

The Prodigal A Ragamuffin Story Brennan Manning

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The World as I Remember It Rich Mullins 2010-06-30 Rich Mullins was more than a musician. He was a poet and thinker who left behind a timeless legacy. As a columnist for Release magazine for nearly six years, Rich shared his musings on faith and life, conveying the wonder and awesomeness of his God with the same depth and simplicity that characterized his music. The World As I Remember It is a collection of these personal writings, complemented by striking photography and some of Rich's most memorable quotations. This one-of-a-kind collection will be cherished not only by his fans, but by anyone who appreciates fresh, deep spiritual nourishment. Rich Mullins was more than a musician. He was a poet and thinker who left a legacy of deep gratitude, humility, and delight before the dace of an awesome God. Here you'll find a treasury of Rich's engaging, intimate reflections on faith and life. Revealing the spiritual meaning behind the simplest events, Rich muses about subjects ranging from fear to contentment, childlikeness to emptiness, from war to music. This is a feast for anyone who appreciates fresh, deep spiritual nourishment. As you savor the arresting ideas of one of modern Christianity's most ardent pilgrims, you'll find your adoration focused on your Creator, Redeemer, and Inspirer. Story Behind the Book For nearly six years, Rich shared his thoughts about faith and life through his columns in Release magazine. When his first column was published in the spring of 1991, the editors introduced him this way: "Rich not only has a lot to say...he also has a unique way of saying it. And although Mr. Mullins could easily fit into that intellectual bohemian-type category (we're sure he could hold his own in a discussion with any theologian or philosopher of old), most often, his message is a straightforward call back to the principles of faith. He's a poet, a scholar, a gentleman, and yes, just a little bit off-center. But that's why we like him, and are pleased to welcome Rich to Release with this regular column. We trust you'll love him and what he has to say as much as we do..." Rich had a way with words, and a collection of his writings seems an appropriate tribute to a man who has been referred to as "the greatest songwriter of our time."

We Get to Carry Each Other Greg Garrett 2009-07-08 Who among us has not experienced hearing a song that moved us deeply, that spoke to us in a truly spiritual way? Millions of fans around the world have found that inspiration in the music of U2, arguably the biggest band in the world today. This engaging and informative book examines the spirituality that drives U2, a band whose influence has spread far beyond music and whose songs encourage listeners to put their faith into action for the sake of the poor and marginalized.

Walking with God through Pain and Suffering Timothy Keller 2013-10-01 New York Times bestselling author of The Prodigal Prophet Timothy Keller—whose books have sold millions of copies to both religious and secular readers—explores one of the most difficult questions we must answer in our lives: Why is there pain and suffering? Walking with God through Pain and Suffering is the definitive Christian book on why bad things happen and how we should respond to them. The question of why there is pain and suffering in the world has confounded every generation; yet there has not been a major book from a Christian perspective exploring why they exist for many years. The two classics in this area are When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, which was published more than thirty years ago, and C. S. Lewis's The Problem of Pain, published more than seventy years ago. The great secular book on the subject, Elisabeth Ku'bler-Ross's On Death and Dying, was first published in 1969. It's time for a new understanding and perspective, and who better to tackle this complex subject than Timothy Keller? As the pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, Timothy Keller is known for the unique insights he shares, and his series of books has guided countless readers in their spiritual journeys. Walking with God through Pain and Suffering will bring a much-needed, fresh viewpoint on this important issue.

The Prodigal Brennan Manning 2013 Celebrity mega-church pastor Jack Chisholm's lack of grace leads him into

disgrace after a night of debauchery ends in an affair with his beautiful assistant, but just as Jack is hitting bottom, his estranged father appears offering to bring him home.

