

# Surprised By Motherhood Everything I Never Expected About Being A Mom Lisa Jo Baker

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Dive into Lisa Jo Baker's honest exploration of the unexpected journey of motherhood. This insightful piece unveils the surprising realities and everything you never anticipated about being a mom, offering relatable truths and a fresh perspective for new and experienced parents alike.

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## Surprised by Motherhood

A lawyer with a well-stamped passport and a passion for human rights, Lisa-Jo Baker never wanted to be a mom. And then she had kids. Having lost her own mother to cancer as a teenager, Lisa-Jo felt lost on her journey to womanhood and wholly unprepared to raise children. Surprised by Motherhood is Lisa-Jos story of becoming and being a mom, and in the process, discovering that all the what to expect and how to books in the world can never truly prepare you for the sheer exhilaration, joy, and terrifying love that accompanies motherhood. Set partly in South Africa and partly in the US (with a slight detour to Ukraine along the way), Surprised by Motherhood is a poignant memoir of one womans dawning realization that being a mom isnt about being perfectits about being present.

## Never Unfriended

Written by Lisa-Jo Baker of the (in)courage women's community, Never Unfriended, is a step-by-step guide to friendships you can trust with personal stories and practical tips to help you make the friends, and be the friend, that lasts.

## Dragons and Dirt

We can change the world. There are God-dreams stitched into our DNA. He's given us each a slice of history to live free - full of wonder - for his glory. So what stops us? What stops us from earning our numbered days, living on purpose and being the revolution? In Dragons and dirt, Dalene Reyburn battles the external life pressures that punch our dreams in the gut, and the internal heart entanglements that keep our capacity for good buried deep. Because when life happens, things break on the outside and things break on the inside, and what we do with that determines the fullness of our lives. We can look back with regret and look forward with fear and live a mediocre present. Or we can recognise that we have space and scope to leave the planet better than we found it. This book is a reminder that when we brave the dragons that breathe fire at the borders of our influence, and when we

dare to be honest about the dirt we hide in our hearts, we can get busy living. We might even change the world.

### Expecting Wonder

When you're expecting a baby, all the focus seems to be on the external trappings of pregnancy--baby showers, doctor appointments, setting up the nursery, learning about baby's development. But amid all that preparation, your own emotional and spiritual journey is also taking place. You're not just growing a baby; you're becoming a mother. In *Expecting Wonder*, Brittany L. Bergman dives into this identity transformation with wit and grace, offering a heart-level guidebook for women in the season of pregnancy. Bergman shares stories of wrestling with fear, learning to trust God's goodness, and making space physically and emotionally for both her baby and her changing identity. By sharing her own honest journey of fear, change, and hope, Bergman offers the reader a picture of the miracle that God is working not just in the reader's body, but also in her soul.

### 936 Pennies

**Make the Most of Your Time with Your Children** On the day of their baby dedication, Eryn and her husband were given a jar of 936 pennies. The jar contained a penny for every week they would raise their child until graduation, and they were instructed to remove one penny each Sunday as a reminder, placing it into another jar as an investment. At some point every parent realizes time is moving swiftly, and they ask themselves, How am I investing in my child? Through personal stories and biblical examples, *936 Pennies* will help you discover how to capture time and use it to its fullest potential, replacing guilt and regrets with freedom. Meanwhile, your kids will see how simple choices, like putting the cell phone down and going on a family hike, will make all the difference. Together you will stretch time and make it richer. Craft a family legacy in tune with God's heartbeat as you capture a new vision for your children and learn the best ways to spend your pennies.

### Sparkly Green Earrings

"There is really no better indicator you're a mother than acquiring the ability to catch throw-up in a plastic bag, disinfect your hands, and immediately ask your friend to pass the beef jerky as you put on another Taylor Swift song and act as if nothing has happened." This is the type of insight Melanie Shankle offers in this quirky memoir of motherhood. Written in the familiar, stream-of-consciousness style of her blog, *Big Mama*, *Sparkly Green Earrings* is a heartwarming and hilarious look at motherhood from someone who is still trying to figure it all out. Filled with personal stories—from the decision to become a mother to the heartbreak of miscarriage and ultimately, to the joy of raising a baby and living to tell about it—*Sparkly Green Earrings* will make you feel like you're sitting across the table from your best friend. A must-read for anyone who's ever had a child or even thought about it.

