



For One More Day

Mitch Albom

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For One More Day Mitch Albom

"Every family is a ghost story..."

Mitch Albom mesmerized readers around the world with his number one *New York Times* bestsellers, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Now he returns with a beautiful, haunting novel about the family we love and the chances we miss.

For One More Day is the story of a mother and a son, and a relationship that covers a lifetime and beyond. It explores the question: What would you do if you could spend one more day with a lost loved one?

As a child, Charley "Chick" Benetto was told by his father, "You can be a mama's boy or a daddy's boy, but you can't be both." So he chooses his father, only to see the man disappear when Charley is on the verge of adolescence.

Decades later, Charley is a broken man. His life has been crumbled by alcohol and regret. He loses his job. He leaves his family. He hits bottom after discovering his only daughter has shut him out of her wedding. And he decides to take his own life.

He makes a midnight ride to his small hometown, with plans to do himself in. But upon failing even to do that, he staggers back to his old house, only to make an astonishing discovery. His mother, who died eight years earlier, is still living there, and welcomes him home as if nothing ever happened..

What follows is the one "ordinary" day so many of us yearn for, a chance to make good with a lost parent, to explain the family secrets, and to seek forgiveness. Somewhere between this life and the next, Charley learns the astonishing things he never knew about his mother and her sacrifices. And he tries, with her tender guidance, to put the crumbled pieces of his life back together.

Through Albom's inspiring characters and masterful storytelling, readers will newly appreciate those whom they love and may have thought they'd lost in their own lives. *For One More Day* is a book for anyone in a family, and will be cherished by Albom's millions of fans worldwide.

For One More Day Details

Date : Published September 26th 2006 by Hachette Books

ISBN : 9781401303273

Author : Mitch Albom

Format : Hardcover 197 pages

Genre : Fiction, Inspirational, Contemporary

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From Reader Review For One More Day for online ebook

Wulan says

I read this book when I was on a plane from London to Indonesia via Hongkong, and I cried like a baby all the way. I swear, if the people that sat on my left and right hadn't been my friends, I would've been considered a crazy girl weeping for no reason.

Reading this book made me realize how much I've taken my mum for granted. It opened my eyes and showed me how big and everlasting a mother's love can be, despite all the things that's been done to her.

Mummy, I LOVE YOU!!!!

Ryan Barton says

Eh. Not sure what the big deal is with this guy. This book was...OK. I cannot say that I liked it a great deal, nor can I say I detested it. The author is a good storyteller, has a good command of structure and the craft of writing, and does not strike me as being anything less than the consummate professional. Picasso was rumoured to have the ability to draw a "perfect circle" freehand; the resulting line is not necessarily a great work of art.

I suppose the nature of the material just was not something I could relate well with. I tried mightily, but in the end I felt very detached from the events and the characters. I ended the book with a small sigh of relief, put it up on a shelf, and eagerly picked up a book I had only partially read to see if I could still connect with something more to my liking.

Fair warning: if you are a son that feels he has wronged his mother, bring some tissues with you to your reading room should you pick up this tome.

Unfair warning: if the above does not apply to you, or you are a mother and your son is just fine by your reckoning, bring some cards or something to your reading room in order to keep yourself entertained.

J says

Reading the back cover and realizing the backdrop is suicide, I was sorely disappointed by the lack of self-face stabbings.

Again, picking up this book, I thought to myself, suicide and Mitch Albom... how could I go wrong? But I was wrong (snicker) dead wrong.

From the beginning, Albom signifies his attachment to this book. He is telling this story from notes and interviews he may have had with the main character. Why is this important? Could the book have been equally effective without him putting himself in the story? Does it seem a tad forced?

Albom takes special care to make the cover story stick. His presence is felt in the narrative with the imprint of attributory notes: this was taken from this. The end mentions how the book is a compilation of three years' worth of work, talking with the main character. How does this effect the narrative? Is anybody being used? Is this story true? Is the reader being used? If a reader likes this book for its content is it because of the main character or Albom's journalistic spirit?

