



Joy Enough: A Memoir

Sarah McColl

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Sifting gingerly through memories of her late mother, brilliant newcomer Sarah McColl has penned an indelible tribute to the joy and pain of loving well. Even as her own marriage splinters, McColl drops everything when her mother is diagnosed with cancer, returning to the family farmhouse and laboring over elaborate meals in the hopes of nourishing her back to health. In a series of vibrant vignettes—lipstick applied, novels read, imperfect cakes baked—McColl reveals a woman of endless charm and infinite love for her unruly brood of children.

Mining the dual losses of both her young marriage and her beloved mother, McColl confronts her identity as a woman, walking lightly in the footsteps of the woman who came before her and clinging fast to the joy she left behind. With candor reminiscent of classics like C. S. Lewis's *A Grief Observed*, *Joy Enough* offers a story that blooms with life.

Joy Enough: A Memoir Details

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Author : Sarah McColl

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From Reader Review Joy Enough: A Memoir for online ebook

Hazelj jones says

I really enjoyed this book !

Sarah McColl writes with such honest feelings of the journey of her mother's passing and the layers of feelings one has when they know someone they love will soon be gone .A long goodbye! A excellent writing and sharing as the daughter goes through the process .I could only admire the author for writing this great book and walking through the day to day activities and coming to understand what a wonderful lady the mother was .

Writing down such day to day feelings and activities made me stop and take the time to remember meny memories of my own Mother !

Thank you Sarah McColl for writing this book! I received this book on Good Reads for a honest review .Published by LiveRight Publishing.

Claire Fuller says

Sarah McColl's mother dies, she loved her, she wonders if it is a strong enough story. It certainly is. McColl writes beautifully of love and death in snippets of memory, interspersed with the story of her own failing marriage (I didn't find these elements as strong as those about her relationship with her mother).

I'll definitely be looking out for what McColl writes next.

Kris B says

“I loved my mother and she died. Is that a story?”

This book caught me off guard and pulled me in with that first line.

What follows is the story of a mother’s impact on her family, and especially on her daughter, Sarah.

The language is rife with beautiful metaphors, and the structure is delicately woven around memories of her mother.

This is a tender artful expression of pain and longing, beautifully written.

Finishing it, I’m reminded of the great value of memories, and the stories they carry.

Jaclyn Hillis says

Joy Enough is a beautifully written memoir about love, and the life and loss of her mother.

I received an advanced copy from NY BookCon.

E Emens says

This memoir is exquisite. Familiar, precise, and painful; gorgeous, luxurious, and, in rare and surprising moments, laugh-out-loud funny. Anyone who has loved, and then stopped, can relate. Anyone who has loved someone that much, and walked through their dying, can relate. As can anyone who has been a daughter who loved her mother. Or who has been accused of making too much meaning out of small matters. McColl makes words do unusual things yet aims always to communicate more than to dazzle. Quite simply, an astonishing book.

Lisa Cobb Sabatini says

I won an Advance Reading Copy of Joy Enough: A Memoir by Sarah McColl from Goodreads.

I'm reading Joy Enough: A Memoir by Sarah McColl, readers experience defining moments in the author's life that are at once unique to the writer and familiar to the reader. Recognizing the growing pains endured by the author and sharing the emotions, readers can't help but to empathize with McColl and to revisit the precious, life changing, identity forming moments of their own lives.

Sweet and sad, insightful and uplifting, Sarah McColl's Joy Enough is a quick read with a long impact.

Kim Bakos says

This book was a sweet remembrance of the author's mother. I liked her writing style, but found the shifts in time to be a little hard to follow. I found the falling apart of her marriage to be sad since it seems that in some ways they were still in love. Marriage is something to fight for, not to be discarded once you are "over it". I read the book in one day, so I enjoyed it, but won't say it is a "must read" for me.

Anne E says

I loved this memoir. Sarah speaks of the big things we all experience love and loss with a feminine and poetic voice. This is a book that lingers with you after you are done. I highly recommend reading it. It will make you cry at the fragility of love and at the same time deeply understand the value of it.

Jenny (Reading Envy) says

I'm all in for grief memoirs, still, and Joy Enough by Sarah McColl is an honest capture of layered grief - loss of marriage, loss of mother. It's not only bad parts and her past is largely positive, so it isn't all sad, very true to reality.

I would give this to a friend struggling with a parent's illness or terminal diagnosis. It's hopeful in its straightforward look at everyday death (that never feels "normal" when you go through it.)

Martha Toll says

Here is my review of this book on NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2019/01/16/685099...>

Joy says

Absolutely beautiful memoir from a woman who has lost her mother and divorced her husband. (Although she gets a divorce because she has been unfaithful, and somehow it was surprising and hard to read about a woman being unfaithful.)

The book is ~2/3 about her mother's death and ~1/3 about her own divorce. The prose is very genuine throughout and hauntingly beautiful at places. Highly recommend. (Also, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that she talks about the More-with-Less cookbook at one place!!)

“Our marriage, in the end, had echoed with loneliness... To feel the absence of affection between us where once there had been so much, florid and overflowing—*that* was lonely. This was just being alone. Empty rooms, carrying the laundry, the bed so wide I began to sleep diagonally across it. I could begin to wrap my arms around each instance, one by one; I could get sea legs on the ocean of aloneness. As a divorced person it was not terrible.” p146

Kayo says

I almost gave up on this book , but so glad I didn't. Very touching, and it just spoke to me. Lovely. So worth it.

Thanks you Goodreads for letting me win this book. While I got the book for free,it had no bearing on the rating I gave it.

Zoe says

Like a cool washcloth on a hot forehead. This was the perfect balm for my own grieving soul.

Bamboozlepig says

It was okay, although the bouncing around between past and present was a bit confusing. Some of the writing was overly purple prose, while other parts were beautifully done. But it was still a heartbreaking read as McColl not only tried to deal with her mother's death, but also the disintegration of her marriage.

Jennifer Romolini says

Sarah McColl is a gorgeous, generous writer; with the kind of gentleness, warmth, and depth of skill that makes even the most crushingly sad moments in her work feel hopeful and alive. This book is about grief — but also about love and truth and understanding and discovering who we are. I finished "Joy Enough" last month and have not stopped thinking about it since. I honestly don't know if I ever will.