### A Daughter's Broken Heart and the Daddy Who Restored It

A story of pain, brokenness, redemption, grace, and unconditional love. Through a broken relationship with her father, *A Daughter's Broken Heart and the Daddy Who Restored It* paints a beautiful picture of how our Heavenly Father steps into the empty places of our lives and fills them with His unconditional love and grace. After spending most of her life searching to find love, many poor choices, and a broken marriage, God met Amanda on her kitchen floor as a single mother at the end of her rope—a broken woman searching for hope and love. He picked her up, loved her, and showed her His amazing grace. And, through His forgiveness, He showed her how to forgive. Her story will touch your heart and encourage you into a deeper walk with the Father who loves you more than you can imagine.

### We Saved You a Seat - Bible Study Book

Includes bibliographical references (pages 156-157).

### A Moment of Christmas

The Christmas season seems to get shorter and go faster each year. Make this year different by taking a moment for yourself, and filling your heart for a season that is intentional and full of joy. *A Moment of Christmas* will help you prepare your heart for Christmas with 25 days of devotions and Scripture readings, reflection questions, and extra moments - recipes, inspiring quotes, and time-saving tips.

Toss this book into your diaper bag or purse, and let your heart be encouraged in the moments on even your busiest day.

### Girl Meets Change

Whether chosen and celebrated--like going off to college or welcoming your first baby--or unexpected and anxiety-inducing--like losing a job or grappling with a broken trust--all change brings stress. Kristen Strong knows about change--especially the kind you didn't choose or expect. What she's fought hard to learn over the years is that change is not something to be feared but something to be received as a blessing from a God who, more often than not, works through change, not in spite of it. Strong has learned to see change not as a grievance but as a grace. In this hope-filled book, she shows women how when we follow God's will, we receive blessings of contentment, purpose, and renewed strength. She encourages women to see change not as the end of their story but as the scenery for this part of life's journey. And she offers practical advice for coping with change in every part of life. Anyone who has struggled to adjust to life's transitions will welcome this warm and personal perspective.

### An Old-Fashioned Girl

An Old-Fashioned Girl is a novel by Louisa May Alcott first published in 1869. The first six chapters of the novel were serialised in the Merry's Museum magazine between July and August 1869.

### The Middle Matters

The best-selling author of *Never Unfriended* opens up about midlife and what it feels like to have outgrown those teenage jeans—but finally grown into the shape of our souls. “I want to give Lisa-Jo’s book a standing ovation.”—Aarti Sequeira, chef and TV personality Do you ever wonder how you woke up one day with all the responsibilities of a grown-up who secretly enjoys buying groceries in bulk, can no longer recognize the tween celebrities on the magazines at checkout, but is still surprised when a Starbucks barista calls you “ma’am”—because your inside self is frozen in time to about twenty years ago? So does Lisa-Jo Baker. In these intimate reflections on midlife, Lisa-Jo invites us to get a good look at our middles and gives us permission to embrace them—beyond what the media, the mirror, or the magazines say. Through gutsy, beautiful storytelling, she admits out loud what most of us are thinking about marriage, parenting, the bathroom scale, and how badly we all want to buy those matching Magnolia Market mugs. Her delicious stories come from not being afraid of who she is, because Lisa-Jo knows that the middle might be the best part of the love story of life, kids, faith, doubt, marriage, failure, wonder, and the muffin top—and that these are all good things. She’s not asking you to seize the day, just to make sure you actually see it for all its wildly ordinary glory. Welcome to the middle! Praise for *The Middle Matters* “What a thought-provoking collection of reflections and wisdom! Through personal stories about love, loss, and life in the middle, Lisa-Jo invites us to take a long look inside our own mind’s secret nooks and crannies, which aren’t nearly as dark, scary, or ordinary as we might think.”—Layla Palmer, *The Lettered Cottage* blog “With captivating wit, hard-won wisdom, and breathtaking honesty, Lisa-Jo has written a love letter to the delicious middle.”—Mandy Arioto, president and CEO of MOPS International and author of *Have More Fun* “With Lisa-Jo’s guts as our unfettered guide, may we finally learn the sumptuous truth of our years: that a grilled cheese sandwich without the middle is just toast.”—Erin Loechner, founder of *OtherGoose* and author of *Chasing Slow* “Thank you, Lisa-Jo, for reminding women everywhere how important it is to find meaning in the midst of the confusing middle.”—Joy Prouty, artist and educator

