



## Have a Little Faith: a True Story

*Mitch Albom*

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## Have a Little Faith: a True Story Mitch Albom

In *Have a Little Faith*, Mitch Albom offers a beautifully written story of a remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds--two men, two faiths, two communities--that will inspire readers everywhere.

Albom's first nonfiction book since *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Have a Little Faith* begins with an unusual request: an eighty-two-year-old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy.

Feeling unworthy, Albom insists on understanding the man better, which throws him back into a world of faith he'd left years ago. Meanwhile, closer to his current home, Albom becomes involved with a Detroit pastor--a reformed drug dealer and convict--who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof.

Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and well-to-do, Albom observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat.

As America struggles with hard times and people turn more to their beliefs, Albom and the two men of God explore issues that perplex modern man: how to endure when difficult things happen; what heaven is; intermarriage; forgiveness; doubting God; and the importance of faith in trying times. Although the texts, prayers, and histories are different, Albom begins to recognize a striking unity between the two worlds--and indeed, between beliefs everywhere.

In the end, as the rabbi nears death and a harsh winter threatens the pastor's wobbly church, Albom sadly fulfills the rabbi's last request and writes the eulogy. And he finally understands what both men had been teaching all along: the profound comfort of believing in something bigger than yourself.

*Have a Little Faith* is a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story.

Ten percent of the profits from this book will go to charity, including The Hole In The Roof Foundation, which helps refurbish places of worship that aid the homeless.

## Have a Little Faith: a True Story Details

Date : Published September 29th 2009 by Hachette Books

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Author : Mitch Albom

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Genre : Nonfiction, Inspirational

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## From Reader Review Have a Little Faith: a True Story for online ebook

### Amy says

I knew this book was on my TBR for a reason. What a gem it was. What a beautiful moving book. I'm so glad the autobiography challenge gave me the opportunity to read it. As they say, timing is everything.

Premise: A young man, writer, journalist, and documenter of life journeys, is asked by his childhood rabbi to write his eulogy. Thus begins an 8 year journey where he tries to learn about the man behind the pulpit, and to ask questions about how faith is developed and sustained. During these conversations, and while the author is examining and re-examining his own faith, beliefs, and journey, he meets Reverend Henry Covington. A former drug addict and dealer, convict, thief, adulterer, and every other myriad of sins, at the bottom depth of his pain and treachery and danger, he reaches out to God. This begins a change in Henry that leads him to establish a church in downtown Detroit for the homeless. Reverend Covington finds God and miracles in a dilapidated church where the heat and gas has been shut off. But the homeless live there and dry out there, and slowly a community forms. Mitch Albom traces a journey of finding faith and God with both of these men, and with himself. The book is his journey to answer questions of God and Faith. It's also a eulogy for a beloved Rabbi, Man of God and Faith, an homage to second chances, to finding God in the most unlikely places. And it's his own journey to understand what God and Faith means to him.

This was a beautiful book, and I found it both beautiful and unforgettable.

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### K.D. Absolutely says

My fourth Mitch Albom and he is still to disappoint. Quick read but I found myself still pausing every now and then as I had to digest his words. The writing is Hallmark-card perfect but who hated receiving and reading Hallmark cards? I definitely recall with fondness those years when I used to receive greeting cards on special occasions.

Albom is the guy in the current mainstream writers. His works are all bestsellers and have been translated in many languages, sold in many countries and made into award-winning TV series. They are short, physical books are small and handy with big prints, and full of food thoughts for the soul. It took me awhile to pick this fourth book up though. Why? After the third book, his style seemed to be predictable: some stories about ordinary folks (The Five People You Meet in Heaven, For One More Day) and inject the subject of death or dying (The Five People You Meet in Heaven, For One More Day, Tuesdays with Morrie) and then throw in lots of heart-tugging emotional lines about love and family (The Five People You Meet in Heaven, For One More Day) or pepper it with some religious questions about how God works in our lives or the meaning of life (Tuesdays with Morrie).