Without these questions, the book itself is decent. The idea of someone coming back for a brief time for a conversation or such is endearing. The vehicle chosen to represent it however, is cliché. Once the motion signifying what's happening (trying to avoid spoilers) appears, suspension of belief is dropped. The mystery of what's going to happen is succinct. The story continues quite a bit after this, attaching great value to the relationship between mother and son.

More than anything this is an homage to parents and what they can do for/to you.

Anis Suhaila says

Confession: I actually DNF'ed Tuesdays with Morrie sometime last year. I thought it was pretentious, dull and lack narration.

So I wasn't exactly excited to read For One More Day, but someone gave it to me during last year's Secret Pumpkin. Thank you again!

I'm glad that this book was as enjoyable as it was. Even though it's like a Hallmark cut out story (I did catch a part of its telemovie on Hallmark a long time ago), but it's pure, simple and raw.

It doesn't attempt to do too much but gives out a lot anyway.

Abduraafi Andrian says

PERHATIAN! Bagi yang belum membaca buku ini, segeralah membacanya. Aku tidak akan menjelaskan kenapa, kau harus mencari tahunya sendiri.

Buku ini tentang seorang anak laki-laki. Tentang seorang ibu. Tentang hubungan seorang anak laki-laki dan ibunya. Tentang Saat-Saat-Ketika-Ibu-Membela-Anaknya. Tentang Saat-Saat-Ketika-Anak-Tidak-Membela-Ibunya.

Juga, tentang seorang ayah. Tentang hubungan seorang ayah dengan anak laki-lakinya. Tentang pilihan. Tentang seorang ayah yang meninggalkan keluarganya. Tentang seorang anak laki-laki yang masih dibayangi oleh ayahnya.

Dan buku ini adalah tentang keluarga. Tentang kehidupan. Tentang hubungan antara keluarga dan kehidupan, yang mungkin tidak sesuai rencana; tidak sesuai ekspektasi. Tentang bagaimana mempertahankan keluarga. Tentang penyesalan. Tentang rasa menyerah. Tentang keinginan mengakhiri hidup. Pada akhirnya, buku ini adalah tentang pelajaran.

Aj the Ravenous Reader says

This is a beautiful and touching mother and son story that will make you reconsider how you treat your own mother.:)

Dale Harcombe says

Sometimes as you read a book it makes you think not only about the characters in the story but about your own life. That was the case with this book by Mitch Albom. Haven't you ever wished for one more day with someone you love who has died? A day when you could say all the things you wanted to say and could resolves any past hurts and regrets?

Charley Benetto is at rock bottom, having lost all that meant anything in his life. He decides life is not worth living. But then he gets the gift of one more day with his mother who has been dead eight years. Yes, you will have to suspend disbelief but it is worth going along with, as this is a book about relationships, and especially those between a parent and child. It is a story about the choices made in a lifetime.

Simply yet effectively told, it is sad in many ways and searching in others. I thoroughly enjoyed it. It had me thinking a lot about my own life and how much as children and even as adults we can take parents for granted and unwittingly hurt them. A gentle and thought provoking read.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

For One More Day, Mitch Albom

For One More Day is a 2006 philosophical novel by Mitch Albom. Like his previous works (Tuesdays with Morrie and The Five People You Meet in Heaven), it features mortality as a central theme. The book tells the story of a troubled man and his mother, and explores how people might use the opportunity to spend a day with a lost relative.

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Matt says

For One More Day, like all of Mitch Albom's books, attempts to be an exercise in feel-good warm fuzzies. This overly-verbose mortality tale, however, is not particularly inspiring, uplifting, or even interesting.

When the main character tries to commit suicide, he gets to spend the titular "one more day" with his deceased mother. During the visit, he reminisces about his life growing up in a broken home, the mistakes he made, and how we would do it differently if he could. Interspersed are example after example of how he did not stand up for his single mother and/or how she did stand up for him.

The problem with "For One More Day" is that the emotional claptrap and manipulation don't have even a remotely satisfying payoff. There are no lessons learned, no flash of insight. Instead, it seems as if Albom stuck his "Five People you Meet in Heaven" in a blender with "It's a Wonderful Life," drank it down, and then vomited it back up into print. It's boring, uninspiring, frustrating, and vapid. This morality tale could have been condensed into a Reader's Digest article and contained the same emotional punch.