### My New Roots

At long last, Sarah Britton, called the “queen bee of the health blogs” by *Bon Appétit*, reveals 100 gorgeous, all-new plant-based recipes in her debut cookbook, inspired by her wildly popular blog. Every month, half a million readers—vegetarians, vegans, paleo followers, and gluten-free gourmets alike—flock to Sarah’s adaptable and accessible recipes that make powerfully healthy ingredients simply irresistible. *My New Roots* is the ultimate guide to revitalizing one’s health and palate, one delicious recipe at a time: no fad diets or gimmicks here. Whether readers are newcomers to natural foods or are already devotees, they will discover how easy it is to eat healthfully and happily when whole foods and plants are at the center of every plate.

### It Was Me All Along

A yet heartbreakingly honest, endearing memoir of incredible weight loss by a young food blogger who battles body image issues and overcomes food addiction to find self-acceptance. All her life, Andie Mitchell had eaten lustily and mindlessly. Food was her babysitter, her best friend, her confidant, and it provided a refuge from her fractured family. But when she stepped on the scale on her twentieth birthday and it registered a shocking 268 pounds, she knew she had to change the way she thought about food and herself; that her life was at stake. *It Was Me All Along* takes Andie from working class Boston to the romantic streets of Rome, from morbidly obese to half her size, from seeking comfort in anything that came cream-filled and two-to-a-pack to finding balance in exquisite (but modest) bowls of handmade pasta. This story is about much more than a woman who loves food and abhors her body. It is about someone who made changes when her situation seemed too far gone and how she discovered balance in an off-kilter world. More than anything, though, it is the story of her finding beauty in acceptance and learning to love all parts of herself.

### The Only Boy for Me

Most people would think Annie Baker had it all: an idyllic life in the country and a fabulous job as a film producer. And so would she, if it weren't for the men in her life. Her six-year-old son Charlie gets traumatised if she buys the wrong kind of sausages. Her tempestuous boss Barney is a Great Director, but keeps getting stuck with dog food commercials, and as for Lawrence, well, he just wants to get her fired. And then she meets Mack... Hilarious and poignant, *The Only Boy for Me* will make you laugh and cry.

### Stretched Too Thin

Working mothers constantly battle the pull to do all the things well. From managing work and home responsibilities to being impacted by a lack of self-care and time for deep friendships, the struggle is real. At the end of each day, many working moms are exhausted and stretched too thin. But this does not have to be the norm. In her latest practical and inspiring book, Jessica Turner shows the working mom how to - work and parent guilt-free - establish clear work boundaries - set achievable goals - discover more flexibility - develop home management solutions - prioritize self-care - invest in her marriage - cultivate deeper friendships - feel like a good mom, even while working. Full of compassion and encouragement, *Stretched Too Thin* will empower women with useful insights and tools to thrive as working moms.

### Anchored

When Kayla Aimee went into labor after only 24 weeks, she felt as though once solid ground had turned to glass beneath her feet. As her newborn daughter struggles to survive, Kayla finds herself asking "Where is God in this?" As Kayla lays bare her struggle to redefine her faith, her marriage, and herself within the context of a tragedy she never saw coming, she uncovers a hope that holds her together.

