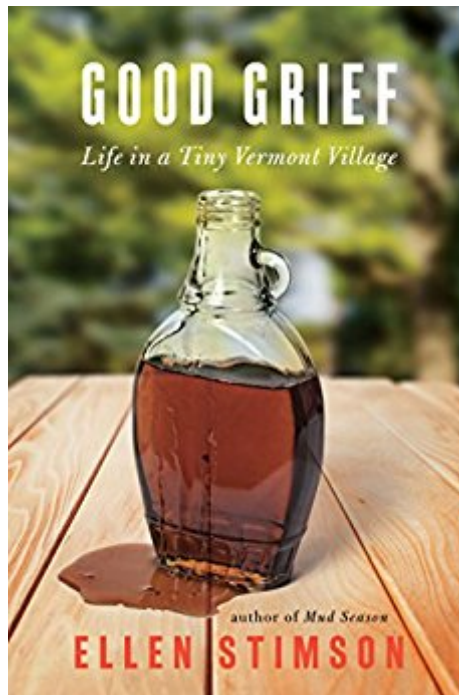




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# Good Grief: Life In A Tiny Vermont Village



## 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

I loved this book! It felt like a series of conversations with a close friend and I want desperately to attend one of those dinner parties. The author describes things in such a way that I can visualize the events as they unfold. I fell in love with her family and sometimes that made me cringe or laugh out loud. There is of course the death of a significant family member and that was indeed sad. My big take away from this book was Ellen's message that we can't always control things that happen in our lives but we can control our reactions and she has chosen love and humor. The end of the book left me a little sad but only because she got me to care so much about the people in this book and that is the gift of a good writer. Sometimes you wear grief like a watch or a favorite scarf....you almost forget it is there until something reminds you....please write more books Ellen.

Personal anecdotes ranging from the funny through the very sad make up this book. There's a motif weaving it all together: tables. It sounds odd, but it works well. The funny is very funny indeed, and the sad had me sniffing. Stimson is a skilled and effective writer, and I enjoyed spending vicarious time with her, her family, and their friends and critters. Compared to "Mud Season", this is more centered on relationships than on place. I enjoyed it, both the funny and the sad, and look forward to reading more by her.

I enjoyed the book. I could identify with how much she loves her family, animals, home and food. My politics and faith practices are different but that doesn't make me like her any less. She is honest and would be a fun friend. Enjoyable read.

Loved this delightful book! Began laughing out loud from the very first. Beautifully written! Looking forward to other books she wrote!

As a fellow Midwestern girl with dreams of living in Vermont, I really wanted to love this book. While the book itself doesn't quite seem to reflect life in Vermont, Good Grief is an entertaining read.

I grew up in a small town in Vermont and moved away at 19 to find a job. A lot of her stories are humorous and cute, but I just couldn't relate to much of anything she talked about. Sending her kids to a private grade school that cost about \$15,000 a year? Living in an old farm house with two and

1/2 baths? Renting a seven bedroom cottage on Martha's Vineyard for three months? Having two handy men? These aren't the memories I had. Even her cooking made no sense to me. What about dough boys, sugar on snow or that unique Vermont accent? She really lost me when her adult son just had to have a certain type of cat from a pet mill from North Carolina. They just seemed like rich people who could have been living in any small town in America.

After reading MUD SEASON, I couldn't wait for this new one...and I was rewarded. GOOD GRIEF was a pleasure to read. I would be delighted to have Ellen and her family disposing of my ashes any time. They have to be one of the most unique families in the country, and Ms. Stimson's writing is refreshing and touching. I hope there's a third book in the works.

This book should be read by all whether dealing with grief or not. It handles it with grace and laughter. We all need that in times of sorrow.

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