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"One of the 10 best memoirs of 2017."
— *W* magazine

WEDDING TOASTS I'LL NEVER GIVE

By Ada Calhoun

NOW IN PAPERBACK

"Last book that made you laugh? Ada Calhoun's *Wedding Toasts I'll Never Give*. I mean, underlining and yellow marker bust-out laughs."
—Tom Hanks, "By the Book," *New York Times Book Review*

"A breezy, warm-hearted meditation on the nature of matrimony... [Calhoun's] wry, likable voice is at its Ephronesque best."
—*Washington Post*

"Ada Calhoun has written the definitive meditation on marriage in all of its mystery and imperfection. It should be required reading for anyone considering it, and highly recommended for those who want to be reminded of why they did it in the first place."
—Molly Ringwald

"By turns funny, melancholy, and profound. A thoughtful read for the monogamous, non-monogamous, and every relationship iteration in between."
—*New York*

Ada Calhoun doesn't give wedding toasts in real life. Instead, as she tells us in the introduction to her sharp, funny, and extremely insightful book **WEDDING TOASTS I'LL NEVER GIVE** [W. W. Norton & Company; June 5, 2018; \$15.95 paperback], she likes to sit back with a glass of champagne and enjoy other people's efforts. Luckily for us, her silence at ceremonies doesn't mean she has nothing on her mind. Weaving intimate moments from her own married life with frank insight from experts, clergy, and friends, Calhoun presents a much-needed exploration of modern marriage that is at once realistic and hopeful.

An Amazon Book of the Month (Biographies and Memoirs), *Star* "Hot Book," and one of the best memoirs of the year according to *W*, **WEDDING TOASTS I'LL NEVER GIVE** was featured on the *Today* Show and at six major book festivals this fall. It will hit stores in paperback, with a bright new cover, just in time for wedding season.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ada Calhoun is the author of *St. Marks Is Dead* (W.W. Norton & Co., 2015), a "revelatory" (*Kirkus*), "captivating" (*Publishers Weekly*), "delightful" (*Wall Street Journal*), "timely, provocative, and stylishly written" (*Atlantic*) "ecstatic roll call" (*New York Times Book Review*). It was named a *New York Times* Editors' Pick, Amazon Book of the Month, and one of the best books of the year by *Kirkus*, the *Boston Globe*, *Orlando Weekly*, the *New York Post*, and the *Village Voice*, which called it 2015's "Best Nonfiction Book About New York" and in a cover profile named its author "the most important new voice on Old New York." She has written for the *New York Times* (including a record three "Modern Love" and four "Lives" columns), *New York* magazine, and the *New York Post*. Her reporting has won multiple awards, including a USC-Annenberg National Health Journalism Fellowship, CCF Media Award, and Alicia Patterson Foundation fellowship. As a collaborator, she has co- or ghost-written twelve books for major publishers, including several *New York Times* bestsellers.

More praise for WEDDING TOASTS I'LL NEVER GIVE

“Insightful, humorous, and relatable musings on matrimony? We’ll cheers to that.”

—*Star Magazine* (“Hot Book”)

“Raise a glass to these reality-check essays that are equal parts ode to marriage and sly acknowledgment of its challenges.”

—*O Magazine*, **10 Titles to Pick Up Now**

“Calhoun’s witty, enthusiastic, emotional, and hard-headed reflections ought to be required reading for anyone entering, experiencing, leaving or avoiding marriage.”

—*Guardian*

“By turns hilariously candid, thought-provoking, and romantic, *Wedding Toasts I’ll Never Give* gave me a richer view of the joys and challenges of marriage—especially my own marriage.”

—**Gretchen Rubin**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Happiness Project*

“Alternating between hilarious personal anecdote and sobering professional insight, this memoir conveys perhaps the simplest lesson ever given about learning to make a marriage last: just don’t get divorced.”

