



Breathing Lessons: A Novel

By Anne Tyler

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WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE • NEW YORK TIMES

BESTSELLER • Maggie and Ira Moran have been married for twenty-eight years—and it shows: in their quarrels, in their routines, in their ability to tolerate with affection each other's eccentricities. Maggie, a kooky, lovable meddler and an irrepressible optimist, wants nothing more than to fix her son's broken marriage. Ira is infuriatingly practical, a man "who should have married Ann Landers." And what begins as a day trip to a funeral becomes an adventure in the unexpected. As Maggie and Ira navigate the riotous twists and turns, they intersect with an assorted cast of eccentrics—and rediscover the magic of the road called life and the joy of having somebody next to you to share the ride . . . bumps and all.

Praise for *Breathing Lessons*

"A wonderful novel, glowing with the insight and compassion of an artist's touch."—*The Boston Globe*

"Superb fiction: It shows us how to live."—*Newsday*

"Simple, wise, funny, touching, and real . . . Tyler is known for offbeat characters, and Maggie Moran is one of her most endearing."—*The Christian Science Monitor*

"An occasion for laughter and tears."—*New York Post*

"More powerful and moving than anything [Tyler] has done."—*Los Angeles Times*

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Maggie Moran's mission is to connect and unite people, whether they want to be united or not. Maggie is a meddler and as she and her husband, Ira, drive 90 miles to the funeral of an old friend, Ira contemplates his wasted life and the traffic, while Maggie hatches a plan to reunite her son Jesse with his long-estranged wife and baby. As Ira explains, "She thinks the people she loves are better than they really are, and so then she starts changing things around to suit her view of them." Though everyone criticizes her for being "ordinary," Maggie's ability to see the beauty and potential in others ultimately proves that she is the only one fighting the resignation they all fear. The book captured the Pulitzer Prize for literature in 1989.

From Publishers Weekly

In perhaps her most mainstream, accessible novel so far, Tyler spins a tale of marriage and middle-class lives, in an age when social standards and life expectations have gone askew. While she remains a brilliant observer of human nature, there is a subtle change here in Tyler's focus. Where before her protagonists were eccentric, sometimes slightly fantastical characters who came at the end to a sense of peace, if not happiness, Maggie Moran and her husband Ira are average, unexceptional, even somewhat drab; and outside of some small epiphanies, little is changed between them at the story's close. It's this very realism that makes the story so effective and moving. Taking place on one summer day, when Maggie and Ira drive from Baltimore to Pennsylvania to a funeral, with an accidental detour involving an old black man they pass on the road and a side trip to see their former daughter-in-law and their seven-year-old grandchild, the novel reveals the basic incompatibility of their 28-year marriage and the love that binds them together nonetheless. This is another typical Tyler union of opposites: Maggie is impetuous, scatterbrained, klutzy, accident prone and garrulous; Ira is self-contained, precise, dignified, aloof with, however, an irritating (or endearing) habit of whistling tunes that betray his inner thoughts. Both feel that their children are strangers, that the generations are "sliding downhill," and that somehow they have gone wrong in a society whose values they no longer recognize. With irresistibly funny passages you want to read out loud and poignant insights that illuminate the serious business of sharing lives in an unsettling world, this is Tyler's best novel yet. 175,000 first printing ; BOMC main selection; Franklin Library signed first edition.

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From Library Journal

Every reader knows a couple like the Morans. Maggie is a compassionate flibbertigibbet whose best intentions always backfire. Dour and sensible Ira, "born competent," Maggie thinks, "should have married Ann Landers." As they drive inexorably (with a few detours) toward the most comical funeral in recent fiction, Ira ponders his wasted life and the traffic. Maggie, meanwhile, is hatching a plot she thinks could reunite their son with his long-estranged wife and child, based on the evidence she has fabricated. Tyler's most entertaining novel yet, a love story in praise of marriage; essential for all fiction collections. Maurice Taylor, Brunswick Cty. Lib., Southport, N.C.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Olivia Clinard:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book called Breathing Lessons: A Novel? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have other opinion?

Rose Rafferty:

Breathing Lessons: A Novel can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to place every word into delight arrangement in writing Breathing Lessons: A Novel however doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

Christopher Hendrick:

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Joseph Rankins:

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