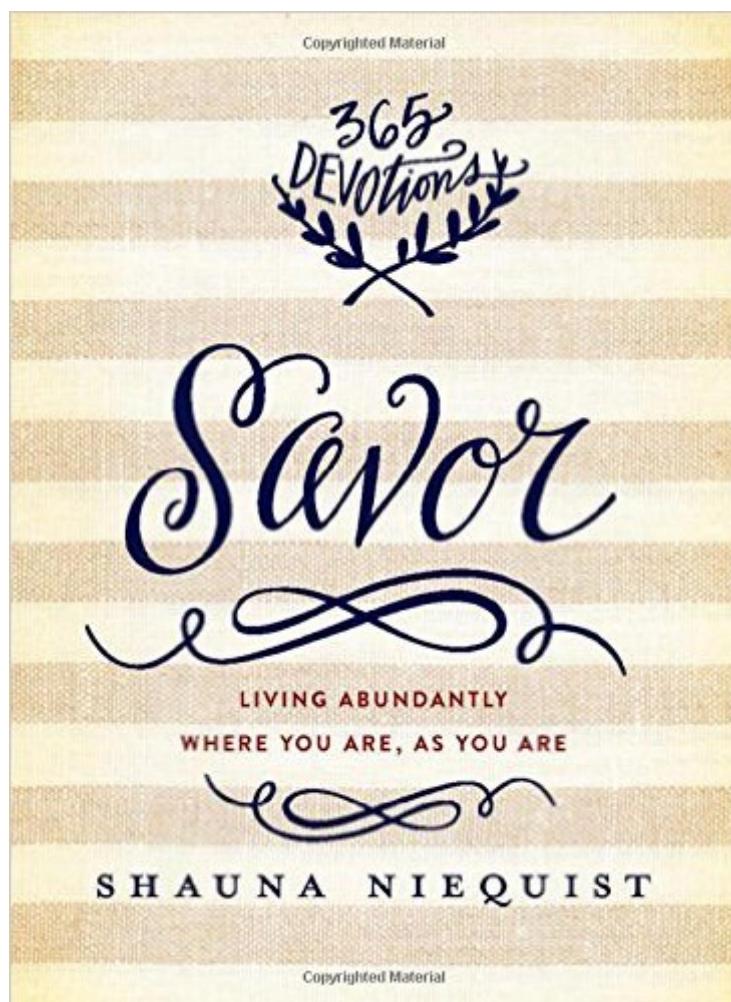


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# Savor: Living Abundantly Where You Are, As You Are



## **Synopsis**

Sink deep into the everyday goodness of God and savor every moment! In this daily devotional, Shauna Niequist becomes a friend across the pages, sharing her heart with yours, keeping you company, and inviting you into the abundant life God offers. And there are recipes, too, because spiritual living happens not just when we read and pray, but also when we gather with family and friends over dinners and breakfasts and late-night snacks. These recipes are Shaunaâ™s staples, and each one should be enjoyed around a table with people you love. So read and learn and pray and cook and share. Remember to savor each day, whatever it holds: work and play, coffee and kids, meals and prayers and the good stuff and the hard stuff. Life is all about relationships, and your daily relationship with God is worth savoring in every moment.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I waited a while to write my review because this is a devotional meant to be read over a year and I don't see how anyone can give an accurate review after owning this book for 1 or 2 days. I was very much looking forward to this book, preordered it and everything. I have read Shauna's previous 3 books and loved them. I relate a lot to Shauna's style of writing and feel that she often puts words to things I've felt before that I never could. I cried and cried when I read Cold Tangerines because I just related so much to it and was a fan ever since. However, after a few days of reading Savor I started to have dÃ©jÃ vu and realized a large majority of this book is excerpts from things she's written (and I've read) in the past. I understand that writing something meaningful for 365 devotions is probably really hard but I am pretty disappointed at the amount of "recycling" that occurs in this