### Glimpses of Grace

Runny noses. Dirty diapers. Unfolded laundry. The day-to-day life of the average housewife is filled with countless tasks that can feel mundane and ordinary, causing women to wonder if they're missing out on bigger and better things. Eager to encourage such struggling homemakers, pastor's wife and mother of three Gloria Furman highlights the reality of God's grace in all of life, especially those areas that often seem boring and unimportant. Filled with personal examples and anecdotes, this richly theological reflection on what it means to be a wife, mother, and homemaker challenges readers to see and cherish the gospel's extraordinary impact on ordinary life. *Glimpses of Grace* will inspire a renewed gospel-cheerfulness among women faithfully serving God in and through their homes.

### Garden Maker

Much more than a how-to flower gardening book (though you will learn how to), *Garden Maker* is for those who want to grow beautiful things that reflect the glory and majesty of the Creator and bring a little bit of heaven down to earth. From the beginning God made a garden, so it's no surprise if you feel closer to Him with your hands in the dirt and the sun on your back. There is something profoundly soul-satisfying about creating and cultivating beauty. If you long to experience more splendor in your life, you can grow some of your very own. Join kindred spirit Christie Purifoy as she helps you unearth the

simple delights of growing garden flowers, from preparing and planning to creating beautiful bouquets and other arrangements. Lavishly photographed and lovingly written, this all-seasons guide invites you to discover the innumerable joys and wonders to be found in the flower garden.

### Love Idol

We all want someone to think we're sensational. We desire to be recognized, to be valued, to be respected. To be loved. Yet this natural yearning too often turns into an idol of one of God's most precious gifts: love itself. If you, like so many of us, spend your time and energy trying to earn someone's approval—at work, home, and church—all the while fearing that, at any moment, the facade will drop and everyone will see your hidden mess . . . then love may have become an idol in your life. In this poignant and hope-filled book, Jennifer Dukes Lee shares her own lifelong journey of learning to rely on the unconditional love of God. She gently invites us to make peace with our imperfections and to stop working overtime for a love that is already ours. Love Idol will help us dismantle what's separating us from true connection with God and rediscover the astonishing joy of a life full of freedom in Christ.

### The Middle Matters

The best-selling author of *Never Unfriended* opens up about midlife and what it feels like to have outgrown those teenage jeans—but finally grown into the shape of our souls. “I want to give Lisa-Jo’s book a standing ovation.”—Aarti Sequeira, chef and TV personality Do you ever wonder how you woke up one day with all the responsibilities of a grown-up who secretly enjoys buying groceries in bulk, can no longer recognize the tween celebrities on the magazines at checkout, but is still surprised when a Starbucks barista calls you “ma’am”—because your inside self is frozen in time to about twenty years ago? So does Lisa-Jo Baker. In these intimate reflections on midlife, Lisa-Jo invites us to get a good look at our middles and gives us permission to embrace them—beyond what the media, the mirror, or the magazines say. Through gutsy, beautiful storytelling, she admits out loud what most of us are thinking about marriage, parenting, the bathroom scale, and how badly we all want to buy those matching Magnolia Market mugs. Her delicious stories come from not being afraid of who she is, because Lisa-Jo knows that the middle might be the best part of the love story of life, kids, faith, doubt, marriage, failure, wonder, and the muffin top—and that these are all good things. She’s not asking you to seize the day, just to make sure you actually see it for all its wildly ordinary glory. Welcome to the middle! Praise for *The Middle Matters* “What a thought-provoking collection of reflections and wisdom! Through personal stories about love, loss, and life in the middle, Lisa-Jo invites us to take a long look inside our own mind’s secret nooks and crannies, which aren’t nearly as dark, scary, or ordinary as we might think.”—Layla Palmer, *The Lettered Cottage* blog “With captivating wit, hard-won wisdom, and breathtaking honesty, Lisa-Jo has written a love letter to the delicious middle.”—Mandy Arioto, president and CEO of MOPS International and author of *Have More Fun* “With Lisa-Jo’s guts as our unfettered guide, may we finally learn the sumptuous truth of our years: that a grilled cheese sandwich without the middle is just toast.”—Erin Loechner, founder of OtherGoose and author of *Chasing Slow* “Thank you, Lisa-Jo, for reminding women everywhere how important it is to find meaning in the midst of the confusing middle.”—Joy Prouty, artist and educator

