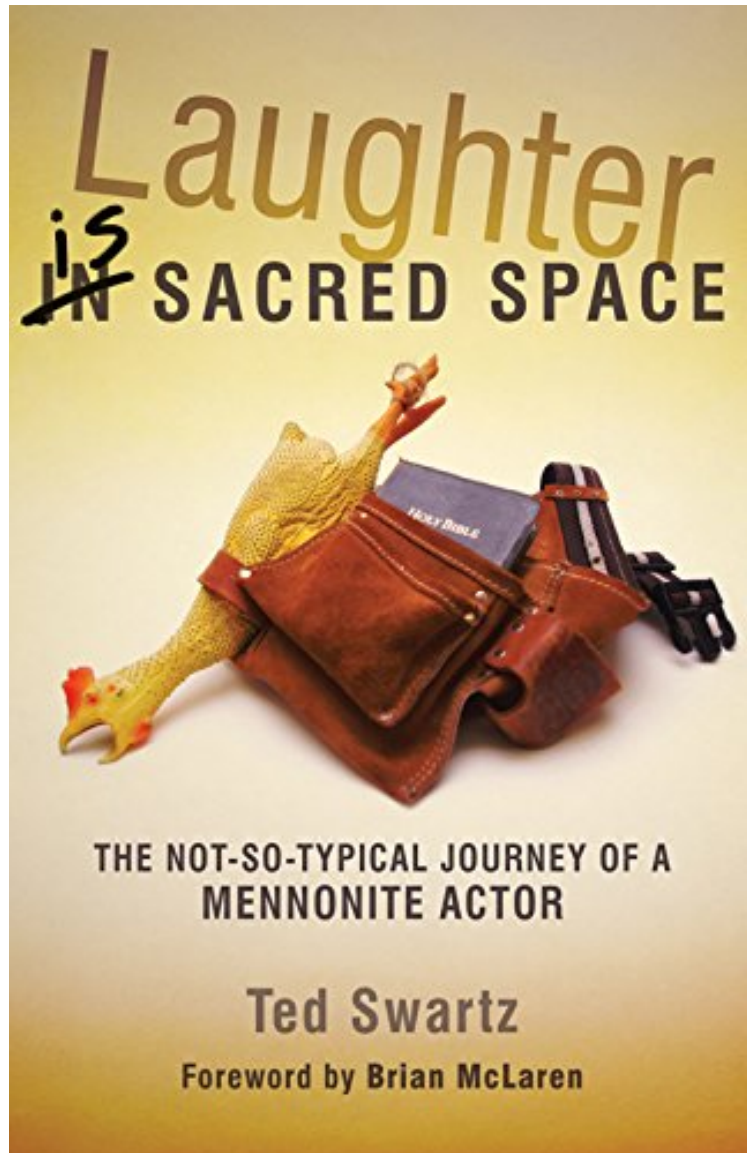


(Download free ebook) Laughter Is Sacred Space: The Not-so-Typical Journey of a Mennonite Actor

Laughter Is Sacred Space: The Not-so-Typical Journey of a Mennonite Actor

Ted Swartz

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Ted Swartz : Laughter Is Sacred Space: The Not-so-Typical Journey of a Mennonite Actor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Laughter Is Sacred Space: The Not-so-Typical Journey of a Mennonite Actor:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Touching, funny, honest... all the things we love about Ted and

