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# Good Grief: Life In A Tiny Vermont Village



## Synopsis

An Endless Vacation Becomes a Way of Life! One vacation changed everything. Ellen Stimson and her husband had such a wonderful time in Vermont that they wondered what living there would really be like. "What if we stayed here . . . forever?" So began the series of adventures and misadventures of Ellen Stimson's hilarious first book, *Mud Season*. Now, having settled the family in Vermont's rich muddy soil, they are faced with new challenges of raising kids in the paradise of this very small, very rural town. *Good Grief* tells the tales of the hopes and dreams of parents just trying to do their best—and not always succeeding. Imagine being the mom of the kid who peed on his teacher's chair . . . On Purpose. Now imagine the governor asking you about it! *Good Grief* is all about the inevitable moment right after somebody says, "What next?" Ellen Stimson's irrepressible optimism and good humor prevail as she, her two husbands, their three kids, and various much-loved pets face down real life, and even death and grieving, with good humor intact. This is life in a state where everyone knows everything, and everything is everybody's else's business.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After finishing Ian McEwan's fantastic latest novel *THE CHILDREN ACT*, I was ready for what a friend of mine in San Francisco calls sorbet reading between the serious main courses. (Anyone familiar with Mr. McEwan's fiction knows that his truths are almost never found on angels' wings.) And I was committed to reading and reviewing Ellen Stimson's second gift to the reader *GOOD GRIEF*. I knew this wonderful writer would make me, if not laugh out loud, certainly smile a lot. And

certainly she delivered, even if perhaps she may have the gift of hyperbole-- a gift we Southerners almost require in our friends-- she certainly couldn't make all this up: her son Eli's bladder battle, setting the house on fire, various family members getting "nekkid." (my spelling, not hers.) And you of course have to love her description of two lawyer friends competing for air space. I should have been forewarned that GOOD GRIEF by its title alone-- as well as the information the publisher sent to me with the advance reader's copy-- that I was in for some serious grief work here since I knew that an ex-husband would die. But damnit! I, who live with the most handsome cat that ever walked, didn't expect Eli's beloved cat Zoe to die by page 131 about half way through the book. "It was a lot of sad." It was pretty much Niagara Falls for me from that moment on. Ms. Stimson does such a remarkable job of describing her ex-husband Steve -- and father of her oldest child Benjamin-- who became almost like a brother to her and good friend of her now-husband John that I felt as if I had lost a family member of my own when he died suddenly of a heart attack at fifty-eight. (What a wonderful memorial she has given to him by writing this memoir.

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