***The Furious Longing of God* Brennan Manning 2009-03-01** Imagine a stormy day at sea, your ship yielding to a relentless wind, pummeled by crashing waves, subject to the awesome force of nature. A force that is both fierce and majestic. A power that is nothing short of furious. Such is God's intense, consuming love for His children. It's a love that knows no limits, and no boundaries. A love that will go to any lengths, and take any risks, to pursue us. Renowned author and ragamuffin Brennan Manning presents a love story for the brokenhearted. For those who are burdened by heavy religion. For those who feel they can never measure up. It is a provocative and poignant look at the radical, no-holds-barred love of our Heavenly Father. It is a message that will forever change how you view God.

***Bo's Café* John Lynch 2009-09-25** High-powered executive Steven Kerner is living the dream in southern California. But when his bottled pain ignites in anger one night, his wife kicks him out. Then an eccentric mystery man named Andy Monroe befriends Steven and begins unravelling his tightly wound world. Andy leads Steven through a series of frustrating and revealing encounters to repair his life through genuine friendship and the grace and love of a God who has been waiting for him to accept it. A story to challenge and encourage, BO'S CAFE is a model for all who struggle with unresolved problems and a performance-based life. Those who desire a fuller, more authentic way of living will find this journey of healing a restorative exploration of God's unbridled grace.

***The Ragamuffin Gospel* Brennan Manning 2015** Previously published: Sisters, Or.: Multnomah Publishers, c2000. ***A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God* Norman Shawchuck 2006** For nearly 20 years, the beloved Guide to Prayer books have been sought after and used by thousands who hunger for God. Like its predecessors, this guide offers a daily pattern for those seeking a rhythm of devotion and personal worship.

***Ruthless Trust* Brennan Manning 2010-10-12** In his sequel to *The Ragamuffin Gospel* bestselling author Brennan Manning shows how true and radical trust in God can transform our lives. Manning, beloved author and spiritual teacher, shows us how trust in God can transform our lives and open us up to deeper experiences of grace and love. In *Ruthless Trust*, he turns his focus from furious love to radical trust, revealing the ways in which trust renews our faith and help us grow.

***Good News for Those Trying Harder* Alan Kraft 2008** Author and pastor Alan Kraft offers a simple solution to those frustrated in their Christian walk: just stop trying.

***Shame* Greg Garrett 2009-05-01** John Tilden's glory days are far behind him, and now it seems like all he has is the monotony of every day living. He certainly thought there'd be more to it than his ramshackle Oklahoma farm and a mundane job coaching basketball at his old high school. He questions his fatherhood skills too: his oldest son won't speak to him, his younger son wants to quit the basketball team, and now his daughter wants to go out on dates. He loves his wife, but the marriage has settled into complacency. Now his twentieth high school reunion looms and he has agreed to play in an exhibition game at the reunion, which is sure to be a wretched joke. And his ex-girlfriend's back in town, newly single. Twenty years is plenty long enough for a man to mope after what might have been. It's time for John to make himself understand that.

***Choose and Choose Again* J. Kevin Butcher 2016** In *Choose and Choose Again*, the reader will encounter story after story of different people, most of whom are from Hope Community Church of Detroit, where Pastor Butcher has been sharing the healing love of God for thirteen years. They represent men and women, African American, Caucasian, Latino, and Asian, urban and suburban, professional types and prostitutes, clergy and addicts, drunks and lawyers and convicts--wounded human beings who have found themselves empty, dying, and longing to be filled. The stories are not only about their own healing and restoration but also about how the love of God heals. Butcher hopes that readers will find before them a path of healing that they feel compelled to embrace. He begins with his own story of emptiness and despair, and his journey to healing, but the ultimate power of his message is that this healing journey is for anyone who is willing to own his or her emptiness and hold one's heart out to God, who is desperately longing to love each person all the way home.

***Reflections for Ragamuffins* Brennan Manning 1998-10-07** Brennan Manning shares his joyful message in a powerful new way with his first-ever collection of daily devotions. For every day of the year the beloved author of *Ragamuffin Gospel* and *The Boy Who Cried Abba* offers a verse of scripture, and each day's meditation is completed with a complementary reading from his own writings. Whether your life has already changed by Brennan Manning's dynamic version of the good news or you are meeting him here for the first time, *Reflections for Ragamuffins* will open your mind and heart to a profound new experience of God's unconditional love.

