



52 Little Lessons from It's a Wonderful Life

Bob Welch

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Do you pay a visit to Bedford Falls every Christmas? Does December feel incomplete without a reminder that no man is a failure who has friends? If George and Mary Bailey are annual guests at your home during the holidays, you already know that It's A Wonderful Life is far more than just a festive seasonal film. It's a reflection of what we can be when we're at our best and a reminder that our lives can change everyone around us for better or worse. Revisit the defining lessons in Frank Capra's 1946 classic, and discover new dimensions of the film you've seen time and again. What can you learn from Mary's quiet contentedness? Does George's selflessness make you rethink your own priorities? And how about Clarence's dogged commitment to his assignment? Join author Bob Welch for a close-up of the characters and themes that shape this beautiful story. You'll be reminded that life's most important work is often the work we never planned to do and that God can use the most unlikely among us to get the job done. From the lightheartedness of George and Mary's floor-parting dance to the poignancy of a community that rallies to save a desperate man, 52 Little Lessons from It's a Wonderful Life will inspire you to live for the deeper stuff that, as George Bailey finds, matters most."

52 Little Lessons from It's a Wonderful Life Details

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From Reader Review 52 Little Lessons from It's a Wonderful Life for online ebook

Marilee says

This is another book that I borrowed after watching It's a Wonderful Life with friends and my husband at the Admiral Theatre. This one finds lessons that we can learn from the film and apply to our lives. I really enjoyed reading it, and even passed along a bit to my son who is currently serving a mission. Most chapters reference the bible as well, which I thought would make the lessons sound preachy, but it was well done and the verses served to solidify the author's point. This is a fun little book to pull out and read a little here and there.

Shari says

I am a huge fan of the movie It's a Wonderful Life. It is my must watch Christmas movie, and my hubby is the poor soul who gets to watch it with me. He claims to tolerate it barely...but if truth be told...he quotes it all year. So I am not sure how much I believe of his dislike for the movie.

When my younger sister was looking for a Christmas present for me, she struggled to find the perfect gift, but knew that when she saw it she would know. That was when she stumbled across 52 Little Lessons from It's a Wonderful Life.

I have always found that story so full of life lessons, and tidbits we could take away so I was interested to see what this author would introduce as life lessons.

If you are reading this book cover to cover like I did you may think it is a bit repetitive in spots, I think you could easily break it into 1 chapter per week for the whole year. Although after reading it, I do want to watch the movie again.

The repetitive parts are just that he repeats parts of the movie that he pulls lessons from. Like one scene he may find different lessons from, or say one quote he uses to reiterate a different lesson.

Over all I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and found myself learning a lot, or agreeing along. I like things that challenge my way of thinking or reaffirm my personal beliefs. Bob Welch did both with this great book.

I believe that if you are a fan of the movie, you will enjoy this book, and it will help you to look at the movie in a new light and your own life as well.

Guida Brown says

I really looked forward to reading this book, and I did so in one sitting. However, I'm dismayed by the inaccuracies and errors in the book. I wonder if Bob Welch has seen It's a Wonderful Life more than once. First, let me say that I have a deep affinity for the movie; as Mr. Welch mentions in his author's note about the bank president using scenes for training purposes, I, too, during my tenure as the Director of HR and

Training for a local credit union, used scenes from the movie. Also, I have had three dogs named after characters from the movie, so to say it's my favorite Christmas movie would be an understatement.

The first typo I encountered was on page xii. "Its a Wonderful Life." Really? There are inconsistencies throughout...is it "the Building and Loan" or "Building and Loan," which sounds pretty awkward? Are plural possessives made with or without the s after the apostrophe? See pages 35 (Martinis') and 83 (Browns's); I submit there should be no s. There are other mechanical problems, i.e., missing commas, misplaced commas, etc., and I don't want to anguish over them except to say this is pretty poor quality in a book; this quality in a newspaper or magazine I could understand.

However, here are my biggest concerns:

on page 38, "As Mary says: 'Enter the Martini castle.'" It was George who said that.

on page 69, "married to Mary Hatch, father of three children...." They had four children.

on page 88, "When he taps her on the shoulder to suggest she and her partner can remain in the Charleston contest...." According to Harry right before this scene, those NOT tapped can remain in the contest.

on page 189, "his daughter Zuzu and her paper flower." What? The flower isn't paper. She supposedly gets sick because she doesn't want to crush it; she wants to put it in water to give it a drink; and, just looking at it, anyone can tell, it's not paper.

