



Abide with Me: A Novel

By Elizabeth Strout

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NATIONAL BESTSELLER

In her luminous and long-awaited novel, bestselling author Elizabeth Strout welcomes readers back to the archetypal, lovely landscape of northern New England, where the events of her first novel, *Amy and Isabelle*, unfolded. In the late 1950s, in the small town of West Annett, Maine, a minister struggles to regain his calling, his family, and his happiness in the wake of profound loss. At the same time, the community he has served so charismatically must come to terms with its own strengths and failings—faith and hypocrisy, loyalty and abandonment—when a dark secret is revealed.

Tyler Caskey has come to love West Annett, “just up the road” from where he was born. The short, brilliant summers and the sharp, piercing winters fill him with awe—as does his congregation, full of good people who seek his guidance and listen earnestly as he preaches. But after suffering a terrible loss, Tyler finds it hard to return to himself as he once was. He hasn’t had The Feeling—that God is all around him, in the beauty of the world—for quite some time. He struggles to find the right words in his sermons and in his conversations with those facing crises of their own, and to bring his five-year-old daughter, Katherine, out of the silence she has observed in the wake of the family’s tragedy.

A congregation that had once been patient and kind during Tyler’s grief now questions his leadership and propriety. In the kitchens, classrooms, offices, and stores of the village, anger and gossip have started to swirl. And in Tyler’s darkest hour, a startling discovery will test his congregation’s humanity—and his own will to endure the kinds of trials that sooner or later test us all.

In prose incandescent and artful, Elizabeth Strout draws readers into the details of ordinary life in a way that makes it extraordinary. All is considered—life, love, God, and community—within these pages, and all is made new by this writer’s boundless compassion and graceful prose.

BONUS: This edition includes an excerpt from Elizabeth Strout’s *The Burgess Boys*.

Praise for *Abide with Me*

“Strout’s greatly anticipated second novel . . . is an answered prayer.”—*Vanity Fair*

“Superb . . . a shimmering tale of loss, faith, and human fallibility . . . You feel yourself in the hands of a master storyteller.”—*O: The Oprah Magazine*

“Deeply moving . . . In one beautiful page after another, Strout captures the mysterious combinations of hope and sorrow. She sees all these wounded people with heartbreakingly clarity, but she has managed to write a story that cradles them in understanding and that, somehow, seems like a foretaste of salvation.”—*The Washington Post*

“This lovely second novel confirms Strout as the possessor of an irresistibly companionable, peculiarly American voice: folksy, poetic, but always as precise as a shadow on a brilliant winter day.”—*The Atlantic Monthly*

“Graceful and moving . . . The pacing of Strout’s deeply felt fiction about the distance between parents and children gives her work an addictive quality.”—*People* (four stars)

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Strout's satisfying follow-up to her 1999 debut, *Amy and Isabel*, follows a recent widower from grief through breakdown to recovery in 1959 smalltown Maine. The father of two young girls and the newly appointed minister of the fictional town of West Annett, Tyler Caskey is quietly devastated by wife Lauren's death following a prolonged illness. Tyler's older daughter Katherine is deeply antisocial at school and at home; his adorable younger daughter Jeannie has been sent to live upstate with Tyler's overbearing mother. Talk begins to spread of Katherine's increasing unsoundness and of Tyler's possible affair with his devoted-though-suspicious housekeeper, Connie Hatch. It's spearheaded by the gossipy Ladies' Aide Society, whose members bear down on Tyler like the dark clouds of a gathering storm. Meanwhile, Tyler's grief shades into an angry, cynical depression, leaving him unable to parent his troubled daughter or minister to his congregation, and putting his job and family at risk. Strout's deadpan, melancholy prose powerfully conveys Tyler's sense of internal confinement. The uplifting ending arrives too easily, but on the whole, Strout has crafted a harrowing meditation of exile on Main Street. (Mar.)

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From *The New Yorker*

The handsome minister Tyler Caskey, of West Annett, Maine, is beloved by his parishioners because he really does think they're all God's children. But in the bleak autumn of 1959, more than a year after the death of his wife, Tyler is still awash in grief. The man who once held them rapt from the pulpit now appears ridiculous up there—"like a big tractor being driven by a teenage kid, slipping in and out of gear"—and his daughter has started screaming and spitting in kindergarten. How can he lead them if he himself is lost? Just as she did in her first novel, "Amy and Isabelle," Strout has created an absorbing world peopled by characters who argue the merits of canned cranberry sauce and using one's turn signal; meanwhile, dark fears about Freud and Khrushchev run beneath the surface of their lives like water under ice. With superlative skill, Strout challenges us to examine what makes a good story—and what makes a good life.

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From *Bookmarks Magazine*

Recent novels about Christian faith (such as Marilynne Robinson's award-winning *Gilead*, **** Mar/Apr 2005) have found wide audiences; *Abide with Me* now joins this set. Author of the critically acclaimed *Amy and Isabelle* (1999), Strout examines one man's spiritual agony and personal journey. In the process, she asks important questions about self-identity, faith, fear, hypocrisy, and loss. Dark and full of doubt but beautiful and full of strength and acceptance, the novel also faultlessly captures the intricacies of a small town (including its vicious gossip circles). That, combined with gorgeous depictions of the New England landscape and exquisite prose, makes *Abide with Me* a first-rate novel.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Jones:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time

to take a wander, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open as well as read a book called *Abide with Me: A Novel*? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have additional opinion?

Julia Hanson:

Information is provisions for individuals to get better life, information these days can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even a concern. What people must be consider any time those information which is within the former life are challenging be find than now is taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take *Abide with Me: A Novel* as your daily resource information.

Robert Nobles:

Precisely why? Because this *Abide with Me: A Novel* is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book include such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking way. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Elaine Rochelle:

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