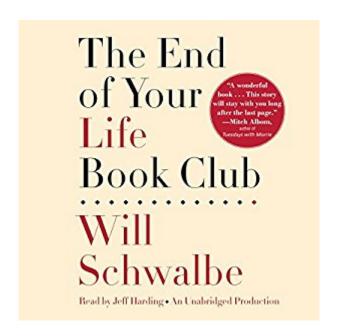
The book was found

The End Of Your Life Book Club





Synopsis

"What are you reading?" That's the question Will Schwalbe asks his mother, Mary Anne, as they sit in the waiting room of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. In 2007, Mary Anne returned from a humanitarian trip to Pakistan and Afghanistan suffering from what her doctors believed was a rare type of hepatitis. Months later she was diagnosed with a form of advanced pancreatic cancer, which is almost always fatal, often in six months or less. This is the inspiring true story of a son and his mother, who start a "book club" that brings them together as her life comes to a close. Over the next two years, Will and Mary Anne carry on conversations that are both wide-ranging and deeply personal, prompted by an eclectic array of books and a shared passion for reading. Their list jumps from classic to popular, from poetry to mysteries, from fantastic to spiritual. The issues they discuss include questions of faith and courage as well as everyday topics such as expressing gratitude and learning to listen. Throughout, they are constantly reminded of the power of books to comfort us, astonish us, teach us, and tell us what we need to do with our lives and in the world. Reading isn't the opposite of doing; it's the opposite of dying. Will and Mary Anne share their hopes and concerns with each other - and rediscover their lives - through their favorite books. When they read, they aren't a sick person and a well person, but a mother and a son taking a journey together. The result is a profoundly moving tale of loss that is also a joyful, and often humorous, celebration of life: Will's love letter to his mother, and theirs to the printed page.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 40 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 2, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B009KF0PYW

Best Sellers Rank: #126 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Literary Criticism

#190 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books & Reading > General #252

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Reference

Customer Reviews

I usually avoid sad books like the plaque- I'm a fairly sensitive person so I try to read things that won't devastate me and I despise authors that use difficult situations to either "sell" a story of manipulate the reader. However, I'm a huge huge fan of "project" books, and I love reading, so I figured I'd give "The End of Your Life Book Club" a try and stop reading if it got to be too much.I honestly couldn't put it down- it's a really wonderful book. The backstory is this: Will Schwalbe's mom, Mary, is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, which (as the doctor says) is "treatable but not curable". Will vows to be as supportive to his mom as he can. But Mary isn't your typical middle-aged woman- this is a woman who has been on the frontlines of some of the most volatile areas on the earth, championing human rights, education, and literacy. She's also a sort of buttoned-up and reserved soul, not one to expound much on her feelings or emotions. She faces her illness with sort of a brisk honesty. Will realizes that the best way he can support his mom, engage her, and open up the lines of communication is to share in one of Mary's passions-books. Will is a editor at a major publishing company, so he's quite a fan of books, as well. So he and Mary begin sharing books, and every time the two see each other, they discuss the books they read. In the process, Mary begins to reveal more and more about not only her vast experiences, but also her emotions and her fears. I've read quite a few "book project" books and many of them come across as an giant compiled Cliff's Notes of books that are read.

This book had me at the title: The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe. Anything about reading books or about dying gets my attention - and this titled combined them! Be forewarned - this book is likely to cost you quite a bit of money. Not because of the price of the book but because you will pick up at least 8 to 10 "can't live without it" titles in it that you will HAVE to buy. Often books about lists of books disappoint me but this one was definitely worth it. The author works in publishing, media and writing, so he knows books and literature. His mother, whom he adores, is dying of pancreatic cancer. She too was a voracious reader. They always exchanged books but in her illness they form a secret book club of two to discuss what they are reading during the long chemo sessions (he goes to most with her). Rest assured, she is not just some little wimp of a woman with cancer - she has a powerful resume: well educated, a working mother all her married life, was dean of admissions for Harvard and Radcliff, directed a number of exclusive schools and did massive (and I mean massive) humanitarian work. She lived in many places (London, Paris) and travelled the world for her causes: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Africa - lived in dangerous places to do her work. She was part of the founding of the IRC - International Rescue Committee (a favorite charity of mine), was shot at, starved, got all sorts of diseases from her travels but she was a

survivor. Her final work was building a library with mobile units in Afghanistan. She travelled all over the US raising money and she worked on this project almost to her dying breath. And she raised a big family. And through all of this she read voraciously.

Download to continue reading...

The End of Your Life Book Club Premier League Club Logos: Coloring book on the premier league club logos with information on each team. Great for kids and adults and makes an ideal gift. The Starlight Club (Starlight Club Series Book 1) The Deserts of the Southwest: A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide (Sierra Club Naturalist's Guides) Coding Club Python: Building Big Apps Level 3 (Coding Club, Level 3) Contemporary Club Management with Answer Sheet (AHLEI) 3e (3rd Edition) (AHLEI - Club Management) The Camel Club Audio Box Set (Camel Club Series) The Baby-Sitters Club Super Special #11: The Baby-Sitters Remember (The Baby-Sitters Club Super Special series) Dawn and the We Love Kids Club (Baby-Sitters Club, 72) Sixty: A Diary of My Sixty-First Year: The Beginning of the End, or the End of the Beginning? The End: A Complete Overview of Bible Prophecy and the End of Days The End of America - The Role of Islam in the End Times and Biblical Warnings to Flee America 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) What Color Is Your Dog?: Train Your Dog Based on His Personality "Color" (Kennel Club Books) Reflections: A guide to end of life issues for you and your family The Life You Can Save: How to Do Your Part to End World Poverty A Guide to Growing Your Own Marijuana: J.D. Rockefeller's Book Club How to Start a Family Office: Blueprints for setting up your single family office (Family Office) Club Book Series 3) The End of Competitive Advantage: How to Keep Your Strategy Moving as Fast as Your Business

Dmca