For a set of real-life lessons about the preciousness of life, drop "For One More Day" into the trash can where it belongs and go find a used copy of "Tuesdays with Morrie."

Suraya (thesuraya) says

"I also believed that parents, if they love you, will hold you up safely, above their swirling waters, and sometimes that means youll never know what they endured, and you may treat them unkindly, in a way you otherwise wouldnt"

This book discuss the topic on parents and children and family and it is as heartbreaking as it gets. I miss my parents :(((

/brb calling home/

Raha says

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Kay says

Very touching book. Much of what the protagonist goes through is very close to my heart, and reading the last chapter made me teary. I'm not a parent, but I am a daughter, and reading this book has reminded me in a gentle and soothing way the sacrifices parents and caregivers make for their children.

Told in flashbacks and the chapters often around two to three pages long, the book was a quick read. Despite the content material, I didn't feel emotionally burdened by the end but instead a little lighter. Like the ghosts of our loved ones in our hearts, the story visited, reminded, and left with a fond farewell. But it will always remain, in some form or another.

Swetha Amit says

There are many in this world who would do anything to get just that one chance to make amends for their past misgivings. Yet very few get this golden opportunity while the majority is saddled with that nostalgic remorse and regret.

Mitch Albom's new edition titled "For one more day" takes one through a wistful journey which encounters a strange and enigmatic tryst with the ghost of the past. The story unfolds the main character Charley Benetto (Chick) whose life is in ruins. Being unwanted at his own daughter's wedding was the last straw of having lost everything and he is ready to give up his life. As he takes a midnight ride to his hometown, he encounters his dead mother much to his amazement and everything seemed as normal as ever.

Instances from his life are brought to light with a quick flashback through the book. Being with his mother for that one day makes him realize the lack of time he spent with her and how out of touch he had been with her. Yet she had managed to retain that special place in his heart and the close call was what brought her to him and his encounter with the other world. As this journey nears an end, his surprise knows no bounds as he unravels several loopholes and a shocking truth in the end. He also gets the second chance to convey his unexpressed explanation for a certain act of his, which to his surprise was known to her all long.

This book is intriguing and emphasizes beautifully on a mother-son relationship. It makes one reflective and also makes ones eyes go moist and choke with emotion. The few words quoted in the book as the character's

father tells him “mama’s boy or daddy’s boy chick? What’s it gonna be?” As he recalls this statement in the end, he is made to realize by his mother that “a child should never have to choose.”

Many may dispute this as being just another ghost story. Yet there are times that we draw parallels and examples from our lost loved ones that make it seem as though they were never gone. They retain their omnipresence in our memories. There are some individuals to whom we postpone our visits; taking them for granted only to realize that one fine day they are no longer there. And then we grieve at our actions for having said something that had hurt them or not having spent quality time with them when they were alive. This thought continues to haunt us till eternity.

This book teaches one to never take anything or anyone for granted. Life’s uncertainty is such that we may never get another chance. So why not take the one life hands out and utilize it to the maximum as the saying goes,” If life hands you a lemon, make lemonade.” One should ensure this ‘lemonade’ remains sweet instead of letting it turn sour.

Ammara Abid says

Before saying anything else let me say, this book is for everyone. For every age group. No matter how old you are, must read & recall your incidents, because we all have done such things with our mothers & every child can relate with it.

This is a story of every mother & every child.

This book literally gave me goosebumps.

Heart-breaking but beautiful. Truthful yet emotional.

Not any difficult phrase, not any lyrical lines but these simple, honest, amazingly written lines had such a profound effect on me, I can't even explain it in words. Tears stood in my eyes.

What could be more painful than this,

Years later, after her death, I made list of Times My Mother Stood Up for Me and Times I Did Not Stand Up for My Mother. It was sad, the imbalance of it all.'

After few paragraphs whenever this line came, I feel revitalize,

Times My Mother Stood Up for Me

& then few other incidents and something broke inside me every single time,

After reading this,

Times I Did Not Stand Up for My Mother.