***Letters From Ruby* Adam Thomas 2013-08-20** When the newly ordained Episcopal priest Rev. Calvin Harper arrives in Victory, West Virginia, to be the pastor at an ailing parish, he has no idea how much he still has to learn about being a priest. Thankfully, Ruby Redding takes the young man under her wing and teaches him everything she has learned throughout her long, storied life. Seminary never taught Calvin that the only true way to be a witness to

God's presence in this world is to remain in relationship with people no matter what life throws at them. His studies never taught him that detachment is the bane of ministry. He never learned that deep grief comes only from deep love. But in his first year in Victory, Calvin learns all this and more from Ruby, a woman so full of God's light that it can't help but spill onto the people around her.

Parentology Dalton Conley 2014-03-18 An award-winning scientist offers his unorthodox approach to childrearing: "Parentology is brilliant, jaw-droppingly funny, and full of wisdom...bound to change your thinking about parenting and its conventions" (Amy Chua, author of *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*). If you're like many parents, you might ask family and friends for advice when faced with important choices about how to raise your kids. You might turn to parenting books or simply rely on timeworn religious or cultural traditions. But when Dalton Conley, a dual-doctorate scientist and full-blown nerd, needed childrearing advice, he turned to scientific research to make the big decisions. In *Parentology*, Conley hilariously reports the results of those experiments, from bribing his kids to do math (since studies show conditional cash transfers improved educational and health outcomes for kids) to teaching them impulse control by giving them weird names (because evidence shows kids with unique names learn not to react when their peers tease them) to getting a vasectomy (because fewer kids in a family mean smarter kids). Conley encourages parents to draw on the latest data to rear children, if only because that level of engagement with kids will produce solid and happy ones. Ultimately these experiments are very loving, and the outcomes are redemptive—even when Conley's sassy kids show him the limits of his profession. *Parentology* teaches you everything you need to know about the latest literature on parenting—with lessons that go down easy. You'll be laughing and learning at the same time.

All Is Grace Brennan Manning 2011-10-04 It has been over twenty years since the publication of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, a book many claim as the shattering of God's grace into their lives. Since that time, Brennan Manning has been dazzlingly faithful in preaching and writing variations on that singular theme – "Yes, Abba is very fond of you!" But today the crowds are gone and the lights are dim, the patches on his knees have faded. If he ever was a ragamuffin, truly it is now. In this his final book, Brennan roves back his past, honoring the lives of the people closest to him, family and friends who've known the saint and the sinner, the boy and the man. Far from some chronological timeline, these memories are witness to the truth of life by one who has lived it – *All Is Grace*.

Engaging Today's Prodigal Carol Barnier 2012-03-21 Many families today experience the profound guilt and shame filled pain of seeing a child walk away from their faith and values. Churches and parents feel powerless to change the relationship and engage the prodigal in positive ways. Carol Barnier has the insight to help. She left the faith of her pastor father, became an active atheist, debated Christians, and explored a variety of worldviews before she found the truth in a relationship with Jesus. But far more than her personal story, *Engaging Today's Prodigal* equips readers with a better understanding of a prodigal's motivation, useful responses that won't prevent reconciliation, clear boundaries to protect themselves and other children, actions to take when you know you have contributed to the problem, and the value of realistic expectations. With effective wit and humor, Carol provides material relevant for churches, parents and even the prodigals themselves. Can your family or church interact with a prodigal in ways that build a relationship bridge that can provide a way back home when they are ready? Let *Engaging Today's Prodigal* equip you with clear, specific actions that can overcome the shame, hurt, and loss to bring real hope for the future.