Lee. By ricefun I feel a deep sense of gratitude for Ted's candid sharing in this memoir about his time as part of the duo comedy acting troupe, Ted and Lee. And then his experience needing to understand himself as only Ted, dealing with the emotional, spiritual, and professional loss of his partner and friend Lee. This book made me laugh out loud, and also brought tears to my eyes. I was fortunate to be one of the thousands of people who got to speak personally with both Ted and Lee. They were setting up for a show at the Church of the Brethren National Junior High Conference in New Windsor Maryland, and were so kind and personable even as they were trying to get ready for their upcoming performance. This book is a gift to fans, to church groups they shared their profound comedy with, and to anyone living through grief and loss. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring! By Douglas Gehman My Dad was a best friend with Ted's father when we were kids, so our families spent a lot of time together. I could tell my own stories about our camping experiences! Although we went our separate ways as teenagers, I saw Ted's creativity blossom over the years, first with "Fish Eyes" and then via his larger volume of work. "Laughter" is the back story of Ted's journey, about a man who courageously pursues a dream and holds onto it through life's highs and lows. I admire Ted for his willingness to take risks and go after what he loves. In this book, he writes his adventure, much like his stage art, with excellence, humor, and poignancy. A great read! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Laughter Is Sacred Space By ruth y martin I have heard some of the programs given by the author. They are different, showing Bible characters as flesh and blood humans just like me. My son heard a program recently and mentioned this book. So I ordered it. It came yesterday. I have read almost half of the book. It is fun. I don't care for the book jacket. To me, it is just a bit gross. The contrast. I would recommend the book to others. Maybe not just anyone. Ha. Title: Laughter is Sacred Space

A Preview from the Prologue, Scene 1: THIRTY-SEVEN PERCENT. Thirty-seven percent is a comfortable humidity level, a great batting average if you're a baseball player. If it's a grade on a test, it is not...so great. I was in seminary, training to be a pastor, and I had failed Greek Exegesis class. Not just failed, actually; obliterated might be a better description. Yes, obliterated, decimated, demolished, pulled a 37 percent on the final. Out of 100, yes. When people talk of having a calling, we occasionally lift our eyebrows, as if they are telling us they hear voices, including the voice of God, perhaps. And we mistrust them, these folks who hear voices. Because sometimes a calling is an excuse for selfishness, an abuse of power, and a sense of superiority. But it's also a powerful thing: it can shape a career, give meaning to life, clarify direction. I had thought I had one—what happened to it...this calling to be in seminary, to be a pastor? I was thirty-two years old, married for thirteen years to my high school sweetheart; I had three beautiful sons (eight, six, and four years old), and a congregation in Pennsylvania counting on me to be a pastor. Not just counting on, but paying for five years of tuition and housing—a recognition and investment in the gifts they had discerned in me. It seemed like a well-orchestrated, God-directed plan, drenched in much prayer and great intentions. In my mind and many others, serving, ministering, pastoring a church was the highest call. Was it possible to fail a calling? I hadn't told the congregation about this semester's report card, wasn't anxious for that particular conversation. They hadn't invested thousands of hard-earned dollars for a 37 in Greek Exegesis...or a 70...or an 85, quite frankly. My wife, Sue, and I were products of the Swiss German Mennonite community of eastern Pennsylvania. One of the hallmarks of this community was hard work (neat lawns, good business sense) and God's subsequent reward for that effort. This wasn't the plan—failing Greek—and I wasn't wild about the daunting prospect of Hebrew or systematic theology, on the plate for the fall semester. Oh, and what I really wanted? To be an actor.

Laughter is Sacred Space is even funnier than Mennonite in a Little Black Dress—an authentic and profound snapshot of what it means to grow up and live Mennonite—Howard Zehr, professor of restorative justice, Eastern Mennonite University Ted Swartz knows that if we can't laugh then the devil has already won...In the end we see life conquer death and love triumph over hatred.—Shane Claiborne, author, activist, and lover of Jesus This avant-garde memoir is alive with merriment and anguish, anger and tenderness, the profane...and the profound. I laughed out loud and wept...sometimes simultaneously, which is the hallmark of a truly sacred story.—Karla Yaconelli, philanthropist and founding board member of the Wild Goose festival There's a humor and non-threatening vulnerability in these pages which gives us permission to be vulnerable.—Mike Patin, Catholic speaker and trainer Like practically half the Christian world, I saw Ted Lee perform and thought they were smart and hilarious. In the pages of this book, Ted is vulnerable and honest again, only this time on purpose. If you jump in, I promise you'll be glad you did. --Bart Campolo, neighborhood minister and Middle East peace activist About the Author In 1992 Ted graduated from seminary and began a ministry that took him, not to a pulpit in a congregation, but to audiences across the U.S. and beyond. The first 20 years of this work included the creation of Ted Lee TheaterWorks with Lee Eshleman and development of plays such as Armadillo Shorts, Fish-Eyes, Creation Chronicles, Live at Jacob's Ladder and Dove Tale. