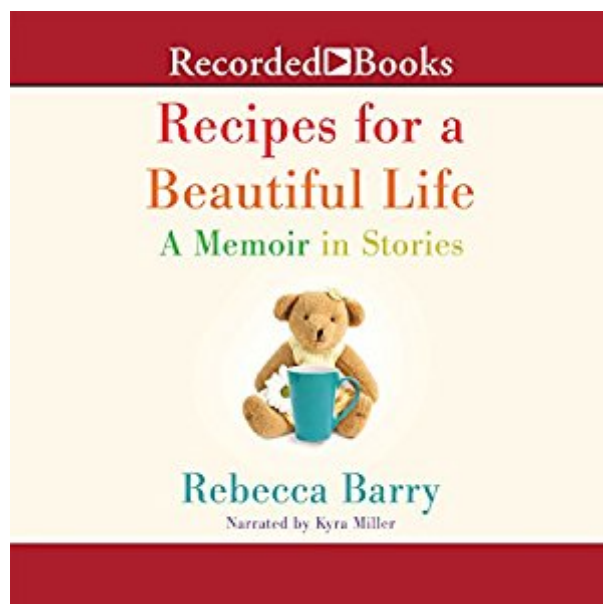


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# Recipes For A Beautiful Life: A Memoir In Stories



## Synopsis

Writing with a delicate balance of humor and truth, critically acclaimed author Rebecca Barry reflects on motherhood, work, and marriage in her new memoir about trying to build a creative life. When Rebecca Barry and her husband moved to upstate New York to start their family, they wanted to be surrounded by natural beauty but close to a small urban center, doing work they loved, and plenty of time to spend with their kids. But living their dreams turned out not to be so simple: The lovely old house they bought had lots of character, but also needed lots of repairs; they struggled to stay afloat financially; their children refused to sleep or play quietly; and the novel Rebecca had dreamed of writing simply wouldn't come to her. *Recipes for a Beautiful Life* blends heartwarming, funny, authentically told stories about the messiness of family life, a fearless examination of the anxieties of creative work, and sharp-eyed observations of the pressures that all women face. This is a story of a woman confronting her deepest fears: What if I'm a terrible mother? What if I'm not good at the work I love? What if my children never eat anything but peanut butter and cake? What if I go to sleep angry? It's also a story of the beauty, light, and humor that's around us, all the time - even when things look bleak, and using that to find your way back to your heart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is beautiful, poignant, funny, and true. Rebecca Barry is a marvelous storyteller and as I read this memoir, I felt as if I was right beside her, struggling with her work, cooking with her friends, and dancing with her children. She reminded me of the extraordinary nature of simple ordinary moments. Though these stories are tailor-made for parents, the book is also about giving birth to

creative endeavors and finding meaning in your work. I recommend it wholeheartedly.

I was given an advanced copy of Rebecca's book for an event. I'm not usually a fan of memoirs, probably because I do too much projecting, but this one caught me by surprise. I laughed and cried and ignored my kids for an entire afternoon as I read this lovely book, which is really a paean to the beauty and challenge of living a traditional family life while trying to be true to your creative self. Cleverly constructed in a series of "how to" chapters, this book is anything but a guide book in how to live. Rather it is an illustration of how it can be done, and how messy and hard and beautiful it is to live fully.

I loved it, shamelessly. I loved reading each vignette, each chapter a part of piecing together a life that was maybe not what Rebecca Barry thought her life was supposed to be. As a mother of two young boys, I can relate. And that's why I kept reading (on top of the sheer pleasure and fun of reading Rebecca's hilarious, insightful words). I wanted to see how it all turned out. I knew the real happy ending. But I didn't know the work and change and struggle that preceded it. I also needed to laugh at myself (as a creative wanna-be), because that is something else Rebecca did so eloquently in this book; she crafted a beautiful, imperfect, magic mirror to hold up to ourselves and reflect something deeper. I thank her for it.

This book is addictive. I didn't want to put it down each night and I yearned for more, as in, "where's the sequel?" (Better yet, where's the TV series based on this family's funny, familiar trials and tribulations?) Barry's life as a new mother, and struggling writer mirrors the lives of so many women trying desperately to get it all right. In some ways I would even say this is a feminist memoir. Barry keeps reminding the reader, subtly, that in the end the only way to get it right is through self-acceptance and empathy, and to let all the other stuff -- like money problems and leaky ceilings -- go.

*Recipes for a Beautiful Life* is a warm, funny, and beautifully written book about love, life, raising children, and the choices we make regarding all of the above. Rebecca Barry's voice is so incredibly appealing that she makes you feel as if she's invited you into her kitchen for a cup of tea and a really great chat. Buy a copy of this book for yourself and one for your dearest friend.

Read this book. I read it and loved it: its gentle tone, humble perceptions, and whimsical chapter--or

is that vignette--titles. Even the table of contents is systematically delightful. The routine everyday is never routine; it can be both joyful and demanding and Barry guides you through the everyday all of us can recognize, even childless people. Also, this book does appreciate the importance of margaritas in a woman's life and suggests you keep your tequila in the freezer before mixing it up. Great advice and after you have read this book, everytime you mix your margarita, you should toast Barry's capture of the trials and tenderness of family living.

Rebecca makes everyday life poetic in this series of short stories. Her portrayal of success, struggle, and everything in between is honest and relatable. As others have said in their reviews; it makes you laugh, cry, and reflect upon your own life. This book sticks with you and leaves you wanting more. I'm looking forward to gifting this book to the important women in my life!

â œâ || thought, not for the first time, that we probably have many soul mates. Some are our partners. Some are our children. And others come to us as our very dear friends.â •This is the story of a family from 2007 through 2012 and how they coped with life, love and all things human. Rebecca and Tommy have two boys Liam and Dawson. Tommy has dreams of having his own magazine, Rebecca wants to have her novel written and published. The boys are thrown in for amusement and plot developments.I thoroughly enjoyed this very real story of parenthood and living our dreams. I enjoyed this couple and the family that surrounds them. I enjoyed the antics of their sons, who are typical little boys that may just grow up to be monsters or supermen. We will have to wait and see on this as when the story ends, they are only starting out in elementary school. I enjoyed the small town life of going to the local coffee shop and hearing all the gossip of what is happening in town.This is a fun book filled with humorous stories and day-to-day stick-to-it-ness. There is sadness when her sister canâ™t have children but joy when she adopts a beautiful little girl.There is the fact that our parents are aging and our roles are reversing. There is so much of this book that we all can relate to that I heartily recommend it.And before I forget, there are recipes! Some are for soups and some are not. For example: â œWorried Mother Cureâ • or â œAwakening your Creativity|â •. We all need recipes like this.This is a delightful book from a writer that deserves our attention. I received this book from Goodreads as part of their First Reads program. Another winner!

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