A Long, Long Way Greg Garrett 2020 "Hollywood films are perhaps the most powerful storytellers in American history, and their depiction of race and culture has helped to shape the way people around the world respond to race and prejudice. Over the past one hundred years, films have moved from the radically-prejudiced views of people of color to the depiction of people of color by writers and filmmakers from within those cultures. In the process, we begin to see how films have depicted negative versions of people outside the white mainstream, and how film might become a vehicle for racial reconciliation. Religious traditions offer powerful correctives to our cultural narratives, and this work incorporates both narrative truth-telling and religious truth-telling as we consider race and film and work toward reconciliation. By exploring the hundred-year period from *The Birth of a Nation* to *Get Out*, this work acknowledges the racist history of America, and offers the possibility of hope for the future"--

The Relentless Tenderness of Jesus Brennan Manning 2004-02-01 Is God a wrathful judge? A gentle healer? A father? Brother? Friend? In *The Relentless Tenderness of Jesus*, Brennan Manning brings you to a deeper understanding of the true nature of God. Through poignant and unforgettable stories and challenging observations, Manning helps you stretch your mind and reject simplistic explanations of who God really is. With rich insights you'll see how God can at once be a roaring lion, pacing the globe and seeking you out; and simultaneously a tender lamb, there to comfort you in any time of need. A unique experience, this book will forever change the way you think about God.

The Wisdom of Tenderness Brennan Manning 2004-06-29 A Stirring Invitation to Accept God's Unfathomable Tenderness

The Importance of Being Foolish Brennan Manning 2005-06-28 In the eyes of the world, Jesus was a fool. He did not

abide by the rules of his day; the people he associated with were shunned by society; his Sermon on the Mount reads like a primer on being left behind, stepped on, and ignored. In order for us to truly be the people Jesus wants us to be, we too must learn to become "foolish." Becoming a Christian is not a magical enterprise by which we are automatically transformed into better people. We must train to become who God intends us to be. In *The Importance of Being Foolish*, bestselling Christian author Brennan Manning teaches us how to think like Jesus. By reorienting our lives according to the gospel we may appear to be fools in the eyes of the world, but Manning reveals that this is exactly what Jesus wants. In a powerful exploration of the mind of Christ, Manning reveals how our obsession with security, pleasure, and power prevents us from living rich and meaningful lives. Our endless struggle to acquire money, good feelings, and prestige yields a rich harvest of worry, frustration, and resentment. Manning explores what Christ's mind was truly focused on: finding the Father, compassion for others, a heart of forgiveness, and the work of the kingdom. Coming from the gentle yet compelling voice of Brennan Manning, *The Importance of Being Foolish* is a refreshing reminder of the radical call of Jesus and the transforming love of God.

Crazy Love Francis Chan 2013-04-01 Revised & Updated Edition! God is love. Crazy, relentless, all-powerful love. Have you ever wondered if we're missing it? It's crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe—the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and E-minor—loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss. Whether you've verbalized it yet or not, we all know something's wrong. Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts—it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis describes it, you will never be the same. Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything. Learn more about *Crazy Love* at www.crazylovebook.com.

The Return of the Prodigal Son Henri J. M. Nouwen 2013-11-20 With over a million copies sold, this classic work is essential reading for all who ask, "Where has my struggle led me?" A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* catapulted Henri Nouwen on an unforgettable spiritual adventure. Here he shares the deeply personal and resonant meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell. As Nouwen reflects on Rembrandt's painting in light of his own life journey, he evokes a powerful drama of the classic parable in a rich, captivating way that is sure to reverberate in the hearts of readers. Nouwen probes the several movements of the parable: the younger son's return, the father's restoration of sonship, the elder son's resentfulness, and the father's compassion. The themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation will be newly discovered by all who have known loneliness, dejection, jealousy, or anger. The challenge to love as God loves, and to be loved as God's beloved, will be seen as the ultimate revelation of the parable known to Christians throughout time, and is here represented with a vigor and power fresh for our times.

