



All Is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir

Brennan Manning , John Blase

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

All Is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir

Brennan Manning , John Blase

All Is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir Brennan Manning , John Blase

It has been over twenty years since the publication of *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, a book many claim as the shattering of God's grace into their lives. Since that time, Brennan Manning has been dazzlingly faithful in preaching and writing variations on that singular theme –

“Yes, Abba is very fond of you!”

But today the crowds are gone and the lights are dim, the patches on his knees have faded. If he ever was a ragamuffin, truly it is now. In this his final book, Brennan roves back his past, honoring the lives of the people closest to him, family and friends who've known the saint and the sinner, the boy and the man. Far from some chronological timeline, these memories are witness to the truth of life by one who has lived it – *All Is Grace*.

All Is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir Details

Date : Published October 4th 2011 by David C. Cook (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9781434764188

Author : Brennan Manning , John Blase

Format : Hardcover 240 pages

Genre : Autobiography, Memoir, Christian, Nonfiction, Biography, Religion, Christianity, Faith

 [Download All Is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online All Is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online All Is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir Brennan Manning , John Blase

From Reader Review All Is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir for online ebook

Claxton says

I loved this very much. Thank you, Brennan Manning.

Aaron W. Matthews says

This is a fine memoir from a man that has written love-drenched words throughout his career. He is not perfect, but that is one of the reasons I love Brennan Manning. What a fitting finale to read after completing all his other literary works. I'm thankful for the inspriation this book brings - raw, brash, lucid, and from the deeps of the heart. All is grace...it most certainly is!

Gary B says

I really enjoyed Brennan's reflections on his own life. Plenty of warts on display, but he is/was also quite cognisant of God's goodness and grace.

I most enjoyed his reflections on the "Notorious Sinners" - men he approached to participate in a one-off retreat but which ended up getting together annually for 20+ years (and perhaps they still do?)

His thoughts and reflections on grace are helpful and refreshing - and also challenging.

Chris says

This book reminded me that only people who wrestle constantly with their flesh can TRULY know what Grace is and delight in it. It is ALSO a reminder to me of how we can encourage one another, but no man or woman should EVER be lifted up as Jesus.

Brennan Manning was a very human human. It makes me love him all the more that he revealed these things about himself. Most preachers keep them hidden. As if portraying yourself as something you're not is the way to show others Christ.

I see the grace of Father deeply in this man's life.

Right after CS Lewis, Brennan Manning is the next person I would like to have a glass of wine and a chat with at the Resurrection. ;)

Loretta says

Such a small book, but such a beautiful one. Brennan is honest about his life, and about his love for the God who loves us just as we are, not as we should be. I can't comprehend this God who still loves us even when we remain a mess. I hope that it is true, for the sake of all us ragamuffins out there.

Ken Bickley says

Don't expect this to be an easy-to-read, sweetness-and-light book. It's not. Though he has written some of the most meaningful inspirational books available, Manning has had a hard life and he pulls no punches in this memoir dictated to John Blasé shortly before his death. He failed as a marine, as a Catholic priest, and as a husband and step-father. Most of his failures were caused by his inability to stop drinking alcohol. Any further information from me would spoil it for you, but suffice it to say that the title of the book tells you it's all going to come out OK.

Rebecca Spooner says

What struck me most about this memoir was realizing that Brennan was in and out of his addiction to alcohol all of his life. I heard him speak in Conway in the late 90s. It was nice to physically see him but his talks were simply parts of his books cut and pasted together. I learned from his memoir that he was drinking to black out stage during this time.

I am going blank on the mind disorder that he currently has, but it is a result of years of alcohol abuse and dependence. For me, this made his understanding of grace all the more genuine and powerful.

Laura says

As Yancey says in the forward: "I heard the details of Brennan's life: his loveless childhood, his marathon search for God, his marriage and divorce, his lies and cover-ups, his continuing struggles with alcohol addiction. As you read this memoir, you may be tempted, as I was, to think, 'Oh, what might have been...if Brennan hadn't given in to drink.' I urge you to reframe the thought to, 'Oh, what might have been...if Brennan hadn't discovered grace.'"

At times this book was painful when I'd let myself imagine what it would be like to be married to a man who split his time between speaking at conferences all over the country and drinking himself into oblivion. Brennan then twists the knife by reminding me of myself when he talks about the frustration his wife felt at him for not being willing to be a part of the human race. I know exactly what he is talking about.

I was almost about to accept this memoir as a cautionary tale should I ever think my job is to rescue everyone while neglecting my family and myself but that is oversimplifying a real person who has thousands of layers.

So by the end of the book I finally stopped looking for the trigger that dropped the trapdoor and let myself see the beauty in the wounded healer.