Every time I read Mitch Albom, Every time he made me cry. :(

He's simply a brilliant writer.

Ending my review with this heart-breaking excerpt. (while reading I felt like sky fell upon me)

'I HOPE YOU never hear those words. Your mom. She died. They are different than other words. They are too big to fit in your ears. They belong to some strange, heavy, powerful language that pounds away at the side of you head, a wrecking ball coming at you again and again, until finally, the words crack a hole large enough to fit inside your brain. And in so doing, they split you apart.'

Heba says

What a beautiful book. It shows you how every mother in Earth will do just to make her family happy and safe! I cried while reading it.. It shows you the real love the purest love you will ever know. Love without any limitation!

what an outstanding book.. Worth to read it and read it again and again!

Mitch Albom I wish you don't stop writing.

Indri Juwono says

#2010-72#

"Baca deh, Squid, bukunya baguss.. bikin nangis.."

Aku nggak pernah baca bukunya Mitch Albom sebelumnya, dan ketika Qui merekomendasikan buku ini ketika jalan-jalan di RB menjelang tahun baru kemarin dengan ekspresi mengharukan.

Akhirnya setelah sekian lama dalam tumpukan to-read aku sambar juga untuk dibaca dalam perjalanan pulang. Benar apa yang dikatakannya, sepanjang perjalanan di KRL rasanya dadaku sesak dan mata berkaca-kaca.

Bagaimana Chick Benetto bertemu lagi dengan ibunya yang meninggal 8 tahun yang lalu, dan terlewatkan hari kematiannya. Satu hari saja bersamanya.

"Kau bisa jadi anak mama atau anak papa. Tapi tidak keduanya."(h.31)

Bagaimana mungkin? Bagaimana seorang anak harus memilih untuk ikut mama atau papanya? Bukankah seharusnya yang ia berhak untuk memiliki keduanya sekaligus, dan berbahagia bersamanya?

Tapi kalau memang diharuskan memilih, mungkin aku memang akan pilih mama. Mama sangat mirip dengan karakter Posey di sini. Cantik, ramah, gesit sigap, hangat. Ada dalam berbagai session *saat-saat ketika Ibu membelaku* yang benar-benar mengingatkanku pada masa-masa mama yang begitu sayang rela melakukan apa saja untukku, mengantarku kuliah di saat hujan deras, mengajari menyetir, menyiapkan ulang tahunku, bahkan sampai sekarang, selalu datang kalau aku mau menitipkan Bintang, senantiasa berdo'a untuk keberhasilanku.

Di *saat-saat aku tidak membela ibu* aku teringat pada masa kabur dari rumah untuk naik gunung, tidak terbayang khawatir beliau, penolakanku untuk mengajarnya ber-sms, hingga ia bisa dari belajar dari anak tetangga, hingga telepon2 pagi yang jarang kuangkat dengan alasan ribet mau berangkat ke kantor.

she's my equilibrium.

Aku bersyukur mamaku masih ada, sehingga bisa mencoba mengembalikan kasih sayangnya. Aku tahu mama tidak mengharap apa-apa dariku, hanya mengharap aku bersikap lebih lembut (karena sering aku ketus seperti ayah), lebih meluangkan waktu dengannya (walaupun kesibukan kami pun sama-sama padat),

banyak cerita soal kesulitan-kesulitan (sulit sekali aku untuk bercerita, lebih suka cerita yang baik2 aja).

Aku ingat, seperti chick, yang memilih baseball dengan ayahnya, aku sering lebih memilih mirip ayah, daripada membantu mama di dapur. Aku lebih sering belajar mengutak atik listrik, selalu mengelak dari pekerjaan domestik, dengan alasan belajar matematika. Bermalas2an dengan pelajaran ekonomi yang dikuasai mama, padahal beliau mengajarkan dengan susah payah. Walau akhirnya mamaku sadar, enak juga punya anak perempuan yang bisa disuruh memanjat dak untuk memeriksa tangki air, atau jd teman ditanyain kalau belanja bahan bangunan, tapi beliau pasti masih punya keinginan bisa berbagi pengalaman memasak, atau membuat kue, menjahit, kreasi manik2, dan lainnya (yang sayangnya aku tidak tertarik).