The Prodigal Prophet Timothy Keller 2018-10-02 An angry prophet. A feared and loathsome enemy. A devastating storm. And the surprising message of a merciful God to his people. The story of Jonah is one of the most well-known parables in the Bible. It is also the most misunderstood. Many people, even those who are nonreligious, are familiar with Jonah: A rebellious prophet who defies God and is swallowed by a whale. But there's much more to Jonah's story than most of us realize. In *The Prodigal Prophet*, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller reveals the hidden depths within the book of Jonah. Keller makes the case that Jonah was one of the worst prophets in the entire Bible. And yet there are unmistakably clear connections between Jonah, the prodigal son, and Jesus. Jesus in fact saw himself in Jonah. How could one of the most defiant and disobedient prophets in the Bible be compared to Jesus? Jonah's journey also doesn't end when he is freed from the belly of the fish. There is an entire second half to his story—but it is left unresolved within the text of the Bible. Why does the book of Jonah end on what is essentially a cliffhanger? In these pages, Timothy Keller provides an answer to the extraordinary conclusion of this biblical parable—and shares the powerful Christian message at the heart of Jonah's story.

Abba's Child Brennan Manning 2015-04-10 Is an impostor robbing you of God's love? We've bought into the lie that we are worthy of God's love only when our lives are going well. If our families are happy or our jobs are meaningful, life is a success. But when life begins to fall through the cracks and embarrassing sins threaten to reveal our less-than-perfect identity, we scramble to keep up a good front to present to the world—and to God. We hide until we can rearrange the mask of perfection. Sadly, it is then that we wonder why we lack intimate relationships and a passionate faith. All this time God is calling us to take the mask off and come openly to Him. He longs for us to know in the depth of our beings that He loves us and accepts us as we are. When we are our true selves, we can finally claim our identity as God's child—Abba's child—and experience His pure pleasure in who we are. Brennan Manning encourages us to let go of the impostor lifestyle and freely accept our belovedness as a child of the heavenly Father. In Him there is life.

Pastrix Nadia Bolz-Weber 2013-09-10 Now a New York Times bestselling author, Nadia Bolz-Weber takes no

prisoners as she reclaims the term "patrix" (pronounced "pas-triks," a term used by some Christians who refuse to recognize female pastors) in her messy, beautiful, prayer-and-profanity laden narrative about an unconventional life of faith. ? Heavily tattooed and loud-mouthed, Nadia, a former stand-up comic, sure as hell didn't consider herself to be religious leader material—until the day she ended up leading a friend's funeral in a smoky downtown comedy club. Surrounded by fellow alcoholics, depressives, and cynics, she realized: These were her people. Maybe she was meant to be their pastor. Using life stories—from living in a hopeful-but-haggard commune of slackers and her unusual but undeniable spiritual calling to her experiences pastoring people from all walks of life—and poignant honesty, Nadia portrays a woman who is both deeply faithful and deeply flawed, giving hope to the rest of us along the way. Wildly entertaining and deeply resonant, this is the book for people who hunger for a bit of hope that doesn't come from vapid consumerism; for women who talk too loud and guys who love chick flicks; and for the gay person who loves Jesus and won't be shunned by the church. In short, this book is for every misfit suspicious of institutionalized religion but who is still seeking transcendence and mystery.

Dear Abba Brennan Manning 2017-03-07 A deeply personal and heartfelt devotional from the beloved author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*. Raw vulnerability can be scary. It can also save our lives. In this book, Brennan Manning has laid out a month of honest prayers to God, whom he affectionately calls Abba, in an easy-to-use format that can guide your own prayers. Each day contains morning and evening prayers coupled with Scripture and excerpts from Manning's contemporary spiritual classics—in a modern-day collection of psalms, complete with cries for help, expressions of wonder, and invitations into the comforting mercy of God.

