

***Anne Lamott***  
**(1954- \_\_\_\_\_)**



# Timeline

April 10, 1954, born Anne Patricia Lamott in San Francisco; grows up in Tiburon, CA (Bay Area), one of three children of Kenneth Lamott, a writer, and Dorothy Lamott, a journalist and lawyer,

1972, graduates from Drew College Preparatory School, a private high school; attends Goucher College (Maryland) for 1 year, tennis scholarship

1973, moves back to Bay Area; begins writing for magazines, including *Mademoiselle*, *Woman Sports*, and *California*

1979, father dies of brain cancer; publishes first novel, *Hard Laughter*;

1984, hangs around St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, near flea market, Marin City, CA

July 1986, sobriety begins

1987, baptized at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

August 1989, son Sam is born

1990, best friend Pammy dies

1990's, teaches at University of California -Davis and writing conference across US

1993, *Operating Instructions* becomes best-seller

1996, begins regular column for *Salon*

1999, *Traveling Mercies*

2001, mother Dorothy dies

2008, works as Democrat precinct captain;

July 20, 2009, Sam's son, Jax, is born;

2012, *Help-Thanks-Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*

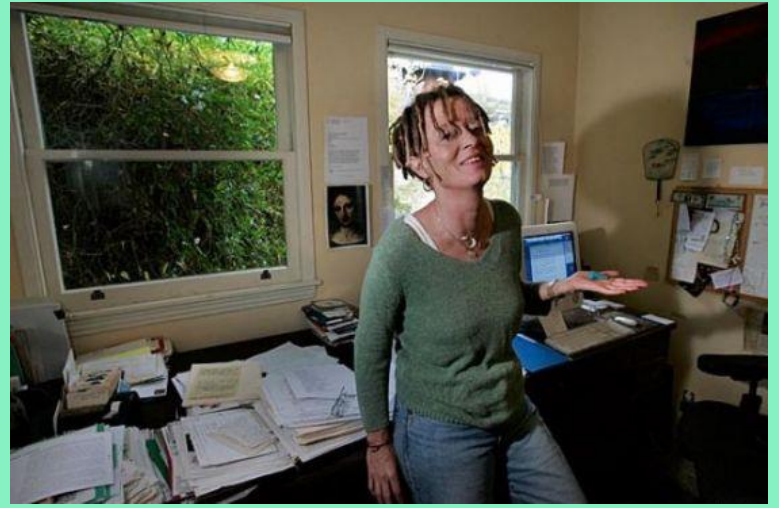
2014, *Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace*