### It's Okay About It

Popular blogger Lauren Casper shares poignantly simple yet profound wisdom about removing the barriers we construct around our hearts and doing life full-on, all from the least expected source: her five-year-old son, Mareto. Five-year-old Mareto finds color and light in the ordinary happenings of every day and delights in beauty just waiting to be found. Those are lessons he shares, often unknowingly, with his mom, Lauren Casper. For Lauren, living with Mareto is a lot like playing the telephone game. He blurts out little phrases that have their origin in something he saw or heard, but by the time they make their way through his mind and back out of his mouth, they’ve transformed—often into beautiful truths about living a simple, authentic, love- and joy-filled life. From “it’s okay about it,” a simple reminder that even when life is painful or difficult, things will be okay because God promises never to leave or forsake his children, to “you’re making me feelings,” which teaches the importance of leaning into one’s emotions and, in doing so, sharing a piece of oneself with loved ones—Mareto’s simple yet profound wisdom is a reminder to embrace the broken beauty of life, to believe in a God bigger than human comprehension, and to love others even when it doesn’t make sense. For all those looking to recapture the faith, simplicity, wonder, hope, courage, and joy of life, *It’s Okay About It* provides a guide to look inward and live outward, to discover the most wide open and beautiful life possible.

### The Gift of Friendship

Whether next door or in the next time zone, our friends provide some of our most important relationships. We cherish time spent with them, endure time spent apart, and look forward to the next time we can have coffee or rush to greet them as they walk toward our door. And nothing warms our hearts like reading stories of true friendship. Collecting over fifty true stories from some of today's best writers, Dawn Camp offers readers a chance to sit back and experience the gift of friendship. With its beautiful photographs and poignant prose, this collection is a great gift for a dear friend and the perfect pick-me-up any time you need a boost. Contributors include Crystal Paine, Liz Curtis Higgs, Tsh Oxenreider, Myquillyn Smith, Jennifer Dukes Lee, Lisa-Jo Baker, Jessica Turner, Lysa TerKeurst, Bonnie Gray, Holley Gerth, Renee Swope, and many more.

### The Guilty Secret

Totally enthralling....I stayed up all night to read! Stacey's Book Journeys.I just love, love the Arla Baker Series. Arla is such a great character, and the plot, location...it's all amazing! Sheila Miller, Amazon Reviewer.A woman's body hangs from the disused Battersea Power Station...When Detective Arla Baker investigates, she discovers a cold case that has puzzled detectives for almost ten years. The Battersea Strangler was the nickname given to the killer who abducted three women. Their bodies were never found, and although a man was arrested, there was never sufficient evidence to jail him for life. Meanwhile, someone is leaving strange photos of a baby at the door of Arla's partner, Inspector Harry Mehta's mother's house. The messages grow, and Harry suspects his mother, Rita, is in danger, but from whom?Then another girl disappears, very similar in appearance to the women abducted by the Battersea Strangler. When she appears dead, Arla knows she is up against a seasoned and bloodthirsty killer who will stop at nothing till his vicious desires are quenched.And for some reason, his attention has now turned to Arla. As another girl vanishes, and the danger to Harry's mother grows, Arla has to work and look after her own baby daughter, Nicole. Arla knows she is fighting a battle on multiple fronts. A fight that might just overcome her this time...Join the thousands of eager readers who say the Arla Baker Series is their firm crime thriller favorite!If you like Robert Dugoni, Kendra Elliot, Lisa Regan, Angela Marsons, Rachel Caine, then you will absolutely love the Arla Baker Series! Find out today why this series has fans worldwide! Scroll up and press the Buy button now!