The Rabbi's Heartbeat Brennan Manning 2014-02-27 As Abba's children, we need only to define ourselves through His Son, just as the apostle John did—as one beloved by God. Through this timeless devotional, author and speaker Brennan Manning brings you from a lukewarm, distant faith to being close enough to lean against Jesus—the Great Rabbi—and listen to His heartbeat. Adapted from the best-seller *Abba's Child*, this daily reminder of the Father's relentless love will help you accept your identity as a child of God as you grow in spiritual formation.

Will Your Prodigal Come Home? Jeff Lucas 2009-12-15 If you have had your heart broken by a prodigal, you know the pain of being hurt or disappointed by a loved one ... and the utter despair of seeing them turn away from Christ and the cross. In *Will Your Prodigal Come Home?* author Jeff Lucas delivers a message that is both challenging and comforting as he outlines the chaotic situations and emotions that families of prodigals face. Lucas acknowledges that every prodigal is different. Some have defied God. Some are lured by drugs, alcohol, or crime. Others have drifted until the emotional and physical distance feels unbearable. Still others are in church pews, with hearts closed to Jesus. Clearly, there are no easy answers. But through understanding, insight into the emotions that form within families, and an acknowledgement of the power of prayer, this book outlines a solid approach to help guide your prodigal home and help you keep your own faith as you wait.

How Happiness Happens Max Lucado 2019-09-17 These are tough times. Amid global isolation, economic downturn, and social unrest, could you use a dose of happy right about now? Learn the secret to lasting joy that will endure through any season of life. In *How Happiness Happens*, Max Lucado shares the unexpected path to a lasting happiness, one that produces reliable joy amidst any life circumstance. Based on the teachings of Jesus and backed by modern research, this book presents a surprising but practical way of living that will change you from the inside out. In this book, Max will help you discover: Happiness is not selfish People are a joy There is strength in choice Happiness happens when you give it away What are you waiting for? Open the unexpected door to joy and walk in. There's no better day than today to start your happiest life yet. *How Happiness Happens* is also available in Spanish.

A Glimpse of Jesus Brennan Manning 2010-10-12 Beloved Christian writer Brennan Manning has long been illuminating the transforming power of God's constant love for us in his bestselling books. Now he identifies self-hatred as the reason that so many of us seem unable to accept this incredible, unchanging love. By clearly examining and understanding Jesus' life, we can put self-hatred behind us forever and truly be transformed in the ways God intended.

The Prodigal Brennan Manning 2013-11-05 From the inspirational author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel* comes a powerful contemporary retelling of the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Jack Chisholm is "the people's pastor." He leads a devoted and growing megachurch, has several best-selling books, and a memorable slogan, "We have got to do better." Jack knows how to preach, and he understands how to chastise people into performing. What he doesn't know is anything about grace. This year, when it comes time for the Christmas sermon, the congregation at Grace Cathedral will look to the pulpit, and Jack will not be there. Of course, they will have seen plenty of him already—on the news. After an evening of debauchery that leads to an affair with his beautiful assistant, Jack Chisholm finds himself deserted with chilling swiftness. The church elders remove him from his own pulpit. His publisher withholds the royalties from his books. Worst of all, his wife disappears with their eight-year-old daughter. But just as Jack is hitting bottom, hopeless and penniless, drinking his way to oblivion, who should appear but his long-estranged father,

implores his prodigal son: "Come home." A true companion piece to *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, *The Prodigal* illustrates the power of grace through the story of a broken man who finally saw Jesus not because he preached his greatest sermon or wrote his most powerful book, but because he failed miserably. Jack Chisholm lost everything—his church, his family, his respect, and his old way of believing—but he found grace. It's the same grace that Brennan Manning devoted his life to sharing: profound in nature and coming from a God who loves us just as we are, and not as we should be. "A wonderfully written story that is as entertaining as it is thought provoking." —Publishers Weekly, starred review ". . . the consummate final tale. What they have created is the Ragamuffin at his best, full of hope, full of love, and finally, full of belief in the goodness of God." —Phyllis Tickle, founding editor, Religion Department, Publishers Weekly "Brennan Manning's last work continues the powerful message of grace and forgiveness that has transformed so many lives. *The Prodigal* will transform you too." —Mark Batterson, New York Times best-selling author of *The Circle Maker*