2017, *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy*

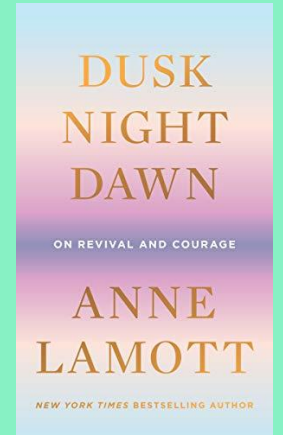
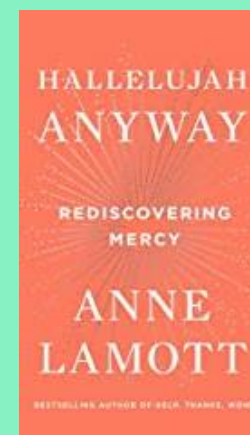
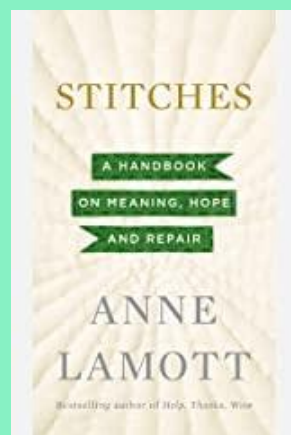
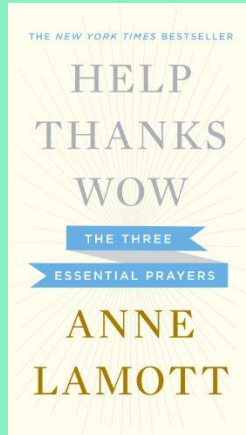
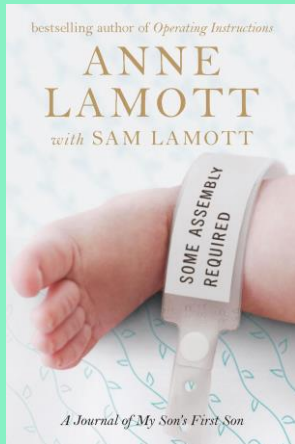
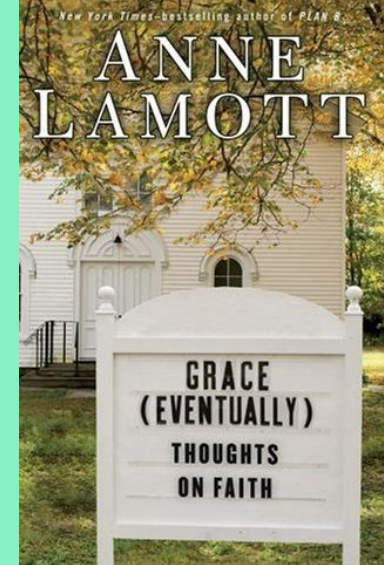
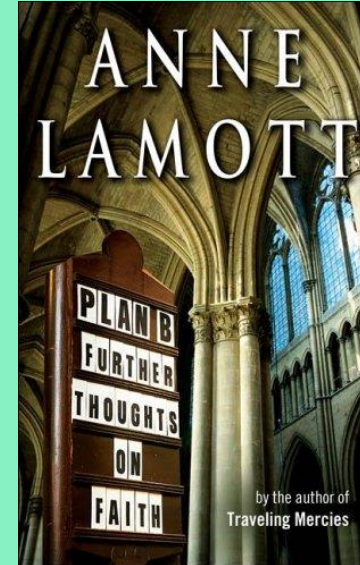
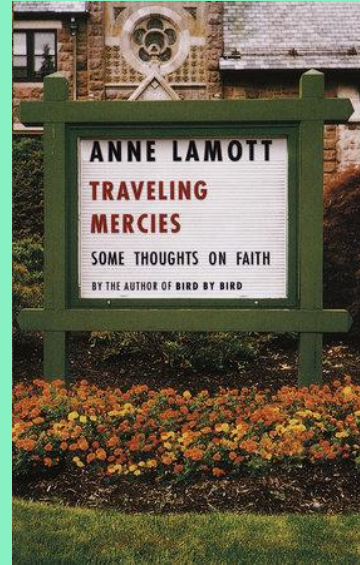
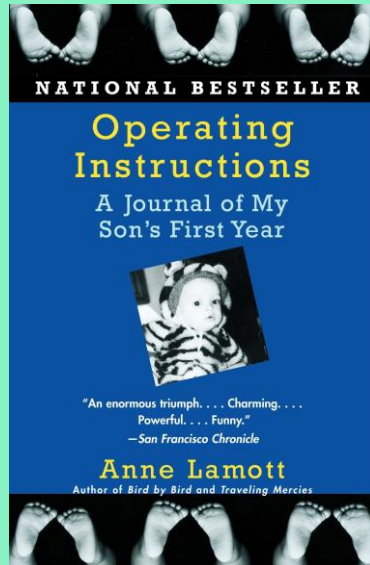
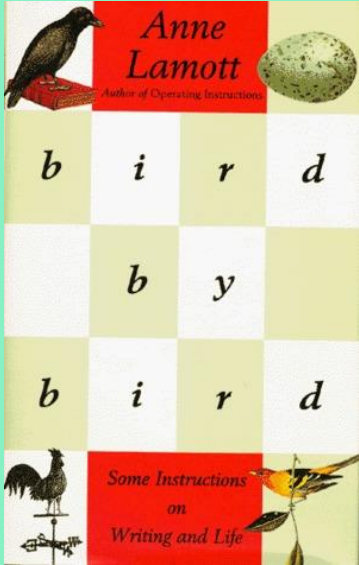
April 13, 2019, marries Neal Allen (Deer Park Villa, Fairfax, CA)