### Desperate

Desperate is for those who love their children to the depths of their souls but who have also curled up under their covers, fighting back tears, and begging God for help. It's for those who have ever wondered what happened to all their ideals for what having children would be like. For those who have ever felt like all the "experts" have clearly never had a child like theirs. For those who have prayed for a mentor. For those who ever felt lost and alone in motherhood. In Desperate you will find the story of one young mother's honest account of the desperate feelings experienced in motherhood and one experienced mentor's realistic and gentle exhortations that were forged in the trenches of raising her own four children. Also in Desperate: QR codes and links at the end of each chapter that lead to videos with Sarah Mae and Sally talking about the chapter Practical steps to take during the desperate times Bible study and journal exercises in each chapter that will lead you to identify ways in which you can grow as a mom Mentoring advice for real-life situations Q & A section with Sally where she answers readers questions

### Back Roads to Belonging

At one time or another, shifting seasons in family, friendships, employment, and communities will bring each of us face-to-face with the feeling of being on the outside looking in. Because we are made for connection, this will often lead us down one of two roads. Either we will hop on the popular but crowded highway that asks us to do whatever it takes to get noticed, or we'll stand still, paralyzed by the fear that we're not important, loveable, or worth other people's time and attention. But what if there is another way? With an understanding voice that will speak into your own circumstances, Kristen Strong walks beside you along the less traveled but more satisfying third way--the back road way--to belonging: remaining in Christ and relaxing into the unique role God has for you. Along the way, you will learn simple, doable actions that not only will help you feel and know that you belong but will welcome others in as well.

### No Better Mom for the Job

No Better Mom for the Job is for any mom who has ever felt inadequate--who loves her kids fiercely but sometimes thinks another mom would do a better job in her shoes. Becky Keife knows the ups and downs of motherhood. And she has learned along the way and from other mamas that it doesn't work to try to do more or be better. Confidence comes from leaning on the One who made you a mother. Through these pages, you will discover how to - exchange negative internal dialogue for joyful gratitude - identify and celebrate your one-of-a-kind mom strengths - establish boundaries that set you and your child up for success - recognize evidence of God's work in your life and growth in your kids - and much more Filled with encouraging stories and practical, biblical wisdom, each chapter also includes one simple action step and a powerful prayer, all to help you see yourself as exactly the mom your child needs.

### The Cranky Mom Fix

If we're honest with ourselves, almost every mom knows she can go from being kind to cranky in no time flat. When we're tired, busy, anxious, preoccupied--okay, so anytime, really--we tend to default to snapping and barking at the people we love best. But life doesn't have to be this way. Through coaching other moms who share a desire to be a kinder, gentler parent, Becky Kopitzke has learned the keys to taming the "momster" in all of us. And in this grace-filled book, she will help you - assess the triggers that spark your angry responses - understand your children better so you can minimize frustrations - learn gentle, effective responses to trying situations - and much more Consider The Cranky Mom Fix your personal battle plan to focus on who you are and how to wield God's wisdom and strength in your family. With an extensive resource section of practical activities, tips, and self-assessment tools, this book will help you reclaim true peace for your soul and your home.

### How to Love an American Man

A lovely, warm, and poignant true story that reads like compelling fiction, How to Love an American Man is Kristine Gasbarre's unforgettable memoir recalling the valuable lessons on love she learned from her newly widowed grandmother—and how Grandma's advice and memories enabled the author to find and fall for a man with an old-fashioned approach to romance. Fans of Elizabeth Gilbert's Eat, Pray, Love, women readers drawn to tales of powerful female bonding, and anyone looking for a beautiful love story will be moved and, perhaps, profoundly inspired by How to Love an American Man.

### All the Colors We Will See

Patrice Gopo grew up in Anchorage, Alaska, the child of Jamaican immigrants who had little experience being black in America. From her white Sunday school classes as a child, to her early days of marriage in South Africa, to a new home in the American South with a husband from another land, Patrice's life is a testament to the challenges and beauty of the world we each live in, a world in which cultures overlap every day. In All the Colors We Will See, Patrice seamlessly moves across borders of space and time to create vivid portraits of how the reality of being different affects her quest to belong. In this poetic and often courageous collection of essays, Patrice examines the complexities of identity in our turbulent yet hopeful time of intersecting heritages. As she digs beneath the layers of immigration questions and race relations, Patrice also turns her voice to themes such as marriage and divorce, the societal beauty standards we hold, and the intricacies of living out our faith. With an eloquence born of pain and longing, Patrice's reflections guide us as we consider our own journeys toward belonging, challenging us to wonder if the very differences dividing us might bring us together after all.