Finally, anyone who loves the movie knows that it's not in public domain anymore, despite Mr. Welch saying on page 193 that "its exclusive commercial worth [is] irretrievably lost." No; it's not. A simple Internet search indicates that in 1993 Republic regained control of the movie, which is why it's once again only shown a couple times per Christmas season.

I must say, if I had read any reviews that indicated that the book was so full of errors about the movie, I would never have purchased it. While the 52 lessons were somewhat endearing, if not repetitive, the endearing quotient didn't outweigh the frustration.

Selina Bloomfield says

"It's a Wonderful Life" is one of my all time favorite movies. I really enjoyed this book. I gave it four stars instead of five because there were some inaccuracies from what happened/was said in the movie to what the author said in his book. Perfect book to read before Christmas or weekly throughout the year.

Rachel says

I appreciated some of the points that were made in this book but the author didn't get all of his facts right about the movie, and sometimes the writing seemed too redundant for me. But it was cute and I'm glad I had the opportunity to read it.

Erin says

It's a Wonderful Life is my favorite Christmas movie, and this book is full of reminders about why I love it. Bob Welch thoughtfully dissects the movie and its characters, discussing what we can learn from this classic

film. Having enjoyed his similar book on Les Miserables, I knew this would be perfect holiday reading material, and it was!

Each chapter begins with a quote from or about the movie, and then talks about how we can apply various themes and thoughts into our lives. I love George Bailey and the impact he makes on Bedford Falls. As Welch says on page 90, "...*The good we bring to the world, to the community, to our families, doesn't necessarily have to be big and glitzy. It can be small and quiet, which doesn't negate its importance.*" This is something I'm passionate about, and I love it when other people catch this vision.

I enjoyed the backstory and behind-the-scenes tidbits about the movie that Welch highlights. He talks about various script changes that Frank Capra's story underwent, tells us which lines the actors ad libbed that made the final cut, and comments on public perception of the film when it was released in 1946 versus how it's viewed today. It was clear the cinematic history was carefully researched and is seamlessly woven into the narrative, showing the high regard Welch holds for the movie.

The book is also laced with Scripture and makes plenty of connection to faith's influence on our lives. How does God desire us to live? Does He value the sacrifices we must make for others? Jesus knows more sacrifice than any one of us. I'd definitely say this book was written for a Christian audience.

"*People respond to those who inspire, which is what, in his quiet way, George does,*" Welch writes on page 157. I hope that you and I will be more aware of the ways we can touch and inspire the world around us, both in this Christmas season and throughout the New Year. May we change our worlds the way George Bailey changed Bedford Falls!

This review originated at <http://reviewsbyerin.livejournal.com>

Angie says

This book made me look at the movie with so much more appreciation. The lessons were thoughtful and made me realize there are people in the world that share wholesome values. Great Christmas read!

JLynn says

Interesting insights

I greatly enjoyed this book and the author's insights. My only criticism is that it probably could've been twenty lessons, instead of fifty-two. They sometimes got a little redundant. But, I plan to read this book again. Lots of gems.

Rick Davis says

I love the movie and the book highlights many great lessons. I enjoyed each chapter.

Cindy says

Life lessons from the classic movie "It's a Wonderful Life". Author Bob Welch offers 52 lessons, infused with spirituality, being good to others, having faith, humility, and finding value in one's life. The book contains some scriptural reference, as well as some historical film facts that may be interesting to some readers.

As I started to read this book, I found it interesting and a "feel good" read. But about half way though, it seemed to get repetitive. The same lessons, just reworded. And also, the author used some of the same quotes from the movie more than once. So it became a little bit boring to read cover to cover.

I think the writing format; 52 lessons, i.e.: 52 weeks of the year, is meant just for that. Read one chapter (one lesson) for each week of the year, and then some of the points mentioned would be reinforced and not seem repetitive. So I think this would make a nice gift book. Overall, for me, an average read.

I received this book from Booksneeze in exchange for my honest review.

Alicia says

This was a nice little book, even though some people might call it "sentimental hogwash." :) Even though there was some repetition in it, I enjoyed it and think fans of the movie will probably enjoy it, too.

