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Drops Like Stars: A Few Thoughts On Creativity And Suffering



Synopsis

We plot. We plan. We assume things are going to go a certain way. And when they don't, we find ourselves in a new place---a place we haven't been before, a place we never would have imagined on our own. It is the difficult and the unexpected, and maybe even the tragic, that opens us up and frees us to see things in new ways. Many of the most significant moments in our lives come not because it all went right but because it all fell apart. Suffering does that. It hurts, but it also creates. This book is an exploration of the complex relationship between suffering and creativity, driven by the belief that there is art in the agony.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While Bell's books *Velvet Elvis* and *Sex God* received generally strong reviews, this effort to understand the relationship between suffering and creativity feels superficial and overly self-conscious. Few readers will dispute Bell's gentle assertions: that life can be extremely difficult and capricious, that it is often difficult to find God amid suffering, that suffering has a great potential to unify disparate people, and that great bursts of creative energy can arise from pain. Bell explores these issues not by covert biblical exegesis—which was a surprising and welcome highlight of *Velvet Elvis*—but new-fashioned storytelling. Bell weaves inspiring stories of people who turned their suffering into something transformative, and many of these stories are memorable. They are certainly accessible: Bell draws from fiction, movies, real-life situations and his own life.

These anecdotes do not make a book, however, and Bell's spare prose lacks original insights into age-old theodicy questions. Although the design and layout are first-rate, \$35 is a lot of money for a 160-page book that is mostly white space. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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Excellent book. Rob Bell has outdone himself again. This book was used on a Lenten retreat at my church and it was outstanding . I went and bought the book afterwards. Makes a great gift.

A fascinating and unique book that is hard to describe. It's a book that has more art and pictures than it does words, and if you're not familiar with or appreciative of the postmodern artistic spirit, it may not make much sense. In this book, Rob Bell addresses the age old question of "theodicy" - how can a good God exist when there's suffering. Or, at least, what is the meaning or redemptive quality of suffering? What makes this book outstanding is that he addresses the issue not with the abstract, removed, philosophical approach of so many authors throughout history, but uses analogy and imagery to help the reader completely rethink the suffering we go through while never minimizing the pain it produces. What do bar soap sculptures have to do with the pain in our lives? Pick up this book and read to find out! It will definitely be worth your time, considering that it can be read in 30 minutes flat.

I own this book and often buy it to share with others. Perspective changing and profound, artsy,

godly, and human. I sent as a gift, so I am happy it was in good condition. Very speedy shipping and delivery with accurate tracking. Thank you!

Rob Bell's exploration on the relationship between suffering and creativity with Drops Like Stars is rich, challenging and captures the essence of the creative life. It doesn't answer all the questions or give formulaic instructions for "recovery." Instead, it presents the most basic of concepts with a depth available for exploration. I believe everyone is creative, but creativity manifests differently in everyone. So, those who don't understand poetry or are not able to explore and interpret art without reading commentary will not enjoy this book. They are the ones who say it can be read in 10 minutes, or that it isn't worth the money because there are so few words on each page. I have read it, am rereading it, and will continue to read it as I explore the relationship of suffering and creativity in my own life.

This book was more like an illustrated essay. It was beautiful, honest, and concise. Rob Bell offers some wonderful insight into the depths of suffering, and this book reads like a good friend coming alongside you and sitting with you in your pain. It doesn't offer answers or explanation but just a quiet presence that says "I understand."

Amazing a beautiful book. The artistry of both the images and the words...love it.

If you're into creative thinking, and you're ok with a little bit of randomness, then this is the book for you! I love the author's creative approach to talk about what's in this book. It's definitely a good read. I read it in one sitting. I couldn't put it down! And it really spurred me on in how I think about the topics of the book. I will definitely be reading this one again and again!

This book is intentionally designed to be read in one sitting. Some pages have only a few words on them, while others may be just a photo or blank entirely. His topic: "Out of suffering springs great creativity and hope" is designed to make you think. Great for the person going through a death, divorce, breakup, job loss, etc.

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