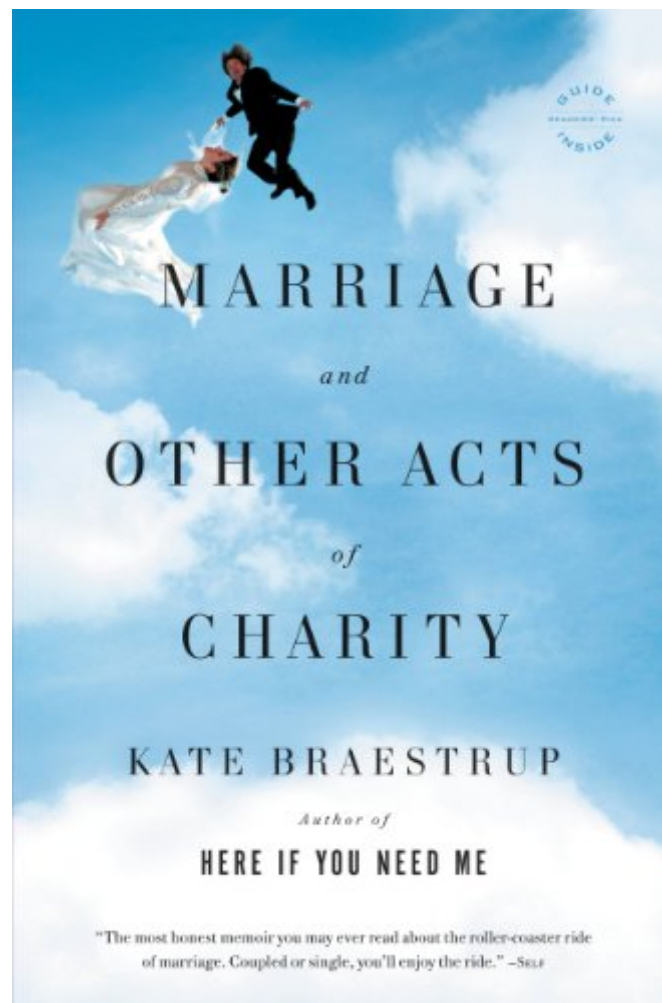


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Marriage And Other Acts Of Charity: A Memoir



Synopsis

In her award-winning memoir *>*, Kate Braestrup won the hearts of readers across the country with her deeply moving and deftly humorous stories of faith, hope and family. Now, with her inimitable voice and generous spirit, she turns her attention to the subjects of love and commitment in *MARRIAGE AND OTHER ACTS OF CHARITY*. As a minister, Kate Braestrup regularly performs weddings. She has also, at 44, been married twice and widowed once, and accordingly has much to say about life *>*the ceremony. From helping a newlywed couple make amends after their first fight to preparing herself for her second marriage, Braestrup offers her insights and experiences on what it truly means to share your life with someone, from the first kiss to the last straw, for better or for worse. Part memoir, part observation of modern marriage, and part meditation on the roles of God and love in our everyday lives, *MARRIAGE AND OTHER ACTS OF CHARITY* is a unique and unforgettable look into why, and how, we love each other, and proves yet again why Kate Braestrup's writing is "inspirational in the best sense" (*>*).

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Customer Reviews

I really appreciate the down to earth and tender way that the author has with her subject- in this case, marriage and going on after the death of a spouse and helping children go on also. She deftly deals with her relationship with her husband, her husband's untimely accidental death, her children, dating again, losing a looser boyfriend, and meeting Mr. Right. All the while, her prose kept me enjoying the subject....oh, and she is a Chaplain in the Maine Warden Service. Even though we come from different religious traditions, I could easily identify a heart-felt kinship with the author.

Kate is a very honest and funny writer, confident enough to share the difficulties of her state police husband's sudden death, which left her raising 3 children while going to Bangor Theological School. She talks about her role as a spiritual counselor to stoic Maine game wardens during search and rescue operations, which subject the wardens frequently to deaths in water or woods. Kate talks about her own emotional and personal growth, and future courtship while trying to protect both her children and her beloved game wardens from emotional loss. This mothering person is very real, not coming from a rigid religious background, and has evolved from a talkative bright, self centered person to a compassionate and great listener and counselor. I recommend the book to all adult readers who can learn from Kate's honest appraisal of her own need for personal and emotional growth. This fascinating life story is easy to read, and I savored every page.

My daughter recommended this book as we prepared for my son's wedding by reading excerpts from it to her dad and me. We laughed together, and my husband, a priest who was doing the wedding, used some of Braestrup's wisdom to enrich his wedding homily. I read the book cover to cover in short order, and have since read "Here If You Need Me". (I'd recommend reading "Here If You Need Me" first if you plan on reading both.) Braestrup is refreshingly open, boiling essential truths down to everyday language in witty and often humorous ways. Her no-nonsense approach to life, death, faith and love is contagious and inspiring. I heartily recommend this book!

Reviewers call Kate Braestrup's writing quirky...that's a good word to which I would add a few of my own: delightfully bizarre, fresh, insightful, novel, and earthy. Some readers might find her narcissistic. This however, is a memoir and I think it is safe to say this is about her and her learned insights without a high degree of off-putting self-absorption. This is not a practical, how-to book, nor does it set out to be. Braestrup has a way of looking at the world that reminds me of a more melancholy version of Robert Fulghum. Braestrup, however, is poetic in her strategy and sees and approaches the world not with optimism but with tender grace. I like her way of being in the world

and her writing about that way is both entertaining and meaningful. Braestrup sees the way humor and holiness can live side by side in the simplest of moments and then draws this out in ways that deepen the reader. Braestrup has that unique ability to grab my heart, broaden my imagination, and cause me to laugh out loud; often in the same sentence. I value and respect writers who can bring a new lens through which to look at the world. Call it quirky, call it odd; one might even call it prophetic. In *Here if you need me*, she wove her story around her call as a chaplain and grieving widow. In *Marriage and Other Acts of Charity*, she weaves her story around relationships. I treasure this creative writer and treasure this "next step" beyond *Here if You Need Me*. Braestrup's book is a solid, funny, light and yet immensely meaningful read. I have been heartily recommending this book to my closest friends.

Marriage and Other Acts of Charity is Kate Braestrup's second book - this one focusing on marriage and relationships. Braestrup shares personal accounts from her own life as well as those of friends and acquaintances. In 1996 Braestrup's first husband, Drew, was killed in a car accident, leaving her alone with four small children. She is able to recount highs and lows in their relationship and that of her parent's as well. Her role as a chaplain has also given her training in counseling young couples. Using Bible verses that support her points, this book was well written and full of understanding from someone who it is obvious "gets it" in terms of relationships and marriage. Braestrup has remarried and also shares portions of her time dating her husband and how their relationship works. This is also the second book I have read on the Kindle. I still don't have a clue how to look up various points of interest or how to make notes about what I have read, but this book would definitely be the type of book I would look back on for reflection and thought.

Excellent read. Kate is honest and funny and insightful. She brings a new energy to what it means to be married and remarried. Very readable work. Made me want to read her other books!

Although the writer is a Christian minister, there is much in her delightful memoir to appeal to people whose moral guide is ethical rather than religious. There is not a stale word in this book that deals straightforwardly with all kinds of love, all kinds of danger and all kinds of loss. The only reason I don't give it five stars is because I save that for works by Tolstoy.

Kate Braestrup's voice is one of the best newer ones in the spirituality. She is clear and open in her prose, yet is of great comfort. Her books show that she is in the right place as a minister and author

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