### Jane's Patisserie

The fastest selling baking book of all time, from social media sensation Jane's Patisserie 'This will be the most-loved baking book in your stash!' - Zoë Sugg 'The Mary Berry of the Instagram age' - The Times Life is what you bake it - so bake it sweet! Discover how to make life sweet with 100 delicious bakes, cakes and treats from baking blogger, Jane. Jane's recipes are loved for being easy, customisable, and packed with your favourite flavours. Covering everything from gooey cookies and celebration cakes with a dreamy drip finish, to fluffy cupcakes and creamy no-bake cheesecakes, Jane's Patisserie is easy baking for everyone. Whether you're looking for a salted caramel fix, or a spicy biscoff bake, this book has everything you need to create iconic bakes and become a star baker. Includes new and exclusive recipes requested by her followers and the most popular classics from her blog - NYC Cookies, No-Bake Biscoff Cheesecake, Salted Caramel Drip Cake and more!

## The Antelope in the Living Room

Welcome to the story of a real marriage. Marriage is simultaneously the biggest blessing and the greatest challenge two people can ever take on. It is the joy of knowing there is someone to share in your joys and sorrows, and the challenge of living with someone who thinks it's a good idea to hang a giant antelope head on your living room wall. In *The Antelope in the Living Room*, New York Times best-selling author and blogger Melanie Shankle does for marriage what *Sparkly Green Earrings* did for motherhood—makes us laugh out loud and smile through tears as she shares the holy and the hilarity of that magical and mysterious union called marriage.

## The Gustav Sonata

'A perfect novel about life's imperfection... Tremain is writing at the height of her inimitable powers...' Kate Kellaway, *Observer* What is the difference between friendship and love? Gustav grows up in a small town in Switzerland, where the horrors of the Second World War seem a distant echo. But Gustav's father has mysteriously died, and his adored mother Emilie is strangely cold and indifferent to him. Gustav's life is a lonely one until he meets Anton. An intense lifelong friendship develops but Anton fails to understand how deeply and irrevocably his life and Gustav's are entwined until it is almost too late... 'Heartbreaking, unsentimental and beautifully written, and it reinforces my opinion that there are few writers out there with the dexterity or emotional intelligence to rival that of the great Rose Tremain.' John Boyne, *The Irish Times*

## Glorious Weakness

As a girl, Alia Joy came face to face with weakness, poverty, and loss in ways that made her doubt God was good. There were times when it felt as if God had abandoned her. What she didn't realize then was that God was always there, calling her to abandon herself. In this deeply personal exploration of what it means to be "poor in spirit," Joy challenges our cultural proclivity to "pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps." She calls on readers to embrace true vulnerability and authenticity with God and with one another, showing how weakness does not disqualify us from inclusion in the kingdom of God--instead, it is our very invitation to enter in. Anyone who has struggled with feeling inadequate, disillusioned, or just too broken will find hope. This message is an antidote to despair, helping readers reclaim the ways God is good, even when life is anything but.

## Clean My Space

The wildly popular YouTube star behind CLEAN MY SPACE presents the breakthrough solution to cleaning better with less effort. Melissa Maker is beloved by fans all over the world for her completely re-engineered approach to cleaning. As the dynamic new authority on home and living, Melissa knows that to invest any of our precious time in cleaning, we need to see big, long-lasting results. So, she developed her method to help us get the most out of our effort and keep our homes fresh and welcoming every day. In her long-awaited debut book, she shares her revolutionary 3-step solution: • Identify the most important areas (MIAs) in your home that need attention • Select the proper products, tools, and techniques (PTT) for the job • Implement these new cleaning routines so that they stick. *Clean My Space* takes the chore out of cleaning with Melissa's incredible tips and cleaning hacks (the power of pretreating!), her lightning fast 5–10 minute "express clean" routines for every room when time is tightest, and her techniques for cleaning even the most daunting places and spaces. And a big bonus: Melissa gives guidance on the best non-toxic, eco-conscious cleaning products and offers natural cleaning solution recipes you can make at home using essential oils to soothe and refresh. With Melissa's simple, groundbreaking method you can truly live in a cleaner, more cheerful, and calming home all the time.

