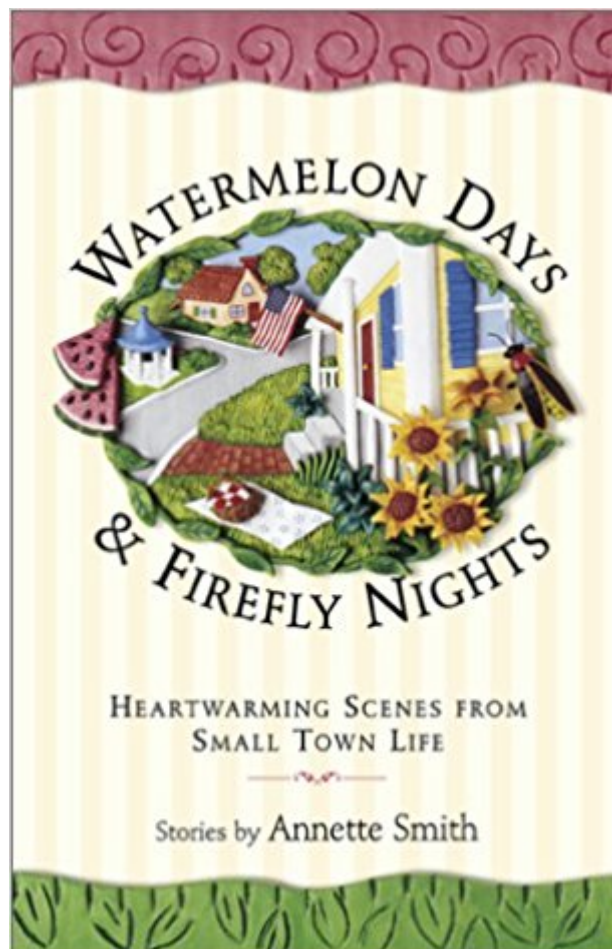




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Watermelon Days And Firefly Nights: Heartwarming Scence Of Small-Town Life



Synopsis

Annette Smith has been blessed with the ability to observe and find beauty, meaning, and humor in seemingly ordinary situations. Within a sentence or two, readers are captivated by her delightful, descriptive writing style, connected with the characters, and eager to hear more. *Watermelon Days and Firefly Nights* is Smith's fifth book of original short stories. In this charming collection, adults of all ages enjoy a behind-the-scenes peek at the lives and loves of a few of the 3,482 folks who proudly call Ella Louise, Texas, their home sweet home. These quirky and loveable characters include twelve-year-old twins whose "creative" pet care is appreciated by neither their mother nor their geriatric poodle, George; Faye Beth and Harvey Newman, a married couple who has lived for seven years with a gaping hole in the roof of their house and have no plans to fix it; and the industrious deacons of Grace Baptist Church, whose decision to paint the sanctuary uncovers a shocking, twenty-year-old secret. *Watermelon Days and Firefly Nights* celebrates the simple, small-town goodness of neighbors helping neighbors and friends caring for friends. Through glimpses of ordinary people exhibiting extraordinary love, forgiveness, and humor, readers gain a renewed sense of kinship and love and are reminded of life's sweetest hours.

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Customer Reviews

Annette Smith is the author of *Homemade Humble Pie and Other Slices of Life*, *The Whispers of Angels*, and *Sweeter Than Honey*. An exceptional storyteller, registered nurse, and speaker, she

lives with her family in a small Texas town, where she is inspired by her neighbors and friends.

This is a lovely book. These are short stories about people who live in a small town in Texas. The reader is first introduced to the town during the Okra Festival. Most of the stories are heartwarming and humorous. Some are sad. But every story makes the point of the care and friendship and love the people in this town share with one another. There is support for one another no matter the situation. There is a generosity of spirit. This is a book written from the outlook of a narrator who is a spiritual person. Many of the stories use a Christian perspective. But, it is not preaching so much as showing how a small town functions in regard to participating in church events and the sharing of the Christian rule to "Love Thy Neighbor". If you want a book which will lift your spirit and renew your faith in your fellow man this is the book for you. Read and enjoy and wish you were living in a small town in Texas.

