejoiced in the absence of smugness or certainty.I recommend this for seekers who have a sense of humor and do not expect to find an answer. I place this book in the company of books by Annie Dillard and Ann Lamott -- women I wish I could spend a weekend with talking about life.

Devotion: A Memoir by Dani Shapiro is an excellent read. She speaks of growing up Jewish and always feeling lost in life. She embarks upon a path to ’find’ herself and begins to embrace yoga and meditation. Strangely enough, she decides to attend a book signing (for her book) and ends up sitting next to a renowned yoga author. She was in actuality reading his book at the time that the met him. Dani Shapiro begins to feel a sense of samsara, or recognizes she is going through a journey in life. She starts feeling lost and starts to feel a sense of home, and finds stillness of mind with meditation and yoga. She no longer feels a sense of abandonment and begins to embrace life fully.

In her new book, "Devotion," Dani Shapiro references Carl Jung’s belief that middle-age, beginning roughly at around forty years old, is the "afternoon of life." Since I’ve heard so often recently that fifty is the new forty, I’m going to amend that idea to say it is the "mid-afternoon of life." We seem to be living a lot longer these days. Could that be one of the explanations for the proliferation of memoirs we’ve seen published recently? Do people have more time to contemplate the earlier part of their lives, and more years ahead of them to consider what they want to accomplish and then leave behind? Perhaps life no longer goes by as quickly as we once thought. Perhaps there is more time to consider the sum total of our experiences here on planet Earth.Certainly, Ms. Shapiro has

reached a point in her life where a thorough examination of her faith in something larger than herself seems in order. She writes in a thoroughly readable and conversational tone that had me turning the pages, curious to see what was coming next, perhaps just as curious as Ms. Shapiro is to see what's coming next in her own life. Her book is a compelling narrative of her life's passages, how she's dealt with numerous crises, what she's learned from her valuable friendships, how she's dealt with family members whose life paths were far different from her own, how she's dealt with her own limitations, her fears, her anxieties, how she has sought solace in various wisdom traditions, taking the greatest comfort from the ancient esoterica that holds the most meaning for her.I found her memoir to be an absorbing life story, rich in love, self-reflection, and a resolute determination to find an equitable path to follow through life. Nothing extraordinary happens to Ms. Shapiro, but she manages to invest her observations with a subtle and nuanced gravity that allowed me to take her reflections and expand them into some universal truths that resonated with me and could be made useful in the conduct of my own life. For that, I'm grateful to Ms. Shapiro for having shared her thoughts and feelings, and I look forward to further installments of her life story, from the present moment through what I would hope to be a very long day's journey.

I bought this book because I'd heard Dani Shapiro's name tossed around at a gathering of a whole lot of writers I respect. From the first scene I was in love. The language is perfect. Dare I say, delicious? But I had expected that. What I hadn't expected was insight into my own exploration of spirituality. Just before I finished Devotion I had a day that turned out to be the absolute antithesis of what I'd wanted and expected. As I started to melt down I thought of Dani Shapiro and her teachers. I thought of Sylvia Boorstein and the nature of impermanence. And I felt better. Much better. I made peace with how not okay everything was. I thank Dani Shapiro and Devotion for that.

I enjoyed this book immensely. When we open ourselves and allow others to view our most personal thoughts, experiences and struggles, we allow the world to expand. We are one and we are loved. Dani has brought more love and unity into the world through Devotion.

I loved this book.Shapiro is so honest and lets you into her every emotion.I can relate to her story on many levels and would really love to know herpersonally,She is the friend every woman should have.

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