"We are all frail, but you should think of no one as being frailer than yourself." -Thomas a Kempis

Nicki says

I really don't know where to start as this is a tremendous memoir by an amazing man. I have thoroughly enjoyed this audio and would recommend this to anyone who enjoys memoirs/biographies. As Brennan himself says he is a survivor and is very honest about his life. It is upsetting at times but very inspirational throughout.

I identified with his Irish Catholic roots and the baggage accompanying it, something I haven't really thought about much before, but which makes a lot of sense.

Maurice England is just perfect as the narrator, and as I don't know what the author's voice sounds like, he was Brennan to me, sharing his life and God's amazing grace.

I feel very privileged to have listened to this wonderful memoir. There is so much in this audio that I think I'll have to listen more than once to fully appreciate it.

Thanks to christianaudio.com's Reviewers Program for this copy

Todd Wilhelm says

This is an autobiography of Brennan Manning. While reading it I was moved to tears, not something I am prone to do. I can give no better recommendation.

"My life is a witness to vulgar grace - a grace that amazes as it offends. A grace that pays the eager beaver who works all day long the same wages as the grinning drunk who shows up at ten till five. A grace that hikes up the robe and runs breakneck toward the prodigal reeking of sin and wraps him up and decides to throw a party no ifs, ands, or buts. A grace that raises bloodshot eyes to a dying thief's request - "Please, remember me" - and assures him, "You bet!" A grace that is the pleasure of the Father, fleshed out in the carpenter Messiah, Jesus the Christ, who left His Father's side not for heaven's sake but for our sakes, yours and mine. This vulgar grace is indiscriminate compassion. It works without asking anything of us. It's not cheap. It's free, and as such will always be a banana peel for the orthodox foot and a fairy tale for the grown-up sensibility. Grace is sufficient even though we huff and puff with all our might to try to find something or someone it cannot cover. Grace is enough. He is enough. Jesus is enough.

John, the disciple Jesus loved, ended his first letter with this line: "Children, be on your guard against false gods." In other words, steer clear of any god you can comprehend. Abba's love cannot be comprehended. I'll say it again: Abba's love cannot be comprehended."

-pages 122-123

"One Christmas- I must have been ten years old - I spent some time walking the creaky wooden floors of Woolworth's five-and-dime searching for a gift for my mother. I happened upon a little notepad, the kind people used to keep beside telephones. It was multicolored, pastels of pink and green and blue. I'd never seen anything like it. I thought it was gorgeous, surely something that would thrill my mother. Christmas morning came, and we were all there-my parents and grandparents, my brother and sister and me. As my mother began opening my gift, I held my breath in anticipation. She tore the wrapping paper away and just stared at the notepad. "What in God's name am I gonna do with this? What a waste of money!" After what felt like an eternity where all eyes in the room were on me, my mother tossed me the pad, and the Mannings moved on to other gifts. I felt like I'd purchased the Hope Diamond for her, but it wasn't enough. I just didn't understand. I was crushed."

-page 39

""What is the telltale sign of a trusting heart?"

I cannot remember when I wrote it or what might have prompted the question. Yet it is there, evidence of a ragamuffin's lifelong wondering. Here is my answer, the answer that is, as Thomas Merton wrote, "the 'Yes' which brings Christ into the world."

A trusting heart is forgiven and, in turn, forgives.

I know that's true because of an experience I had on a November day in 2003. My mother had been dead and gone for close to ten years. As I was praying about other things, her face flashed across the window of my mind. It was not a worn face like that of an old mother or grandmother, but a child's face. I saw my mother as a little six-year-old girl kneeling on the windowsill of the orphanage in Montreal. Her nose was pressed against the glass; she was begging God to send her a mommy and daddy who would whisk her away and love her without condition. As I looked, I believe I finally saw my mother; she was a ragamuffin too. And all my resentment and anger fell away.

The little girl turned and walked toward me. As she drew closer, the years flew by and she stood before me and aged woman. She said, "You know, I messed up a lot when you were a kid, But you turned out okay." Then my mother did something she'd never done before in her life, never once. She kissed me on the lips and on both cheeks. At that moment I knew that the hurt between my mother and me was real and did matter, but that it was okay. The trusting heart gives a second chance; it is forgiven and, in turn, forgives. I looked at my mother and said, "I forgive you." She smiled and said, "I guess sometimes you do get what you ask for.""
pages 123-124

Ben Zajdel says

All is Grace is Brennan Manning's long awaited autobiography, which he agreed to publish five years ago. It isn't the most complete account of his life, but it's written with the heart and soul that Manning brings to all of his works. His life truly reflects what he has told others countless times throughout his life: "God loves you just as you are, not as you should be."