This book has all those ingredients. It is about a Jewish man, apathetic about religion, asked by his childhood pastor to write the latter's eulogy. The man, the congregant is Mitch Albom himself as this is based on "True Story" or so the title of the book says. Albom had to spend 8 years, on-off, spending time with the pastor to prepare his eulogy. There is another pastor, this time a Catholic who used to be an ex-drug addict, that is supposed to provide a bit of a contrast to the Jewish pastor's character but it somehow confused me

rather than heightened my interest on this supposedly true story.

Still, one will marvel about the Hallmark-perfect lines that you no longer hear very often in this chaotic, busy world of ours. They have the power to warm your heart and even make you cry if you love those dramatic lines in the movies or telenovelas.

Overall, this is still an okay book. Just like Paolo Coelho and Nicholas Sparks, Mitch Albom is an institution in mainstream writing. Many people love them and I know why.

So, I am still glad to have read another Mitch Albom.

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### **Paria says**

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### **Aj the Ravenous Reader says**

I didn't love it as much as I did the other books by Mitch Albom but this one is still worth reading.

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### **Shantelle says**

"In the beginning, there was a question.

"In the end, the question gets answered." - Mitch Albom

I just finished reading *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom. I'm not sure why I picked up this novel to read. Perhaps I was bored and needed something to do, perhaps I was looking for something to feel a void; or perhaps, just perhaps, I needed a little bit of faith.

*Have a Little Faith* is an amazing story about a Rabbi, a Christian Minister, and a man with very little faith. This book will take you through an incredible journey with a beautiful message in the end. I felt inspired after reading this book. Sometimes in life I forget to look up and thank the man upstairs. I forget to thank him for another day, another blessing, another lesson learned.

I highly recommend this book to anyone from any religion. Funny, I'm a Black-American woman is engaged to a Jewish man. I often wondered how our two different religions could mix. This book taught me a little something- regardless of religion, "faith is employed similarly." No matter our beliefs and religion, our faith is tied to the same God. This book will help you to find comfort in believing in something bigger than

yourself.

Keep the Faith my friends, and go purchase this book!

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### **Sue says**

I purchased "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom, after receiving a recommendation to read this book. This was such an uplifting novel that I couldn't put down. Such an emotional rollercoaster. I felt so good after reading this novel. "Have a little Faith" is a true story nonfiction book that can open your eyes and heart, and allow you to realize how precious life is. It is about believing in something and the two men who taught him how.

The novel centers around three people: Mitch, a jewish man who inter married who no longer had time for religion, and Albert (Reb), a jewish rabbi, and Henry, a pastor of "I am my Brother's Keeper Ministry", an intercity church. The Reb was Mitch's rabbi growing up. Both men play a very important part in Mitch's life.

Albert in the spring of 2000 was eighty two and had made a strange request of Mitch. "Will you do my eulogy?." Mitch had agreed to honor his request but wanted to get to know him better. And there starts the journey...

I am very proud to have had the honor of reading this book. Everybody should read this book...and they will never be the same.

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### **Lyn says**

The thing about Mitch is that he is ever so much too syrupy, almost but not quite dripping from the page.

Not overly melodramatic, or too nostalgic or sentimental, not even really distasteful, I like his writing, but just a little too much. Like a glass of sweet tea that is just too full of sugar, needs a good squirt of lemon to knock it down a bit.

Having said that, I like Albom and his writing. I like that he's a baseball fan. He's worldly, observant and funny - he's a sportswriter after all, like James Wood without the edge.

I liked this better than The Five People You Meet in Heaven. This was real, approachable and thoughtful. I thought of Randy Pausch's The Last Lecture and several people I know from my little bit of mission work. It's a good book.

