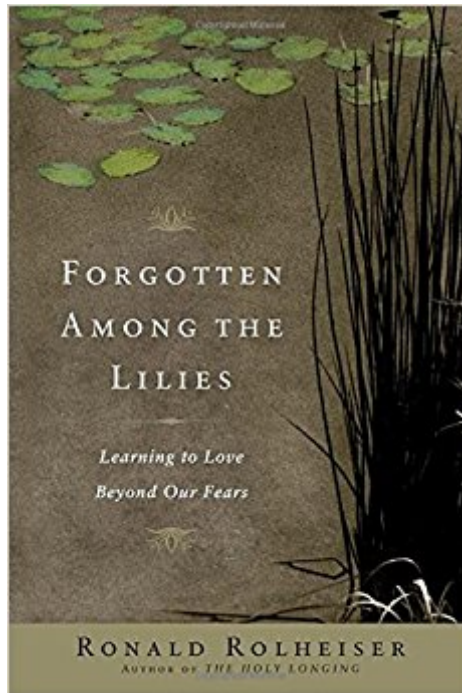




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Forgotten Among The Lilies: Learning To Love Beyond Our Fears



Synopsis

The author of *The Holy Longing* explores the debilitating obsessions that often dominate our lives and offers down-to-earth guidance for learning to leave our fears, anxieties, and guilt behind—“forgotten among the lilies.” “Rarely do we taste the food we eat or the coffee we drink. Instead we go through our days too preoccupied, too compulsive, and too dissatisfied to really be able to be present for and celebrate our own lives,” Ronald Rolheiser writes in the introduction to this powerful collection of essays. *Forgotten Among the Lilies* shows that there is a better way to find contentment and joy. Only by trusting in God’s grace and providence, Rolheiser argues, can we move beyond our obsessions and rejoice in what we have and who we are. With his trademark blend of insight, compassion, and honesty laced with humor, the author teaches that it is possible to experience freedom instead of anxiety, solitude instead of loneliness, and a generosity of spirit that returns to the giver far more than it costs.

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Customer Reviews

In this book of poignant meditations, theologian Rolheiser pleads an important case of idealism, romanticism, fulfillment and pure love (eros) in an age of skepticism, cynicism and despair. Pulling from a host of spiritual classics, he succeeds at inspiring his readers, translating with impressive acumen the wisdom of theologians like Karl Rahner, poets like Rainer Maria Rilke and contemporary writers like Annie Dillard. He aptly engages readers in deep philosophical questions without losing them in abstract language because he diligently connects his theological ideas to

concrete, common experiences. Rolheiser writes about such topics as self-expression, innocence, friendship, forgiveness, prayer, sexuality and social justice with his signature touch of empathy and eloquence. However, in his effort to inspire optimism, he dodges some controversial issues and appears at times to dangerously discount some very real illnesses (e.g. depression, anxiety disorders), which may require psychiatric and physiological treatment beyond his recommended method of "praying it through." Titled appropriately after the last line of St. John of the Cross's poetic masterpiece, "The Dark Night of the Soul," Rolheiser's reflections capture postmodern anxiety and despair; he accurately identifies some alarming trends in contemporary culture, such as the "Friday Night Syndrome" — what he calls our society's need for constant excitement. Overall, his words offer readers a perspective of hope and provide spiritual nourishment at its best. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Praise for The Holy Longing — "A master weaver is at work here. | I found my soul on every page. At least we have a guide who helps us know what to do with the fire of desire within us. At last a comprehensive, life-giving approach to sexuality. At last a dynamic understanding of how the paschal mystery plays in our own lives. At last a way to weave love for the poor and struggling people with the highest mystical love of God — I love this book. — Sister Helen Prejean, author of Dead Man Walking Praise for The Restless Heart — "Ronald Rolheiser examines the pain of loneliness and the meaning of our longing with compassionate precision. The book is not simply an exercise in personal spirituality — it also comes at a time when great social and political harm is done because many of us cannot endure and enjoy who we are in our loneliness. A much-needed antidote to the uneasiness of the times. — Alan Jones, Dean of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, author of Living the Truth, and coauthor of Seasons of Grace — "Ronald Rolheiser has emerged as one of the finest spiritual writers of our time. In this new edition of his earliest work, he tills the soil where the holy longing is cultivated, nurtured, and sustained: the lonely human heart. He holds the key to helping loosen the suffocating grip of loneliness so that our deepest desires flourish and find rest in God. — Michael Downey, Cardinal's Theologian, Archdiocese of Los Angeles From the Hardcover edition.

I received a lot of hype about how great this book was; so, I was particularly disappointed in the contents once I read it. The book in contrary to Catholic teachings and beliefs in many areas. I can't help but believe that the readers of this books would be surprised should they believe that the

Catholic faith has bought into some of the political positions that the author expresses in his book. It is particularly interesting that the author waits until the end of the book to express many of his agenda items in terms of his dissent against the Church. This is definitely not a healthy book for someone to read who has questions about the faith.

Rohlheiser brings us some of the freshest insights into the ethics, psychology, theology, and sociology of the modern era. As one seeks to enter what Fr. Richard Rohr has labeled "the second half of life," one can't help but question anything and everything one has been taught about navigating one's spiritual journey from birth on. I can confidently assert that this little volume serves up knocks-your-socks-off wisdom that entertains as it instructs. Just the right strategy to aid readers of all persuasions.

I have practiced my Christian religion all my life, but I liked this book so much because it made me stop and think about so many things I have let slide in my life as I became older and involved in many things. It was just what I needed to get back on track and travel in my beliefs a little more secure.

Just as described! I love the product. Would highly recommend. Would definitely do business again! Thanks for the fulfillment of my expectations.

I enjoyed the book, not as much as I thought I would but it was good.

Well worth reading - sensitive and experienced based commentary. A new writer for me and I will continue to read more of his works.

I am not sure how I found this book, but I am glad I did. I am probably going to have to read it a couple of times. There is no way I can really comprehend fully alot of the ideas in this book. I also see now I need to purchase a dictionary. I will defenitley purchase book for gifts-

I read this book and I am very grateful. It is inspiring and very spiritual. It focuses on Jesus and other principles of Catholicism. Fr. Rolheiser is a good writer from beginning to end. I got a lot out of the book personally. I recommend it to others. Sister Mary Agnes Cross

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