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Noah's Compass: A Novel

By Anne Tyler



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Liam Pennywell, who set out to be a philosopher and ended up teaching fifth grade, never much liked the job at that run-down private school, so early retirement doesn't bother him. But he is troubled by his inability to remember anything about the first night that he moved into his new and spare condominium on the outskirts of Baltimore. All he knows when he wakes up the next day in the hospital is that his head is sore and bandaged. His effort to recover the moments of his life that have been stolen from him leads him on an unexpected detour. What he needs is someone who can do the remembering for him. What he gets is . . . well, something quite different.

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Noah's Compass: A Novel By Anne Tyler Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Like Tyler's previous protagonists, Liam Pennywell is a man of unexceptional talents, plain demeanor, modest means and curtailed ambition. At age 60, he's been fired from his teaching job at a second-rate private boys' school in Baltimore, a job below his academic training and original expectations. An unsentimental, noncontemplative survivor of two failed marriages and the emotionally detached father of three grown daughters, Liam is jolted into alarm after he's attacked in his apartment and loses all memory of the experience. His search to recover those lost hours leads him into an uneasy exploration of his disappointing life and into an unlikely new relationship with Eunice, a socially inept walking fashion disaster who is half his age. She is also spontaneous and enthusiastic, and Liam longs to cast off his inertia and embrace the joyous recklessness that he feels in her company. Tyler's gift is to make the reader empathize with this flawed but decent man, and to marvel at how this determinedly low-key, plainspoken novelist achieves miracles of insight and understanding. (*Jan.*)

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Review

"Gracefully written tragicomedy . . . seasoned with poetic images [and] gentle humor."—*USA Today*

"An arresting premise [that] pays off in unexpected ways . . . Tyler's writing is as lovely and transparent as ever."—*The Boston Globe*

"Tyler's most profound strengths lie in her ability to make her stories resonate with readers. . . . With self-assurance and her trademark empathy, Tyler makes the commonplace uncommonly rich and the ordinary extraordinarily touching."—*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

"A gripping, page-turner of a novel [that] radiates with life."—*Houston Chronicle*

"[Tyler] reminds us of the infinite reach of our humanity."—*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"[A] sensitive, witty story."—*The Washington Post*

"[An] offbeat delight."—*O: The Oprah Magazine*

About the Author

Anne Tyler was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1941 and grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. This is her eighteenth novel. Her eleventh, *Breathing Lessons*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1988. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jess Bolan:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a book. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Noah's Compass: A Novel. Try to face the book Noah's Compass: A Novel as your buddy. It means that it can to be your friend when you truly feel alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let me make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

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