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### **Owlseyes says**

Just watched the movie; it's about two parallel (real) stories; one on Rabbi Albert L. Lewis; the other on Henry Covington. The sportswriter is the intersecting point. He's been asked an eulogy by the Rabbi; yet, he'll get to know also a former drug-dealer and drug-addict, Henry Covington, now a minister in a Presbyterian, Detroit church, crumbling apart. While collecting data from the Rabbi's life, the sportswriter will witness change in himself.

The church gets rebuilt.

Life takes on a new meaning.

Poignant,... for both those two lives under examination.

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UPDATE

Mitch Albom has written, very recently, an interesting article:  
"Lady Liberty has her say about The Wall"

In: <http://www.freep.com/story/sports/col...>

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### **Mia Prasetya says**

**Books can be dangerous. The best ones should be labeled "This could change your life." ~Helen Exley**

Quote yang sudah pernah saya dengar sebelumnya, kemarin baca lagi dari status updatenya mbak Lita dan quote di atas sangat melukiskan perasaan saya semalam ketika begadang menyelesaikan buku Mitch Albom terbaru *Have a Little Faith*. Penulis bahkan menyatakan "It is... the most important thing I've ever written," . Di bukunya kali ini Mitch Albom mengajak kita untuk menyelami iman, cinta, toleransi antar umat beragama dengan kalimatnya yang sederhana namun penuh dengan makna. Saya sendiri beberapa kali membaca ulang beberapa paragraf karena indahnya makna yang disampaikan.

*Have a Little Faith* adalah buku non fiksi yang ditulis dalam kurun waktu 8 tahun, berkisah tentang perjalanan hidup 3 pria - seorang rabi tua, pendeta kulit hitam dengan masa lalu yang kelam serta Mitch Albom sendiri. Mirip dengan *Tuesdays with Morrie*, buku diawali dengan permintaan Rabi Mitch Albom sedari ia kecil dulu, "Maukah kau menyampaikan eulogi terakhir untukku bila aku mati?" Mitch Albom tentu saja kaget dan tak paham dengan pertanyaan sang Rabi dan balik bertanya mengapa ia yang dipilih? "Karena menurutku kaulah orang yang tepat. Dan kupikir bila tiba waktunya, kau tahu apa yang akan disampaikan."

Paragraf terakhir dari prolog di halaman awal buku :

Ini kisah tentang keyakinan terhadap sesuatu dan dua orang yang sangat berbeda mengajariku tentang cara beriman. Dibutuhkan waktu yang panjang untuk menuliskannya. Penulisannya membuatku mendatangi gereja dan sinagoga, daerah pinggiran dan kota, dan membawaku ke konsep "kita" versus "mereka" yang memecah belah keyakinan di seluruh dunia.

Dan akhirnya kisah ini membawaku ke rumah, ke persemayaman yang dipenuhi orang, ke peti mati dari kayu pinus, ke lubang yang masih kosong. Awalnya adalah sebuah pertanyaan yang kemudian menjadi

permintaan terakhir "Maukah kau menyampaikan eulogi untukku?"

Dan sebagaimana dengan keyakinan lainnya, aku merasa sedang dimintai pertolongan, padahal akulah yang sedang ditolong.

Selesai membaca buku ini, saya juga merasa telah ditolong. :)

Mitch Albom akhirnya menyanggupi permintaan Rabi untuk menyampaikan eulogi ketika Rabi meninggal nanti, namun untuk sebuah eulogi, Mitch Albom harus mengenal Rabi lebih jauh, bukan hanya sebatas orang pilihan Tuhan yang berkotbah setiap Minggu, melainkan ia harus mengenal Rabi sebagai manusia biasa. Dan dari sinilah kisah mulai bergulir, secara berkala Mitch mengunjungi Rabi untuk sekedar bertanya dan bercerita.