Three Free Sins Steve Brown 2012-02-07 From a popular pastor and radio host—*Three Free Sins* teaches that the only people who make any progress toward being better are those who know that God will still love them, regardless of how good they are. This book is about the misguided obsession with the management of sin that cripples too many Christians. It's about the view that religion is all about sin...about how to hide side sin or how to stop sinning all together. In the Introduction, the author toys good-naturedly with an agitated caller on his radio program, teasing him in a segment where he offers three free sins. The offer is real. Not that Steve has the power to forgive sins, but he wants to make the point that Jesus has made the offer to cover all of our sins – not just three. Chapter one, titled "Teaching Frogs to Fly," is even better. The gist of this chapter is that you can't teach frogs to fly, just like you can't teach people not to sin. Steve tells a story about a guy who has a frog, and he's convinced he can teach the frog how to fly. The man keeps throwing the frog up in the air or up against walls – all to the poor frog's demise. The message is that even though people can be better, they can never not sin—just like a frog can never learn to fly, no matter how much pressure is put on it. Steve continues through the book to show readers that while they can never manage sin, they can relax in knowing that they are completely forgiven—not just of three, but of all.

The Boy Who Cried Abba Brennan Manning 2001 Willie Juan, a young orphan and social outcast, learns the lessons of forgiveness, self-acceptance, and happiness, as he realizes the unconditional love of God.

Faith That Matters Frederick Buechner 2018-05-08 Together for the first time in one devotional, experience daily readings from such bestselling and respected voices as Frederick Buechner, Brennan Manning, Henri Nouwen, Eugene Peterson, James Bryan Smith, A. W. Tozer, Dallas Willard, and N. T. Wright. *Faith That Matters* was designed to help you confidently walk in faith every day of the year. In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to get lost in a never-ending list of projects and demands. We become distracted with what's urgent instead of what matters most. And in the process, we lose sight of who we are . . . and who God is. *Faith That Matters* is a beautifully designed devotional that reminds us of the timeless truths of Scripture. Each reading offers powerful stories and inspiring insights from trusted Christian communicators such as: Frederick Buechner Brennan Manning Henri Nouwen Eugene Peterson James Bryan Smith W. Tozer Dallas Willard N. T. Wright All 365 devotions also include a relevant Bible verse, practical suggestions for living out that day's reading, and a brief closing prayer. The variety of contributors provides a treasure trove of unique perspectives on issues ranging from God's love, mercy, and hope to themes of grace, provision, and peace. These well-known authors have sold a combined total of millions of books. Now, for the first time, their writings have been brought together in one devotional. Whether you seek to understand the foundation of our faith tenets or simply need a daily dose of spiritual encouragement, your heart and soul will be refreshed anew with each reading. Draw closer to God every day of the year with *Faith That Matters*.