Saat akhirnya diriku menjadi bunda, aku tahu bahwa semua yang mama khawatirkan kepadaku dulu itu benar adanya. Aku menyayangi Bintang, dan mungkin seperti itulah mama menyayangiku sejak kecil. Aku khawatir akan keselamatannya, mungkin itulah yang dirasakan mama ketika aku bepergian jauh. Aku tahu, berkaca pada diriku sendiri, bahwa Bintang kelak mungkin akan bersikap sama denganku, mungkin ia akan berubah di masa remajanya, mungkin ia akan jadi cuek, tapi aku ingin, selamanya ia akan dekat denganku, di hatiku. Aku harus tahu, bukan hanya Bintang yang harus belajar mandiri, tapi aku juga, sebagai bundanya yang harus tahu bahwa ada saatnya ia akan kulepas kelak.

Buku ini mengajarkan banyak, soal hubungan ibu dan anak, soal kesalahan-kaesalahan yang sering dilakukan anak, dan menjadi seorang ibu dengan sejuta kesulitan hidupnya. Menjadi seorang ibu yang kebahagiaannya tak sempurna. Menjadi seorang ibu yang tegar dan selalu siap. Menjadi seorang ibu di mana keberhasilan anak adalah semangatnya untuk hidup. Mengajarkan suatu cinta yang sejati. Ibu tidak boleh lemah.

Kasih ibu sepanjang jalan. I love you forever. Mama and my daughter.

Happy Birthday, Ma. 10 Agustus 2010.

Ghazaleh says

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Estee says

You may believe it or not, but after I read this book, I love both my parent more and more. I try to be a better daughter for them, and I try to understand and appreciate every little thing they've done for me. By reading this book, you will see your parent, especially your mother, as a person who has the purest love ever, and trying to give them back the same...

Charlotte May says

It seems that for me Mitch Albom can do no wrong!

This is my fourth novel by him and I thought it was wonderful! Albom seems to have an incredible ability to take ordinary situations and the inevitable pain of life and make them magical.

For One More Day focuses on Charles (Chick) Bennetto, a middle aged man with a failing marriage, obscene amounts of debt and an inner grief he's never gotten over. He hits rock bottom when he is left uninvited to his only daughters wedding.

We watch as Chick tries to take his own life, and in doing so enters a kind of dream state where he is able to spend one more day with his deceased mother.

Chick is so relatable. He is all of us at some point - unsure of himself, mediocre, desperate for love. So to watch his pain and go through what he goes through is so hard and really hits home.

Mitch Albom has done it once again and I was teary eyed by the end!

Rajat Ubhaykar says

Today is a momentous day. It's my mom's birthday! Through an utter coincidence, I happened to take this book up for reading a day before my mother's birthday, temporarily oblivious to the occasion. Oh, how I love such coincidences! They are little life affirming miracles, dismissed by reason as coincidences, for what were the chances of my walking into a friend's room in a different hostel on a hot afternoon on an impulse and ending up finishing this book, unaware of the relevance of the next day to the book?

By the time I was finished with it, which was a couple of hours later, I knew what I had to do. I called up home and told my brother to hand the phone to mom. An hour later, I knew I had the purest love any man could hope to get.

Some might choose to sneer at the 'manipulative sentimentality' associated with the plot line (and this review :p). Others will relate to the underlying theme, the beauty and complexity of the relationship between a mother and a child and the meaning of a family. It makes one realize how we unwittingly and deliberately take our parents for granted and about the selflessness of their love, simple things really, but so overlooked. The writing style is engaging proving Mitch Albom a fluent story teller, adept at narrating eerily familiar anecdotes.

Eventually, my realization of the injustices we make our mothers go through will melt in the warmth of her hug, it'll vanish in the crinkles of her adoring smile, immersed in the endless sea of her love. What will endure is the fact that this book made me call mom, which is always a good thing. Love you Mom! :)