## The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook

There is a half-galley kitchen in New York with just a single counter, a tiny stove, pans stacked high in the corner - yet it has conjured up stews and slaws, salsas and pestos, tatins and cheesecakes. All to-die-for. This is Deb Perelman's kitchen. Deb is an ordinary home cook who believes food should be a pleasure and deliciousness a guarantee. So she founded her award-winning blog, where she concocts, tweaks and obsessively tests the best imaginable recipes for the everyday cook.

## The Liturgy of Politics



A generation of young Christians are weary of the political legacy they've inherited and hungry for a better approach. They're tired of seeing their faith tied to political battles they didn't start, and they're frustrated by the failures of leaders they thought they could trust. Kaitlyn Schiess grew up in this landscape, and understands it from the inside. Spiritual formation, and particularly a focus on formative practices, are experiencing a renaissance in Christian thinking—but these ideas are not often applied to the political sphere. In *The Liturgy of Politics*, Schiess shows that the church's politics are shaped by its habits and practices even when it's unaware of them. Schiess insists that the way out of our political morass is first to recognize the formative power of the political forces all around us, and then to recover historic Christian practices that shape us according to the truth of the gospel.

### The Temporary Gentleman

**OLD GOD'S TIME (MARCH 2023), SEBASTIAN BARRY'S STUNNING NEW NOVEL, AVAILABLE TO PRE-ORDER NOW** A stunning return from the prize-winning and best-selling author of *The Secret Scripture* Jack McNulty is a 'temporary gentleman', an Irishman whose commission in the British army in the Second World War was never permanent. In 1957, sitting in his lodgings in Accra, he urgently sets out to write his story. He feels he cannot take one step further, or even hardly a breath, without looking back at all that has befallen him. He is an ordinary man, both petty and heroic, but he has seen extraordinary things. He has worked and wandered around the world - as a soldier, an engineer, a UN observer - trying to follow his childhood ambition to better himself. And he has had a strange and tumultuous marriage. Mai Kirwan was a great beauty of Sligo in the 1920s, a vivid mind, but an elusive and mysterious figure too. Jack married her, and shared his life with her, but in time she slipped from his grasp. A heart-breaking portrait of one man's life - of his demons and his lost love - *The Temporary Gentleman* is, ultimately, a novel about Jack's last bid for freedom, from the savage realities of the past and from himself.

### A Country Road, A Tree

From the best-selling author of *Longbourn*, a remarkable imagining of Samuel Beckett's wartime experiences. In 1939 Paris, the ground rumbles with the footfall of Nazi soldiers marching along the Champs-Élysées, and a young, unknown writer, recently arrived from Ireland to make his mark, smokes one last cigarette with his lover before the city they know is torn apart. Soon he will put them both in mortal danger by joining the Resistance. Through the years that follow, we are witness to the workings of a uniquely brilliant mind struggling to create a language to express a shattered world. A story of survival and determination, of spies and artists, passion and danger, *A Country Road, A Tree* is a portrait of the extremes of human experience alchemized into one man's timeless art.

### Crash the Chatterbox

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER •** Crashing the chatterbox = Overpowering the lies of insecurity, fear, condemnation, and discouragement with the promises of God. "These four confessions will free you to embrace the life God has called you to live."—Andy Stanley, senior pastor, North Point Church; author of *Enemies of the Heart* In *Crash the Chatterbox*, Pastor Steven Furtick focuses on four key areas in which negative thoughts are most debilitating: insecurity, fear, condemnation, and discouragement. He asks, "What great deeds are in danger of remaining undone in your life because of lies that were planted in your past or fears that are looming in your future?" With personal stories, inspiring examples, and practical strategies, Pastor Furtick will show you how to silence the lies and embrace the freeing affirmation of God. Learn how to live out God's truth no matter what is going on in your life or thoughts. Learn how to crash the chatterbox . . . and hear God's voice above all others.