



Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake: A Memoir of a Woman's Life

By Anna Quindlen

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INCLUDING AN EXCLUSIVE CONVERSATION BETWEEN MERYL STREEP AND ANNA QUINDLEN

“[Quindlen] serves up generous portions of her wise, commonsensical, irresistibly quotable take on life. . . . What Nora Ephron does for body image and Anne Lamott for spiritual neuroses, Quindlen achieves on the home front.”—NPR

In this irresistible memoir, Anna Quindlen writes about a woman’s life, from childhood memories to manic motherhood to middle age, using the events of her life to illuminate ours. Considering—and celebrating—everything from marriage, girlfriends, our mothers, parenting, faith, loss, to all the stuff in our closets, and more, Quindlen says for us here what we may wish we could have said ourselves. As she did in her beloved *New York Times* columns, and in *A Short Guide to a Happy Life*, Quindlen uses her past, present, and future to explore what matters most to women at different ages. Quindlen talks about

Marriage: “A safety net of small white lies can be the bedrock of a successful marriage. You wouldn’t believe how cheaply I can do a kitchen renovation.”

Girlfriends: “Ask any woman how she makes it through the day, and she may mention her calendar, her to-do lists, her babysitter. But if you push her on how she really makes it through her day, she will mention her girlfriends.”

Our bodies: “I’ve finally recognized my body for what it is: a personality-delivery system, designed expressly to carry my character from place to place, now and in the years to come.”

Parenting: “Being a parent is not transactional. We do not get what we give. It is the ultimate pay-it-forward endeavor: We are good parents not so they will be loving enough to stay with us but so they will be strong enough to leave us.”

Candid, funny, and moving, *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake* is filled with the

sharp insights and revealing observations that have long confirmed Quindlen's status as America's laureate of real life.

“Classic Quindlen, at times witty, at times wise, and always of her time.”—*The Miami Herald*

“[A] pithy, get-real memoir.”—*Booklist*

Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more.

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Editorial Review

Review

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Praise for Anna Quindlen

"A reporter by training, a storyteller at heart, [Quindlen's] writing is personal, humorous, and thought-provoking."—*The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

"Quindlen is an astonishingly graceful writer."—*San Francisco Examiner*

"Thank goodness for Anna Quindlen. [She] is smart. And compassionate. And witty. And wise."—*Detroit Free-Press*

"[Quindlen is] America's resident sane person."—*The New York Times*

About the Author

Anna Quindlen is a novelist and journalist whose work has appeared on fiction, nonfiction, and self-help bestseller lists. Her book *A Short Guide to a Happy Life* has sold more than a million copies. While a columnist at *The New York Times* she won the Pulitzer Prize and published two collections, *Living Out Loud* and *Thinking Out Loud*. Her *Newsweek* columns were collected in *Loud and Clear*. She is the author of six novels: *Object Lessons*, *One True Thing*, *Black and Blue*, *Blessings*, *Rise and Shine*, and *Every Last One*.

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