Suatu kali, saat Rabi di rumah sakit ada lengkingan bayi. *"Nah, anak itu mengingatkanku akan sesuatu yang diajarkan tokoh besar kita. Ketika bayi lahir ke dunia, tangannya mengepal bukan?", ujar Rabi sambil mengepalkan tangannya.*

*"Lalu ketika seseorang yang tua meninggal, bagaimana ia mati? Dengan tangan terbuka. Mengapa? Karena ia telah mendapatkan pelajaran itu". Kemudian ia merentangkan jemarinya lebar-lebar. "Kita tidak dapat membawa apapun."*

\*ah indahnya, bahkan di saat saya mengetik ulang paragraf di atas dada saya terasa sesak\*

Satu lagi paragraf favorit saya di halaman 109.

"Jadi, sudahkah kita menyimpulkan rahasia kebahagiaan?"

"Menurutku begitu."

"Apakah anda akan memberitahu saya?"

"Ya. Siap?"

"Siap."

"Merasa cukup."

"Itu saja?"

"Penuh rasa syukur."

"Itu saja?"

"Atas apa yang kita miliki. Atas cinta yang kita terima. Dan, atas segala yang Tuhan berikan kepada kita."

"Hanya itu?"

Ia menatap mata Mitch Albom, menghela nafas panjang.

"Hanya itu."

Huft. Masih banyak paragraf dan kalimat yang ingin saya bagikan di sini, tapi sepertinya review ini sudah terlalu panjang. So, read it people :) A. Must. Read. Book! Apapun agama anda, buku ini tidak bercerita mengenai agama, melainkan iman dan kecintaan kita terhadap sesama. Buku ini ditutup dengan eulogi Mitch Albom di saat penguburan Rabi, sukses membuat saya mrebes mili.

5 bintang dari saya, sepuluh kalau bisa!

Cover : Cover terbitan Gramedia sama dengan cover buku aslinya. Konsep covernya diilhami oleh kumpulan kliping Rabi yang diikat dengan karet gelang. Nice :)

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### **Sheryl says**

One word - Amazing!

I'm really glad I chose to get the book. It was a very insightful and thought provoking read for me. Many parts of the book moved me to tears, and I loved the sermons. I could relate them with everyday life! I don't believe in any religion, so I started reading with a little trepidation, afraid it would start talking about converting etc. But boy was I wrong! This book is about faith, not just any specific religion.. but believing in something bigger than yourself. It'll make you rethink about your acts in the future, decisions.. and what life is really all about.

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### **Mark John says**

One of my favorite lines from this book is "No matter which road you decide to take on your life's journey, just make sure God is an intimate part of it". God gave us the will to choose whether to be good or to be bad, he proved how good He is. Becoming good or bad is always a choice but what we need to remember is God is always there to accept who we are, even though we made sins and troubles from our past, we're not perfect we all know that and God also know that. Like what is being introduced from the story, Henry Covington a man of God when he was a child, but because of too many circumstances he faced from his childhood, his path went wrong. His mother got jailed when he was 9 years old for shooting his father's leg, his father died from suffering severe illness, he has too many siblings, he also got jailed when he was 19 for a crime he did not commit, and he saw the worst side of life, because of all those factors he easily learned how to use cigarettes, how to drink alcohol, and the worst thing was he learned how to sell drugs and how to use it. Henry's past was very stupid to him but after a single night when his life was in danger he requested God to save him and he promised that he will start to change and start a new life. After that night, he started a new chapter of his life, he changed his path and he put God above all, he became a pastor on a church with hole on its roof and he served for his homeless brothers and sisters by giving them home. "God is good all the time" and this book proved that line is true. God accepted Henry despite of all the bad things he made from his past. God don't judge us based from our past he looks from where we stand now. I hope that people will also do the same thing as what God did, we should not judge others from what they did from their past because God made the word "CHANGE" for us. Remember that there are no permanent things in this world but change; there is always space for us to change for the better.