book. To me, it is distracting and I can't concentrate as well because I'm just sitting here thinking "I feel like I've read this before". I will say, sometimes it is nice to re-read a great observation she has made in another book or a past blog post and so it's not all bad, I just didn't realize this book used so much of her older work. I also feel that perhaps if this book was structured differently, I would enjoy it much more. I'm not sure I would consider it a devotional and feel that maybe even the author and her editors had to stretch a bit to make it one. The great thing about Shauna's writing is her story telling and the way she can weave lessons and big ideas into them. 3 short paragraphs just isn't enough for her to do what she does best and often, what should have been one story is split into 3-4 days readings, which just doesn't do the writing justice and sometimes it feels like the days reading abruptly ends. I really do enjoy the questions she poses for further reflection on your life at the end of each reading. Some great things to think about or even journal about. I like that part. But I wouldn't say that each day's reading points me back to Jesus, which isn't bad, it just doesn't feel like a devotional. I use devotionals to deepen my understanding of God and some days, yes, certainly it does this but some days not at all. If this book was called something else and maybe structured differently, I think it would be more effective. I'll still read Savor and plan to finish it and try out some of the recipes, but I'm reading it with a different frame of mind now. Not as a devotional but as a thought provoking book, and I'll read multiple days at a time until I feel like the story she was trying to tell over a few days was over. There really are some great parts of this book, and I have felt challenged on multiple occasions, I just expected something different. I still have great hopes for any future book she may write.

I'm enjoying reading Savor, but I'm also a bit disappointed in some ways. I LOVED Bittersweet and Cold Tangerines. Because those books are long, but divided in small essays, I couldn't wait to keep reading them. The fact that they were long gave me a sensation of Shauna's "company," which I very much missed when I had finished the books. That's why reading Bittersweet led to buying Cold Tangerines. With Savor, I'm re-reading some of the stuff I already read. And I guess I like the essay format better- because the stories are longer and "finish." As for a devotional, I guess I expect something more related to the actual text. Hear me well- I LOVE Shauna Niequist's writing- thought I was addicted to it at some point- but am enjoying this particular reading less than the other two books, which I loved.

This devotional has a short reading for each day, each begins with a scripture verse, then there is a brief story, and each ends with a little call to action. The devotions take maybe five little minutes to

read (see photos below of some of my favorites). And then, approx. every 10 days or so there is a recipe for something, like Blueberry Yogurt Morning Cake, Ravinia Pasta Salad, or Wild Rice Salad, etc (see photo of recipe listing below). Most are very easy to whip up with ingredients you probably already have on hand, or can easily get locally. For those who have read Shauna's other books, don't be dissuaded from buying this devotional based upon the "disappointed" reviews. If what you've read in her other books was poignant enough to store away in your memory, believe me, it is worth hearing again! (FYI: I've read the whole devotional and am re-reading it again). Perhaps hearing it again will remind me and goad me into action: to love the people in our lives, savor their friendships, get together as often as we possibly can, and share meals and stories together. Everyone we know repeats themselves and tells stories we've heard before - I encourage you to give Shauna the same gratuity that we give our loved ones - her words are worth repeating. And for those who have never read Shauna's other works, you are in for a TREAT!!! I bought this devotional because I felt God had given her the same vision He had given me, and having come to the end of her devotional now, I was totally right. If the Bible could be summed-up into a few words, I think they would be: "It's all about the table!" Our Creator started us out in a garden, abundant with food, and is leading us to His table, and a great feast. He reminds us of this every time we take communion. His table is about fellowship, communion, laughs, tears, and a whole lot of repeated stories and parables coming to life and finally making total sense. In a world divided by color, and affluence, and culture, and beliefs, and ethnicity...FOOD brings us all together!!!! I bought several copies of this book (pre-ordered back in March 2015) and gave them away -- to my daughter, to my cooking club friends, and I sent one to my very best BFF, who lives in another state, for her birthday. Since then, she and I have spent everyday together sharing our morning beverages and devotions, reading the same stories, loving the same God, and making the same dishes. We have texted each other often to affirm our friendship and our shared readings. It has been the sweetest thing -- I encourage you all to do. Especially when we can't actually, physically be at the same table with our friends or family as often as we wish - this is our daily thing to bring us together. And please consider my book, Come for Supper by Colleen Hill Hoffman. It is a great follow-up, loaded with creative ideas, for even a reluctant hostess, to take up the great commission that Shauna encourages here.

This book is a complete answer to prayer! To say that Shauna is a gifted writer is an understatement. From her first words she makes you feel as though you two are friends, sitting down over tea and coffee, as she gently and colorfully coaxes you in to living a life filled with Jesus and inspired by the everyday. I am busy busy busy - like most of us. I don't have a ton of time for

intense devotionals and homework. BUT I do have time for friendly, life-giving words, starting my day with acknowledging that I am here because of a big and beautiful God, and yummy recipes. That, I have time for. And shouldn't we all make time for that? Life can be tough and beautiful. Shauna has first-hand experienced both parallels, and speaks with authority, humanness, and love. I dare you not to be blessed by this devotional. And, while you're here, buy her both 3 books and block out the next couple weeks of your life to read and laugh and cry and remember how incredible it is to be alive.

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