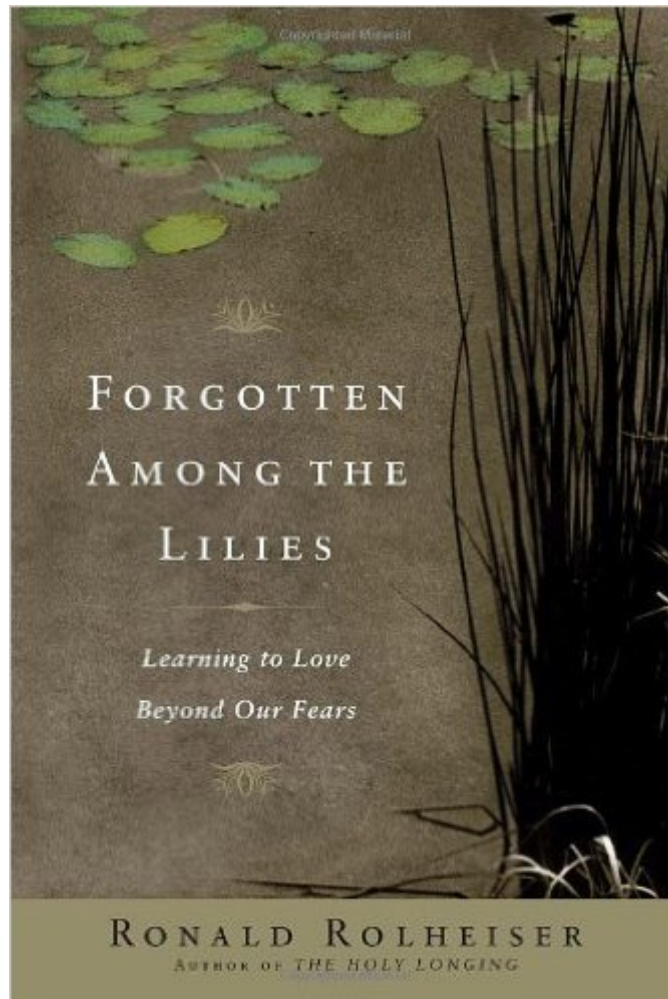


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Forgotten Among The Lilies: Learning To Love Beyond Our Fears



Synopsis

The author of *The Holy Longing* explores the debilitating obsessions that often dominate our lives and offers down-to-earth guidance for learning to leave our fears, anxieties, and guilt behind among the lilies. Rarely do we taste the food we eat or the coffee we drink. Instead we go through our days too preoccupied, too compulsive, and too dissatisfied to really be able to be present for and celebrate our own lives. Ronald Rolheiser writes in the introduction to this powerful collection of essays. *Forgotten Among the Lilies* shows that there is a better way to find contentment and joy. Only by trusting in God's grace and providence, Rolheiser argues, can we move beyond our obsessions and rejoice in what we have and who we are. With his trademark blend of insight, compassion, and honesty laced with humor, the author teaches that it is possible to experience freedom instead of anxiety, solitude instead of loneliness, and a generosity of spirit that returns to the giver far more than it costs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ronald Rolheiser has many gifts he brings to spiritual writing. First he is a person of deep faith. He is also aware of the world we live in today, both its good points and its flaws. Combine this with a keen insight into people and a Catholicism that combines the best of the Catholic tradition with current insights into what feeds and nourishes people and you get an idea of what he brings to the table. *FORGOTTEN AMONG THE LILIES* is a departure from some of his other works. Instead of being a monograph about a certain subject, it is a collection of essays based on articles and columns he has written over the years and talks he has given. He divides them into thirteen

categories and in each category there is a selection of essays. Most are short and can be read in one sitting and used for reflection. The themes of Rolheisser's earlier works such as the emptiness we can experience without God, the need for a fruitful prayer life, and the importance of belonging to a community of believers can be found in this volume. His writings reflect the concerns of the time including the aftermath of September 11, 2001 and the clergy sexual abuse scandal facing the Catholic Church but are focused solely on the two situations. At times I have been in discussion groups where articles by Rolheiser have been used to begin the debate. I have found that lively and interesting conversations have followed reading his works. This book which is ideal for either individual or group reading will certainly enliven a reading group or adult education class.

This new book is a collection of his columns on spirituality. Ron Rolheiser continues to invite me deeper into intimacy with God, by considering my deep passions, addictions, longings, and to believe that God is present in all things. By his own honesty and transparency in this book, Father Rolheiser invites you and me to be real and honest with God and ourselves. Father Brad Karelius, Pastor, Messiah Episcopal Church, Santa Ana, CA

This is a wonderful book for readers who have enjoyed other works of Ron Rohlheiser. The title comes from the last stanza of the poem "Dark Night of the Soul" and assures us that we can leave our fears, guilt, anxieties, compulsions, etc. to be "forgotten among the lilies" when we rest our heads on the bosom of Jesus. It is a contemporary book on Providence.

Rohlheiser brings us some of the freshest insights into the ethics, psychology, theology, and sociology of the modern era. As one seeks to enter what Fr. Richard Rohr has labeled "the second half of life," one can't help but question anything and everything one has been taught about navigating one's spiritual journey from birth on. I can confidently assert that this little volume serves up knocks-your-socks-off wisdom that entertains as it instructs. Just the right strategy to aid readers of all persuasions.

I found this book to be very helpful and one to reflect on. I think this is one of Rolheiser's best.

I have practiced my Christian religion all my life, but I liked this book so much because it made me stop and think about so many things I have let slide in my life as I became older and involved in many things. It was just what I needed to get back on track and travel in my beliefs a little more

secure.

I am not sure how I found this book, but I am glad I did. I am probably going to have to read it a couple of times. There is no way I can really comprehend fully a lot of the ideas in this book. I also see now I need to purchase a dictionary. I will definitely purchase book for gifts-

I read this book and I am very grateful. It is inspiring and very spiritual. It focuses on Jesus and other principles of Catholicism. Fr. Rolheiser is a good writer from beginning to end. I got a lot out of the book personally. I recommend it to others. Sister Mary Agnes Cross

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