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# Bread & Wine: A Love Letter To Life Around The Table With Recipes



## Synopsis

As a follow up to her two best-selling books, *Bittersweet* and *Cold Tangerines*, author and blogger Shauna Niequist returns with the perfect listen for those who love food and value the community and connection of family and friends around the table. *Bread & Wine* is a collection of essays about family relationships, friendships, and the meals that bring us together. This mix of Anne Lamott and Barefoot Contessa is a funny, honest, and vulnerable spiritual memoir. *Bread & Wine* is a celebration of food shared, reminding listeners of the joy found in a life around the table. It's about the ways God teaches and nourishes people as they nourish the people around them. It's about hunger, both physical and otherwise, and the connections between the two. With wonderful recipes included, from Bacon-Wrapped Dates to Mango Chicken Curry to Blueberry Crisp, listeners will be able to recreate the comforting and satisfying meals that come to life in *Bread & Wine*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I told myself upon receiving this book that I would read it slowly, savoring it like a well-aged Port. Well, forget that idea. I guzzled this book like light beer. It was so, well, me. I believe one of the keys to really enjoying this type of literature is finding a deep connection to the author - that the author is someone who you think, "I could hang out with this person for an evening." Mid-way through this book I told my wife and a good friend. "Shauna is the female version of me." While I don't write half as eloquently as Shauna, I think I've shared her sentiments about food, hospitality and joie de vivre on multiple occasions - around tables, cooking with the guys in my cooking club or even, on occasion from the pulpit. So, I have nothing bad to say about this book. If you love food, hospitality,

cooking, wine and just-for-the-fun-of-it dinner parties; if your idea of a great night is a house full of people and a whole afternoon spent cooking and smiling as you anticipate your guests; if you love having people in your home; if your idea of a good dinner is one that lasts several hours; if you love to give a good toast - to lock eyes with the people you love across a candlelit table and tell them why they're important to you; if you believe that everything is spiritual, and maybe especially food; if you love a well crafted sentence and rich metaphor, then this is your book. My only argument with this book is some of the early reviews I've seen. To quote one, "this is a wonderful book for women" For women? I'm not a woman, and I loved it. Why, in the Christian world must we keep perpetuating the notion that men write serious books about theology and leadership, while books about food and hospitality and sucking the marrow out of life are somehow "women's lit?" Or that the gift of hospitality is somehow a "woman's gift," and the serious gifts of leadership are for the guys. Yes, Shauna writes about motherhood, childbirth, and getting into her bathing suit come summertime. But, somehow, she does it in a way that I can connect to - after all, I'm married to a woman and I've heard her talk about all those things. And even if I were not, I'm still interested, there are still parallels to my life. While my shame issues aren't related to my "underbutt" (a term I've never heard before this book!) - I've got plenty of "swimsuit" issues in my life. And, there are plenty of us guys out there who love to throw a party - who care about candles, music, a well-set table and making a great soufflé, who love to employ our words, knife skills and ability to make a killer salsa, as gifts to the people we love. So, let's be done with this silliness. I don't think Shauna intends for hospitality to be a "women's issue," and you shouldn't either.

I am an unabashed fan of Shauna Niequist. I fell in love with her writing the first time I read *Cold Tangerines*. I've since read that book multiple times and have lent it to several friends. *Bread and Wine*, though somewhat of a departure, as it did focus primarily on food, is written in a similar vein. The chapters are vignette style and each are followed with a recipe that featured somehow in the vignette. I tried to savor it slowly, but I ended up gobbling them quickly. Some were sweet, some were savory and some required a pause between bites. I don't know Shauna, but through her words I feel like I do. She shares her heartaches and joys and presents them all with a vulnerability that was so relatable. I wish she was my sister, my neighbor, my friend. I've come to understand that she can have quite the fabulous life, but you know what? She never once name drops or rubs it in your face. She enjoys her life & lives it to the fullest with humility. I am not an advanced cook by any means, but this book has given me courage to try. I love how she tied this in with the kitchen and food and family. Get in the kitchen, get messy, create something fabulous, create something

not-so-fab, just try it. And the same goes for life - be present, get messy, be glamorous - just be there. Don't be a bystander in your own life. I read this on my Kindle (it was on sale & Shauna Niequist - so, duh, I HAD to buy it, haha), but I will definitely own a real copy of this book.

The book is not just about the food. It's about the gathering. The loving. The savoring. As I hosted guests this week, and as we dined with good friends tonight, I found my mind returning to Shauna's reflections on life lived around the table. Great read with warmth, love, and deliciousness wrapped into it.

Food, friends, family and wine have all been closely related to each other in my life so when a friend recommended this book to me, I knew it was going to be a winner. I have to say I feel as if the author and I are kindred souls because I myself will spend the afternoon joyfully cooking and anticipating my dinner guests. I look forward to making toasts with friends while drinking a particularly fine bottle of Chianti. I feel so moved by Shauna, the author, and how eloquently she phrases things (not to mention the heavenly meal combinations she's put in the book) that I am simply besotted with this book. I admit it's the first novel I've read from the author, but this was so well written and skilfully crafted that I will definitely be picking up a few of her other books.

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