Ella Louise, a Texas boomtown 40 years ago is now a sleepy town of 1200 people. As you read the sixteen stories you become involved in the locals lives, see how they intertwine. Not all joy and happiness but real, down to earth life situations with some funny segments (just as in real life) thrown in. Curious to read more of what the author includes? Then read on :) 1. A woman and a well Newlyweds Rocky and Rochelle are in town for the annual Okra Festival and Quilt Show. Read how Rochelle falls in love with the place, what allows them to move there and the history of the well they find in their new backyard. 2. Hot Dog's on the House She's called Georgia and yes, she is on the roof? How did she get there? 3. Let her eat cake A new slide and Daphne's fight with sobriety. If you have ever had a relative with an alcohol problem you will totally relate to this story. 4. Magic Money The gift that keeps giving. 5. Spanish Lessons From infertility, treatment and 5 miscarriages read how one couple adopts a baby from Honduras finally realizing the dream of becoming parents. Laugh at how Grandma thinks she has to learn Spanish! 6. Angel Incognito Camp Road Runner, a boy with Down's Syndrome (Trey) and a beloved dog called Maggie. What will the doc's twins, Josh and Kevin, plus the other kids do when Trey is so upset after Maggie dies? 7. Millard and Millie Will Millard forgive his unwed pregnant daughter? Will he love his new grandbaby? 8. Blind Man's Bluff Be ready to laugh in this one! Is it Polly or Molly. A wonderful story of elderly identical twins. 9. Pinkie and the Chief The chief's 14 year old nephew, Pinki, comes to stay. Do they get on? What happens? Appearances can be deceptive. 10. Scared Crow Crow thinks there's a snake in his pants leg! LOL! 11. Wise Woman Harvey and Fay's marriage tales. A wise woman builds her house but a foolish one tears it down. 12. Butter up Memories and a lost cat. 13. A Pinch of Sugar The best of

friends, brain hairs (yes, you read that right) and a kidney donor.¹⁴ Sweet Georgia From divorce to rebuilding their friendship.¹⁵ Old Spice Rocky and Rochelle's love story. Literally fell head over heels!¹⁶ All the right ingredients The Gumbo cook off Easy read, bringing home the fact that our own lives and the lives of the people around us are not much different to those we read about.

The book is a collection of short stories which take place in a fictional Texas small town. The stories are character-based; some deal with serious situations while others are humorous. Regardless of the situation or the characters in the situation, the stories are positive and up-lifting. I would classify the collection as Christian inspirational literature but that should not put anyone off. The Christianity is subtle in these stories, and the characters express it through actions rather than doctrinal statements. There is no "in your face" evangelism nor do the characters treat non-Christians with condescension. This is refreshing as much "Christian" literature relies on words rather than deeds and features characters who treat non-Christian ideas with disdain. The people in the stories are flawed but faithful, and their Christian love is exhibited by how they treat others. Thus faith is the bedrock of the stories. The stories exhibit humor without making fun of people; they have affirming, happy endings without being "saccharine sweet". I like the overall tone of the stories and the lack of cynicism is refreshing. If you want to read dark literature, go elsewhere, but if you want an uplifting perspective on the world and some smiles, read this collection.

Annette Smith is a storyteller par excellence. Her tales of Ella Louise, Texas will melt your heart, tickle your funnybone, and tug your heartstrings, as they give you a glimpse of small town life. Big-city dwellers may find her stories fun but too fantastic for reality, while those who have lived in town the size of Ella Louise will smile and nod their heads. This anthology of short stories reads like the yarns and anecdotes one might collect at family reunions, homecoming weekends, or any gathering where life slows down long enough for memories to be shared, embellished, or created from whole cloth. And every such gathering should generate fresh fodder for the next round of memories.

If you're feeling down and need a few minutes of cheering up, this book is for you. The stories of the small town, Ella Louise, Texas, aren't the down side of small town living~~gossip, busy bodies, etc. Each short story tells of a different resident, but yet you see how they all interact. This is a great, clean read that I'm sure you'll enjoy.

Well written but the chapters are about different people in the town of Ella Louise. I was expecting a book about the people in the first chapter - and they do show up in some of the other 'chapters' -the chapters can be read individually because they each end so you don't have to read them in order.so if someone wants real short stories then this is the book to read.

The book is refreshing and fun to read. I found it was jumping from character to character at maybe too rapid of a pace, but I did enjoy it.

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