—*Library Journal*

“A warm, tart, corrective to the persistent conviction that a wedding is the neat end of a love story.”

—**Rebecca Traister**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *All the Single Ladies*

“Raw and relatable.”

—*Brides*

“Readers will marvel at the connections she makes through her many-limbed approach. . . . Moving, refreshing, funny.”

—*Booklist*

“Ada Calhoun is the friend we all need—the one who lets us behind the curtain of her good marriage to help us better understand our own.

She’s smart, funny, and best of all, willing to bare all.”

—**Emma Straub**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Modern Lovers*

“Calhoun approaches her subject not as the voice of wisdom and experience but as someone in the same trenches who can comfort her married readers that they are not alone. . . . wise and lovely.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“This really spoke to me. It’s a beautiful love letter to what marriage is. Ada Calhoun seems like she’d be a ball to hang out with. Marriage: not so bad, guys.”

—**Kathryn Hahn**, actress (*Transparent*, *I Love Dick*)

“What a witty, sexy, surprising testimony to the institution of marriage! It’s the best essay collection I’ve read in a long time, just astoundingly honest and insightful about what marriage really means. And I say that as someone who has been married twenty years.”

—**Karen Abbott**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Sin in the Second City* and *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy*

“You really need to read this book.”

—*Austin Chronicle*

“Extremely funny and deeply insightful. With its generous spirit and breathtaking honesty, Ada Calhoun’s instruction manual of a book recalls another all-time favorite, Anne Lamott’s classic *Bird by Bird*. This slim volume is brimming with practical advice and should be mandatory reading for married people and anyone who’s contemplated taking the leap.”

—**Davy Rothbart, author of *My Heart Is an Idiot***

“[It’s] a delight to read about the sort of marriage I might actually be comfortable inside: not a perfect love story, but a real one.”

—**eHarmony Blog**

“This unflinchingly honest, astutely balanced probe of a most perplexing institution asks all the right questions. It sets up a conversation with the reader, who is challenged to reflect at each point, choosing between ‘No, that’s not me’ and ‘How did she know that?’

Most of the time, she knows.”

—**Phillip Lopate, author of *The Art of the Personal Essay***

“This isn’t a manifesto against the institution; rather, Calhoun shows how challenging yet rewarding it can be.”

—***Bustle* (Best Nonfiction Books of the Month)**

“True, funny, and wise, Ada Calhoun’s insight into the nature of marriage is a compulsively readable and sneakily profound primer on all interpersonal relationships. She should be required to give a toast at every wedding, bar mitzvah, and funeral she attends.”

—**Leah Carroll, author of *Down City: A Daughter’s Story of Love, Memory, and Murder***

“Calhoun is laugh-out-loud funny.... This realistic, empathetic book of advice is worthy of a spot on any newlywed’s bookshelf.”

—***Publishers Weekly***

“A lovely meditation on what it means to be married and faithful in this age.... I just felt a lot of affection for this book.”

—**John Williams, NYTBR Podcast**

Meet Ada Calhoun

**June 5, 2018 * Brooklyn, NY * McNally Jackson Williamsburg
(with Susannah Cahalan and Neal Medlyn)**

“Brutally honest, hilarious, and unsentimental—but never unkind—this is a book for anyone who has ever had a thought (good or bad) about the institution of marriage. I devoured this gem in one sitting. I want to marry this book.”

—**Susannah Cahalan, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Brain on Fire***

**July 1, 2018 * Hollywood, CA * Book Soup
(with Carlene Bauer)**

“An uncommonly gracious invitation to rethink our relationship to an institution that often seems to have us doomed before we begin. There’s been so much cant, as they used to say in the nineteenth century, written about marriage, but Ada Calhoun’s book is honest about the struggle to love another person without congratulating itself for being honest, and if that isn’t a spiritual discipline, I don’t know what is.”

—**Carlene Bauer, author of *Frances and Bernard* and *Not That Kind of Girl***

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