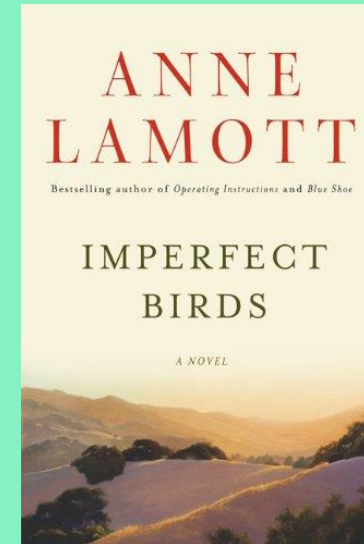
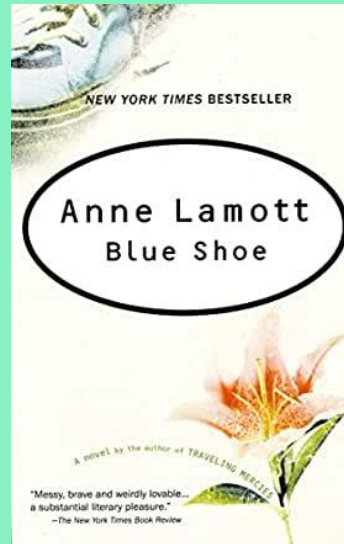
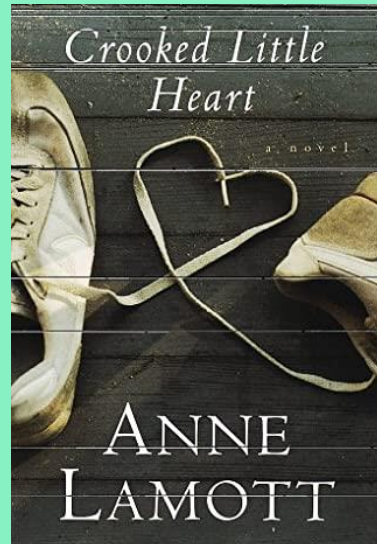
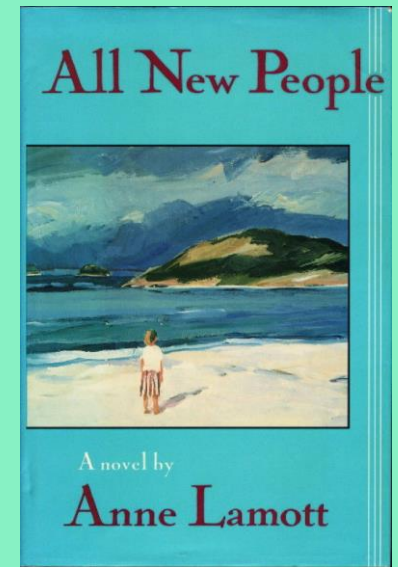
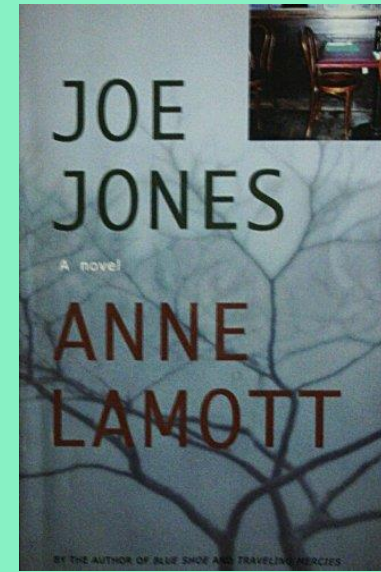
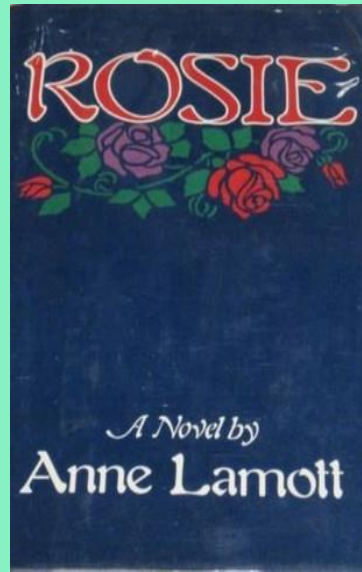
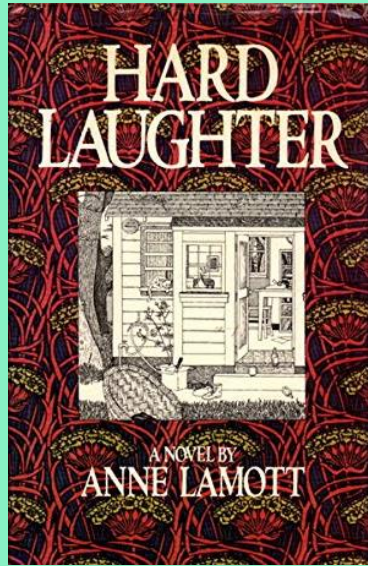
Chronicle / Jerry Telfer