**Nancy says**

I assumed this would be a typical Mitch Albom book, sentimental with "profound" life advice. I feel like it's un-American not to read these short best selling books about finding what ever it is he is selling. I was correct. But I had forgotten how his simple story telling can get to your soul; the real reason these books are so successful. This one doesn't disappoint. To me it was much less about the two men he learns from and more about his insight into himself. Maybe it's because we are so close in age with similar family upbringings that this hits me in the gut or because for me it's an interesting look into the mind of a man hitting mid-life and the things he is still learning. (Something a woman rarely sees from the inside out) Either way, for the few hours it will take you to get through it, I recommend it for all.

## Raha says

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**leslie hamod says**

Great! What more can I say. Just what I needed on a sad day. Touches the heart! Quick, easy read full of meaning. Just like eating a warm brownie when my mother was alive.

## **Sali Sabrawi says**

Deep and brilliant.

## Soplada says

Partially this book holds the same journey as the one with the professor Morrie Schwartz in Tuesdays with Morrie but here it has more a religious message which I found so many resembling spiritual values in my religion like: loving every person, giving, caring and turning to God whatever the situation is. I found *Sami*

*Yusuf* New Song which celebrates The World Interfaith Harmony Week 2015 is a big match for this faith**FULL** book:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHFuy...>

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### **Br Stabin John Capuchin says**

It is with grace of Jesus we all are saved.

A book that gifted me lot of amazing moments. Wonderfully written about lives. The Jewish Rabbi, Christian Pastor and many more lives. It is a book which can provide you lot of stunning moments. The two rebs of this novel made me think about my own life. To think about past and crying always is the worse thing in our life but this book gives a positive energy to go ahead and do the best in present. Do your best with the present so you may be happy in your future and will be able to achieve the eternal peace which our God has kept for us eternally.

It is a story about a Rabbi who approached Mitch Albom to write his eulogy. The conversation between these two make progress in the story. In between a Christian Pastor Henry whose survival from the drugs to Jesus. His story made the novel too vibrant and in between the works which the pastor is carrying on and through his works many people come to the hope of Christ. In a deteriorating situation how the pastor manages to carry his works more powerfully proves the grace of God. The other side the Old Rabbi taught so many things to this generation. As he is in the brim of death he makes his life so happy and able to achieve a happy death which everyone likes to have in their life. The difficult word in our life “death” proves it so wonderful and with the sight of death how we can go on living. A good book highly recommended for every kind of faithful, even for an atheist...

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### **?Karen says**

Several years after Mitch Albom spent his Tuesdays with the famous Morrie, he began spending time with Albert Lewis. Albert was his childhood rabbi, and sometime after Albom stopped going to temple, Albert surprised him with a request that Albert's eulogy be delivered by Albom. Albom didn't feel qualified but obligingly accepted the challenge, provided they became better acquainted. The eight years they spent visiting and talking, along with each of their separate histories, are recounted.

Their time together seemed both precious and profound. Albom asked the wise old rabbi about his life, his marriage and family, and of course his faith. The questions about other religions, their diversities and similarities, and the rabbi's answers brought me some understanding about those things myself. While a short read, it is still pretty deep if you're in the mood to get philosophical or reflective. There was a side story about a ghetto pastor in Detroit too, which was also thought provoking.

The eulogy at the end was a bit anticlimactic. I had planned on needing some Kleenex for it, but because I did not, 1/2 point deducted. 3.5 stars.

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### **Shelah says**

Originally posted at Feminist Mormon Housewives.

When I was in Young Women's, it seemed that whenever our planned Mutual activities fell apart, the go-to Plan B was to pull some Books of Mormon out of a storage closet and have us write our testimonies in them. At that time in my life, I had zero qualms about standing in front of a congregation on Fast Sunday and bearing my testimony, or talking in a fireside about my conversion to the gospel, but for some reason my mind always blanked when it came to writing about my faith. I'd write and it felt stale and unconvincing, like what I was feeling in my heart couldn't properly be put into words. It was ironic, because one of my most prized possessions at that time was a Book of Mormon that we had gotten from the missionaries at Temple Square, with a neatly-typed, sincere testimony from a beehive-haired little old lady from Northern Utah glued onto the inside cover. I loved reading about her testimony, but I felt like mine lost something in the translation from spoken to written word.