Manning recounts his life from his childhood, giving special attention to his mother and father, and how their influence affected his life later. He also talks in detail about his marriage and divorce, something he has never done in his other books. Of special interest were times he spent in Alabama and in France, living with the Little Brothers of Jesus. If you've read his other works extensively, some of the stories will be familiar. But they are told in fresh perspective, with many years of experience and wisdom added.

There are photographs interspersed throughout the book, as well as letters written by several of his friends. Philip Yancey wrote a touching foreward in honor of his friend. A great read for anyone who has loved Manning's work.

Thomas Holbrook says

I was reminded in this book of one of the best first lines in any novel I have read; "I am a Christian because of Owen Meany" (A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving, Random House Publishing Group, 1990). Reading this present book spoke of a similar reality for me - the way I seek to follow Christ is due, to a large degree, because of Brennan Manning. I have never personally met Fr. Manning, nor have I had opportunity to "share my heart" with him; I have only had the privilege of him sharing his heart with me. Such vulnerability, honesty and sound theology as he sets forth in his writings have caused me to examine my life

and how I understand Christ in ways that have resulted in my being deeply changed.

After reading most (all?) of his books, I felt that Fr. Manning was being modest when he stated he “understood ragamuffins (liars, thieves, scoundrels, all around booger-heads) because I am one.” He states, repeatedly in all of his works, that God “loves us as we are, not as we should be,” that God delights in us because God’s loves us (not loves us AFTER we delight Him) and Grace in beyond understanding so all one can do is accept it. A message that is much needed in a culture that is filled with a desire to “find” fulfillment, acceptance and completion (not a bad “to do list” at that). What sets Fr. Manning apart from most of the writers who try to relate a similar message is that he is being honest when he states that he “understands” ragamuffins because he truly is one.

If anyone has any doubt of the reality of his being “despicable,” reading this memoir will erase any hint that Fr. Manning was using poetic license when he speaks of his relationship to his need for Grace. He details, in his usual clear, precise prose, just how much of a betrayer to Christ he been all while seeking with no little effort to become more like that Nazarene Rabbi.

Beginning at his birth (a good place to begin an autobiography), he gives the particulars of being born to a mother who, “prayed for a girl” (p. 37) and got Richard Manning (he changed his name to Brennan upon his solemn vows as a Franciscan Priest). He felt unwanted, literally, from his birth and that sense of not being “enough,” of lacking an undefined “something” has informed the remainder of his life. He showed promise as a writer while he was in high school and entered college toward becoming a sports writer only to drop out that the beginning of his sophomore year to join the Marine Corps. By that time (age 20) he was a seasoned drinker, having started following the footsteps of his father and grandfather into heavy drinking when he was 16. By the time he was 20, he had the nick name of Funnel, which was fitting given he was drinking “a dozen or so beers every night, five nights a week, a pint of rye whiskey every other day and often a liter of sake once a week.” (p. 76). This was but the beginning of his a life-long relationship with alcohol but the most profound relationship began when, after leaving college again (after leaving the Marine Corps) to enter a Franciscan monastery.

He was unsure why he entered the Monastery beyond he wanted something “more” than awards and fame out of life. A week after entering he was ready to leave, “I decided that I had given God a sporting chance” (p. 90). Before leaving, he stopped by the chapel on the way to tell the head friar “so long.” While there, he began praying the 14 Stations of the Cross; the first 11 took him but a few moments, he was at the Twelfth for 3 hours and that “moment” was to set the course for the rest of his life.

He has spoken to thousands of people of the possibility of a relationship with God that exceeds all expectations, of a God who wants to be known as “Daddy” (Abba), of Grace that surpasses all real or perceived short comings, lacking, sin or judgment and accepts ALL ragamuffins, of whom Brennan Manning could be considered chief.

Because of his drinking, he lost his marriage, was in an alcoholic blackout during his mother’s funeral and is now incapacitated due to Wernicke-Korsakoff Syndrome, a brain disorder caused by thymine deficiency common to alcoholics. The man who speaks so eloquently of God’s acceptance and love has a front row seat in understanding what that truly means, as he, in his own estimation, is in greatest need for it. Thanks be to God that mercy and grace in boundless.

David says

This "review" is simply a pasting of my blog post on this book - <http://davehershey.wordpress.com/2012...>

Sometimes I get tired of being a Christian, let alone a pastor.

I struggle with doubt: Is God really there or when I pray am I just talking to myself?

I struggle with cynicism: American Christianity is really arguing about _____? Really!?

I struggle with feelings of inadequacy: If only I was as talented/gifted/intelligent/personable/etc. as _____, then I'd be a better campus minister.