Entertaining Judgment Greg Garrett 2014-12-01 Nowadays references to the afterlife—angels strumming harps, demons brandishing pitchforks, God enthroned on heavenly clouds—are more often encountered in New Yorker cartoons than in serious Christian theological reflection. Speculation about death and its sequel seems to embarrass many theologians; however, as Greg Garrett shows in *Entertaining Judgment*, popular culture in the U.S. has found rich ground for creative expression in the search for answers to the question: What lies in store for us after we die? The lyrics of Madonna, Los Lonely Boys, and Sean Combs; the plotlines of TV's *Lost*, *South Park*, and *The Walking Dead*; the implied theology in films such as *The Dark Knight*, *Ghost*, and *Field of Dreams*; the heavenly half-light of Thomas Kinkade's popular paintings; the ghosts, shades, and after-life way-stations in *Harry Potter*; and the characters, situations, and locations in the *Hunger Games* saga all speak to our hopes and fears about what comes next. In a rich survey of literature and popular media, Garrett compares cultural accounts of death and the afterlife with those found in scripture. Denizens of the imagined afterlife, whether in heaven, hell, on earth, or in purgatory, speak to what awaits us, at once shaping and reflecting our deeply held—if often somewhat nebulous—beliefs. They show us what rewards and punishments we might expect, offer us divine assistance, and even diabolically attack us. Ultimately, we are drawn to these stories of heaven, hell, and purgatory—and to stories about death and the

undead--not only because they entertain us, but because they help us to create meaning and to learn about ourselves, our world, and, perhaps, the next world. Garrett's deft analysis sheds new light on what popular culture can tell us about the startlingly sharp divide between what modern people profess to believe and what they truly hope and expect to find after death--and how they use those stories to help them understand this life.

Winds of Heaven, Stuff of Earth Andrew Greer 2017-09-05 Rich Mullins was a once-in-a-lifetime singer/songwriter whose impact on Christian music and the church is still felt today, even twenty years after his passing. His words and music softened and inspired the most hardened hearts to believe. His was a ragged and raw faith of a pilgrim, poet, and prophet. Now more than a dozen of today's singers, songwriters, producers, and authors gather to share never-before-heard stories and lessons that continue to influence their music and ministries today. These lessons, gleaned from Rich's own struggles and pursuits, are combined with lyrics from unreleased Rich Mullins songs that will inspire longtime Mullins fans, new Christian music followers, and spiritual seekers trying to understand the reckless love of God.

Patched Together Brennan Manning 2010-01-01 "Patched Together is a very special story to me. It is, in many ways, my story..." These words begin this rich story from Brennan Manning, the beloved author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*. Follow the character Willie Juan, a lonely boy who finds belonging in the eyes of the mysterious Man of Sorrows, through three distinct seasons of his life: morning, noon, and night. Each season is filled with memorable characters, significant wounds, and lingering questions. More than a charming tale, *Patched Together* is a remarkable story in which readers will see themselves. Willie Juan and readers alike will be connected by the thread that ties all the patches together—the everlasting truth that in the end, only Abba's love remains.

Living with the Living Dead Greg Garrett 2017-05-01 When humankind faces what it perceives as a threat to its very existence, a macabre thing happens in art, literature, and culture: corpses begin to stand up and walk around. The dead walked in the fourteenth century, when the Black Death and other catastrophes roiled Europe. They walked in images from World War I, when a generation died horribly in the trenches. They walked in art inspired by the Holocaust and by the atomic attacks on Japan. Now, in the early twenty-first century, the dead walk in stories of the zombie apocalypse, some of the most ubiquitous narratives of post-9/11 Western culture. Zombies appear in popular movies and television shows, comics and graphic novels, fiction, games, art, and in material culture including pinball machines, zombie runs, and lottery tickets. The zombie apocalypse, Greg Garrett shows us, has become an archetypal narrative for the contemporary world, in part because zombies can stand in for any of a variety of global threats, from terrorism to Ebola, from economic uncertainty to ecological destruction. But this zombie narrative also brings us emotional and spiritual comfort. These apocalyptic stories, in which the world has been turned upside down and protagonists face the prospect of an imminent and grisly death, can also offer us wisdom about living in a community, present us with real-world ethical solutions, and invite us into conversation about the value and costs of survival. We may indeed be living with the living dead these days, but through the stories we consume and the games we play, we are paradoxically learning what it means to be fully alive.

Smack Dab in the Middle of God's Love Brennan Manning 2011 Willie Juan and Ana have no children but their home is filled with love for the children who come to see them as Willie explains that God's love is found everywhere.