Ray Palen says

Next to A CHRISTMAS CAROL (particularly the Alastair Sim version), my next favorite holiday film is Frank Capra's "It's A Wonderful Life".

The funny thing is that I don't really consider it a 'Christmas movie'. The pivotal climax scene takes place on Christmas Eve, but I always felt this film could well be viewed and enjoyed year round. 52 LITTLE LESSONS from It's a Wonderful Life by Bob Welch gives a thorough examination of this great film and is essential reading for fans of it.

52 short chapters highlight a Lesson, feature a blurb from the film and then goes on to analyze the scenes, characters involved and even tie in some biblical verses to infuse some spirituality into an already excellent examination of this movie.

Moon Maiden (M. Perez) says

I love the movie and I love this book!!! Welch does bring out points that we miss not only in the movie but in life. We need to slow down and appreciate what we have no matter how small it seems.

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

"It's full of romance, that old place. I'd like to live in it." ~ Mary, on the night she and George throw rocks and make wishes at the old Granville House.

This is the quote from Chapter 19, titled "Don't look for What is, but for What May Be" in the book, 52 Little Lessons from It's A Wonderful Life by Bob Welch. In this chapter, the reader is reminded of how vastly different George and Mary view their world; for George at 12 years old working the soda fountain he informs Mary where Coconuts come from, "Tahiti, Fiji Islands, the Coral Sea!" Mary has no idea where they come from, she just wants chocolate ice cream while George wants to go exploring.

But here's the thing about Mary Hatch: She knows what matters. She has keen insight. Imagination. Initiative. Intuition. Perspective. And, when you boil it right down, wisdom. And what it all seems to tell her is this: the grass isn't necessarily greener somewhere else. Why not, instead, take what you have right now, right here, and make the most of it?

We first see that in the soda shop scene. Forget the ice cream. Forget the Fiji Islands. What Mary wants, among other things we can assume, is to grow up and marry George Bailey. It may only be puppy love, but when Mary whispers into George's bad ear, "I'll love you till the day I die," we're witnessing the initiative of a young woman who knows something good when she sees it. Never mind that this model comes with its deficiencies; the kid can't hear out of one ear since he jumped into that icy pond to save his brother. Despite George's weaknesses, Mary sees something special in him. Mary sees potential in things where most see only weaknesses, like God does with us. He doesn't care as much about where we've been as where we are going. About what we look like now as what we might look like in the future. About the defeats of yesterday as what might be our victories of tomorrow. With Him, all things are made new. Even decrepit folks like us." (pg, 74)

This book takes readers back to their favorite Christmas classic and teaches us through the movie, It's a Wonderful Life, how God wants us to learn things through His word to make us better people. I am so excited to share this treasure with you through my review and since there are 52 lessons captured in this book, there is one for each week, but I had to read them all. Such classic lines are quoted to open each of the chapters, and we are taken back to specific clips in the movie to see things we didn't know were there, little nuggets of pure Godly wisdom that when applied can change our perspective on things much like how Mary Hatch views the Granville House that is abandoned and in a state of complete disrepair. George doesn't even want to live in it as a ghost but Mary sees the potential of what good be.

We are reminded that it's far too easy to focus on how bad things look instead of simply changing our perspectives and seeing the greatness that is there instead. Mary's ability to take what life has given her and she makes the most of it. Quite simply, Mary teaches us that the best things in life are simple things that surround us, especially when coupled with our imaginations. Then we can exploit those things for goodness. And with God's help, to make it more than anyone else could have imagined.

I received 52 Little Lessons from It's A Wonderful Life by Bob Welch compliments of Thomas Nelson Publishers for my honest review and HIGHLY RECOMMEND this one to anyone who is a fan of It's A Wonderful Life. There are such amazing things tucked inside this wonderful book, fun movie facts, and life lessons that are bound to keep the Christmas spirit going inside us all year long. I easily rate this as a 5 out of 5 stars and will definitely keep this one near me all year long for reference and a constant reminder of what is good in our lives everyday if we are simply willing to find it.

Erin says

Favorite Christmas Movie of all time. This could be my favorite book. If I read it again and enough times it probably will become just that. If you want to improve on being a better person. Read this book.
