

Aprons, Belles and Literacy

A Girl Raised In The South, G.R.I.T.S. EllynAnne Geisel is “just a tad” excited her story of the book that influenced her life is one of 55 vignettes in Jack Canfield and Gay Hendrick’s new publication, *You’ve GOT To Read This Book!*

“I bought the book yesterday, paying full price at a bookstore because I couldn’t wait for delivery from Amazon!” says EllynAnne of the hardback edition, just released by HarperCollins, ISBN: 0060891696, “and to say I’m thrilled to be included is putting it mildly!”

You’ve GOT To Read This Book! is a compilation of 55 inspiring stories about the life-changing power of books. <http://youvegottoreadthisbook.com/>

“The second I received the invitation to contribute to this project, I knew exactly the book I would write about,” says EllynAnne, of her story, pages 150-156: **Following excerpt copyright 2005 EllynAnne Geisel**

In 1958, I was 11 years old and my Southern-girl heart fell in love with my future husband. As things turned out, the hours spent practicing my signature as Mrs. Elvis Presley could have been put to better use.

On a muggy summer day a year later, I stepped aboard the bookmobile—a traveling library in the back of a truck—and checked out the week’s reading. Settling into the cool grass underneath a shade tree, I picked up the thickest book, turned to the first page, read the first sentence, and fell head over heels. Today, over four and a half decades later, I’m still in love with *Gone with the Wind*.

The books that inspired the 55 are as diverse as the contributors. Those sharing the books that impacted their lives include Dave Barry, Stephen Covey, Malachy McCourt, and Jacquelyn Mitchard.

“You’ve GOT to Read This Book! promotes literacy and a portion of its sales benefit literacy groups,” EllynAnne notes. “What better reason to Buy This Book!”

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EllynAnne Geisel, essayist and apron archaeologist is the author of **THE APRON BOOK: Making, Wearing and Sharing a Bit of Cloth and Comfort**, Foreword by Ellen Levine <http://www.andrewsmcmeel.com/apron/index.html>
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