Mitch Albom's most recent book, *Have a Little Faith*, is, in a way, the story of his gaining a testimony. He says, "This is a story about believing in something and the two very different men who taught me how." He starts the story at a point in his life when everything was going well— he had a good relationship with his wife, great kids, and a satisfying and exciting career, but religion had taken a back seat because, well, he didn't really need it at that point in his life. He went home to New Jersey to visit his parents and ran into the Albert Lewis, known as the Reb, the elderly rabbi of his childhood congregation, who shocked him by asking Albom to give the eulogy at his funeral. Albom was taken aback by the request, saying, "And as is often the case with faith, I thought I was being asked a favor, when in fact I was being given one." Over the next decade, he came to know the Reb not just as a spiritual leader but as a man, and watched him grow old and eventually die. During the same time, he became close with Henry Covington, a pastor at an inner-city congregation in Detroit whose church ran a homeless shelter that got assistance from Albom's foundation. Albom intersperses the Reb's story with his own and with Covington's, who came to Detroit and found his calling after an early life of crime, drug abuse and incarceration and now works to help change the lives of people who are as he once was, who need someone to have faith in them.

I want to come clean with you: I haven't been Mitch Albom's greatest fan. I read *Tuesdays with Morrie* when it came out years ago, and I cried with the rest of you when Morrie died. But my tears felt forced, like I was crying just because that was what was expected of me when the good professor finally succumbed to ALS. A few years later I read *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* for a book group and decided it was the worst book I'd ever read— the cheesiest "the circle of our love is more than just a rising sun that sets" kind of speculative spiritualism straight out of Saturday's *Warrior* and *Star Child* combined with the emotional manipulativeness of a Jodi Picoult novel. After that experience, I disparagingly called all small, sentimental, expensive hardcover books (think Richard Paul Evans's *The Christmas Box* or Randy Pausch's *The Last Lecture*) "Mitch Albom books" and avoided them on principle. A few years ago I ordered Jonah Lehrer's *Proust was a Neuroscientist* from Amazon. When it arrived in the "Mitch Albom book" format I readjusted my expectations and was shocked to find a challenging, academic book, just in a fancy "gift book for grandma" presentation. The point is, I had some significant prejudices against Albom's work going into reading *Have a Little Faith*.

So I was surprised to find that the book wasn't that bad. In fact, it was pretty good. Albom was at his best when writing about the Reb, the story that felt closest to his heart and his own spiritual center. I wonder if Albom or his publishers felt that sharing another story about his visits with a dying mentor would be too similar to *Tuesdays with Morrie*. In fact, I had always considered *Tuesdays with Morrie* to be the story of Albom's "secular conversion" from a selfish hotshot to a person who looked out for others and their needs. The chapters with Covington, while they help us see Albom's initial prejudices and his conversion in action, seem almost out of place in the story, like some editor out there wanted the story to be more than just Albom visiting Lewis, so they threw the Covington chapters in as well. I think that the Covington story could have stood on its own, as either another short memoir or a longer article-length piece, but including them in the

story with Lewis felt somewhat forced.

Through his relationship with Lewis and Covington, Albom maintains that he's gained a spiritual conversion as well. But while he writes eloquently about his visits with the Reb and what they awaken within his own heart, and persuasively about seeing past his own mindset in his visits with Covington and his congregation, I think that Albom, like me, is ultimately uncomfortable writing about the faith he now holds dear to his heart. So he, like many of us up on the stand on Fast Sunday, tells stories to highlight experiences instead. And in this case, at least, I think he succeeds.

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### **Michelle says**

Just what I needed to lift my spirit!

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