Then I read a book like All is Grace, the memoir of Brennan Manning. In this book Brennan Manning bears his soul, being honest about his struggles with alcoholism and his failure as a husband. He does not write as a man whose life is altogether, he does not write from a tower of self-confidence. Instead, he writes as a broken man caught by the love of Jesus.

As I read this book over and over again I thought, yes, I can worship the kind of loving God Brennan Manning keeps talking about.

“Ragamuffins have a singular prayer: “God, be merciful to me, a sinner”” (p.31).

“If I've learned anything about the world of grace, it's that failure is always a chance for a do-over” (p. 162)

“God strips away those falsehoods because it is better to live naked in truth than clothed in fantasy” (p.188).

“My message, unchanged for more than fifty years, is this: God loves you unconditionally, as you are and not as you should be, because nobody is as they should be” (p. 192)

“This vulgar grace is indiscriminate compassion. It works without asking anything of us. It's not cheap. It's free, and as such will always be a banana peel for the orthodox foot and a fairy tale for the grown-up sensibility. Grace is sufficient even though we huff and puff with all our might to try to find something or someone it cannot cover. Grace is enough. He is enough. Jesus is enough” (p. 194)

Thank you Brennan Manning.

Josh Morgan says

This review first appeared on my blog, Jacob's Café (<http://jacobscafe.blogspot.com/2011/1...>).

Brennan Manning has long emphasized the importance of grace and God's unconditional love. His speaking and books have touched thousands, if not millions. While I have heard wonderful things about him, I realized I have never actually read any of his works. So my first direct encounter with Manning was through his memoir, All is Grace: A Ragamuffin Memoir.

This book is an exemplar of the power of grace through all circumstances and actions. I was not aware of Manning's history and controversy, although the fact that he has kept and grown in his faith through it all makes me respect him even more so. I think his mantra that God loves us as we are, not as we should be is profound, simple, complex, and deeply meaningful. This reminder can remove shame, which inhibits change, and moves us toward openness and freedom to love God and accept love from God.

An element that particularly stood out over the course of this book was the clear way human relationships affect our relationship with God. The psychological community interested in spirituality have described this in terms of God image. However, Manning's experience with his mother, father, grandparents, siblings, church, and wife vividly demonstrate the power of how we may trust God more or less based on our ability to trust other. And even more so, how much we are willing to believe God loves us because others have or

have not loved us.

While only God can love perfectly, this is an important reminder to consistently engage in loving acts and love people as they are. This helps them see the face of God, which is the ultimate evangelism. Manning has done just that for innumerable people.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Nick Jordan says

I have several friends I greatly respect who have long adored Manning. That's never been me. But this was a great read, his last book, I believe.

Christopher says

Wow! Brennan Manning's farewell book really got to me. Through most of the book, I thought it was interesting to read his life story and that the book was "okay." Then as it all came together into a final challenge from the author, made more poignant by the insight into his life that the chapters before gave me, his message hit hard and I thought, "This book is really good!" Then the poem at the end made me cry and closed the deal...THIS BOOK WILL BOTH ENCOURAGE AND HAUNT ME FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. This man will never stand before the spotlights again in this lifetime, but I cannot deny how much the legacy of this broken ragamuffin has shined the light of God's grace upon my own life time and time again.

Michele says

Quick read. Powerful read.

Chad says

I've yet to read a book by Manning that disappointed me. This farewell song of grace was no exception.

Anna says

Highly satisfying. Only thing that kept it from being 5 stars for me is that I have such a long history of loving his writings that to be let in on the reality of his life's longings and regrets was deeply saddening for me.

Haiko Eitzen says

Lo fascinante de Brennan Manning es que fue un monumental pecador, un fracasado, un alcohólico reincidente, un sacerdote que renunció para casarse, y que luego se divorció, y aún así haya sido uno de los hombres de Dios más inspiradores del último siglo con su sencillo mensaje "Dios nos ama tal cual somos, no como deberíamos ser". A Brennan le gusta identificarse como andrajoso y se hace amigos con otros andrajosos espirituales, que en realidad lo somos todos, argumenta él, aunque no todos lo quisieran reconocer. Al llegar al final de sus días, no deja de enfatizar el mensaje del escandaloso amor de Dios, y que todo es gracia, todo es por gracia, y no una gracia barata, sino una gracia gratuita y vulgar, en sus palabras. Al final del libro se incluyen algunas cartas de algunos autodenominados Notables Pecadores, un grupo de amigos de Brennan que se apoyan entre sí, y en esas cartas cuentan los testimonios de como Dios obró a través de Brennan en sus vidas, los cuales fueron casi tan impactantes como las palabras de Brennan. Este libro lo recomiendo a cualquiera que quiera familiarizarse con el trasfondo de este conocido autor y orador, y también a cualquiera que se siente como un andrajoso espiritual, para que se dé cuenta que no está solo.
