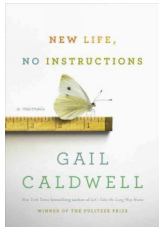


## Information, Answers & Reviews

# New Life, No Instructions



[view in catalog](#)

Did you ever hobble around on crutches? Discover that your most basic possession, your body, does not work as it once did? This excellent memoir about rehabilitation, friendship, loss, and the love of a great dog is a tearjerker at times, but always incredibly well-written. Wow, does Caldwell know how to spin a yarn.

Gail Caldwell suffered from polio as a small child. In this account she describes how her mother sprawled on the floor with her when she was young and did the tough leg exercises needed to strengthen Gail's leg.

All her life, Gail adapted to living with a bum leg. In her late fifties she decided to adopt a strong Samoyed pup. And as Tula grew, Gail soon found herself falling more and more often, and that she could no longer hike the three mile reservoir loop with her strong-willed pet.

Doctor after doctor told Gail that her limp, the weakness in her leg and her frequent falls were caused by her polio, but Gail finally sought another opinion. The new doctor asked to see her CT scans and X-rays but there were no recent ones. Upon doing them, he discovered that Gail's hip was shattered with the ball absolutely flat. She needed hip replacement immediately. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 25, 2014

[New Life](#)

[No Instructions: a Memoir](#)

[Animals](#)

[Friendship](#)

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# Harvey



[view in catalog](#)

"Well, I've wrestled with reality for 35 years, Doctor, and I'm happy to state I finally won out over it."

Elwood P. Dowd.

Jimmy Stewart once said that his role as Elwood P. Dowd in *Harvey* was one of his favorites. It is perhaps his most famous movie role beside that of George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*. *Harvey* is a laid back and enjoyable film about a man who has left the work-a-day world and apparently entered into a life of unreality. [Read more](#)

Posted by Keith C. on May 19, 2014

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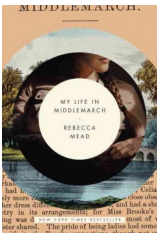
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## My Life in Middlemarch



[view in catalog](#)

Here's what author Rebecca Mead said about a subject dear to our hearts, "Reading does not feel like an escape from life so much as it feels like an urgent, crucial dimension of life itself."

This book is both a biography and travelogue of what many consider the world's best novel? *Middlemarch*. It also is a personal memoir by Mead.

In the first chapter Mead recalls how many times she has read the novel and how much it has changed for her over time. What drew her as a child to it was how full of adult life the book was. She also loved the intelligence of the characters, particularly the heroine, Miss Dorothea Brooke. Along the way we learn about the novel itself, how it was first published as a serial in eight parts with the subtitle "A Provincial Life." It bore a male author's name--George Eliot but even Charles Dickens, a contemporary of Eliot's knew immediately that it was written by a woman. He said, "I believe that no man ever before had the art of making himself, mentally, so like a woman, since the world began." Dickens also loved Eliot's writing. He said of her first novel, "*Adam Bede* has taken its place among the actual experiences and endurances of my life." [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 16, 2014

[My Life in Middlemarch](#)

[Memoir](#)

[For the Love of Reading](#)

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# A Tale for the Time Being



[view in catalog](#)

This cross-cultural gem of a novel tells the story of two women: one, Nao, a young Japanese schoolgirl; the other, Ruth, a middle-aged writer who lives in a rainforest town near Vancouver, Canada. Their lives intersect when Nao's *Hello Kitty* lunchbox lands as jetsam on the beach of the tiny town. Inside are letters, a WW II kamikaze wristwatch and most precious, Nao's diary, wrapped in layers and layers of plastic bags, so it is entirely legible.

The story is told in alternating voices. One belongs to the trendy, irrepressible, somewhat risqué and thoroughly jaded Nao who is bullied in school and mocked as an immigrant from America (she spent most of her childhood in California). The other belongs to Ruth who incidentally has the same first name as the author. Ruth has moved to Canada from another island town, New York City, because her husband loved the peacefulness of life in rural Canada and had major health issues. Also, Ruth brought her aged mother there to die.

Ruth is fascinated by the diary. Because she is suffering from writer's block on her new novel, she totally immerses herself in the diary and in trying to track down Nao. Did Nao's diary begin its journey in the destruction and flooding caused by the great Japanese tsunami of March 2011? [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on May 7, 2014

[A Tale for the Time Being](#)

[Fiction](#)

[International Settings](#)

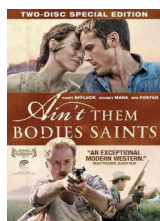
[Pacific Northwest](#)

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# Ain't Them Bodies Saints



[view in catalog](#)

I chose to highlight this film, released (and slightly forgotten) last year, because the holds queue has recently run its course. The plot concerns a small-town Texas man who escapes from prison to reunite with his wife and their child he has never seen. If you're looking for a crime picture that is equal parts emotional relationship drama and technical detail period piece (mid 20th century), check this out. The box advertises it as a "modern western", which I suppose it is, in the way a

film like [Down in the Valley](#) or [Lonely Are The Brave](#) (the last "good Western", according to [Sam Shepard's True West](#)) is. It has a few action scenes, but this film is more [Badlands](#) than [Bonnie & Clyde](#). [Read more](#)

Posted by Brandon R. on May 1, 2014

[Sights and Sounds](#)

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## How To Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia



[view in catalog](#)

Masked in the persona of a self-help book, this novel is really a love story and a tale of the ambitious struggle of a rural bumpkin to get ahead in a world madly developing at all costs. Unlucky enough to nearly die from hepatitis as an infant, because he is his mother's favorite, he is saved and the family soon follows the first theorem to worldly success in Asia: move to a big city.

Each chapter summarizes in the title that chapter's method of achieving worldly success; for example, the second chapter advises, "Get an education." Though normally the eldest son in this unnamed Asian country (probably Pakistan) would be pushed to study, in this family the narrator was lucky because his older brother was already learning a trade. And being bright, he succeeded at school despite contradicting a teacher who gave out false information. For in school, you never pointed out the failings of a teacher. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on April 29, 2014

[How To Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia](#)

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