# Where to start?? Nonfiction



# Where to start?? -- Novels



# An sample of Anne Lamott

**Anne Lamott on The TODAY SHOW** (3/24/2021)

(about her new book Dusk Night Dawn)

<https://www.today.com/video/anne-lamott-talks-about-finding-grace-and-new-book-109022789831>

# I. Grace can be found in eclectic, humor-laced, congregationally based, unflinchingly incarnational Christianity.”

Her metaphors for religious experience are rich with descriptive powers, as she experiences Jesus as *"the alleycat of heaven,"* as she suggests the placing of prayer supplications in *"God's In Box,"* as she warns all about the attractiveness and dangers of *"grace lite,"* as she portrays death as *"the big eraser."* In most of her nonfiction works, she acknowledges and pays tribute to the saving graces of her home congregation, the people of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Marin City, California.

## II. Forgiveness is the Key

*“Earth is forgiveness school....*

*It begins with forgiving yourself – then you might as well start at the dinner table.”*

*“Not forgiving is like drinking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die.”*



# III. Perfectionism Kills

*“Perfectionism is the voice of the oppressor, the enemy of the people. It will keep you cramped and insane . . . .”*

*“I think perfectionism is based on the obsessive belief that if you run carefully enough, hitting each stepping-stone just right, you won't have to die. The truth is that you will die anyway and that a lot of people who aren't even looking at their feet are going to do a whole lot better than you, and have a lot more fun while they're doing it.”*

# IV. 10 of Anne Lamott's preferences

Regarding her bedrock Christian faith, she always leans toward

- *the local* rather than the general,
- *simple faithfulness* rather than dogmatic certainty,
- *stories* rather than theories,
- *grace* rather than judgment,
  - *God's immanence* rather than God's transcendence,
  - *sentiment* rather than cynicism,
  - *community* rather than individualism,
  - *inclusion* rather than condescension,
  - *providence* rather than randomness,
    - *the mystical* rather than the rational, and
      - *forgiveness* rather than perfectionism.

# V. 12 truths she learned from life & writing

1. All truth is a paradox.
2. Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes.
3. Nothing outside of you will help you in any real, lasting way.
4. Everyone is screwed up, broken, clingy and scared.
5. Chocolate with 75% cacao is not actually a food.
6. Every writer puts down terrible first drafts. .
7. Creative success are “something you have to recover from..
8. Families are both astonishing and hard..
9. Speaking of food: try to do a little better..
10. Grace is a powerful thing.
11. God isn't that scary..
12. Death is incredibly hard to bear, and you don't get over losing people you love.

# SUGGESTIONS FOR USE

*This coming week use the following ways of praying which have been inspired by Anne Lamott:*

- Suggestion #1 – For which portions of your life is the prayer of petition - "**Help**" - appropriate? For which portions of your life is the prayer of gratitude - "**Thanks**" - appropriate? For which portions of your life is the prayer of awe - "**Wow!**" - appropriate?
- Suggestion #2 – Infuse your prayers today with thoughts and meditations about the local, faithfulness, stories, grace, God's immanence, sentiment, community, inclusion, providence, the mystical, and forgiveness.
- Suggestion #3 – One of Lamott's spiritual practices is called "**God's In-Box.**" It's a simple matter of writing a prayer note to God about an unsolvable dilemma, a pesky theological question, a continuously messy relationship, a seemingly incurable disease, a cantankerous family conflict, etc. Then place the note in a small box ("**God's In Box**") as an act of release from worry, relinquishment from anxiety, and trust in God's provision.

# RESOURCES

## **“On Resilience with Anne Lamott”**

(Sponsored by Strengthening the Heartland) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Df4EPkbpYsw>

## **“Bird by Bird with Annie....”**

Documentary Film by Freida Lee Mock <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/birdbybird>

## **Anne Lamott on The TODAY SHOW** (3/24/2021)

(about her new book Dusk Night Dawn)

<https://www.today.com/video/anne-lamott-talks-about-finding-grace-and-new-book-109022789831>

## **“12 truths I learned from life and writing”**

TED Talk by Anne Lamott <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X41iulkRqZU>

## **The Writer Anne Lamott**

## **Gets to the Happily-Ever-After Part** (NYT article, April 26, 2019)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/26/fashion/weddings/the-final-chapters-of-anne-lamotts-life-now-include-a-soul-mate.html>

**TIME's YOURS . . . .**

**Q & A . . . .**

**Discussion . . . .**

**Musings . . . .**

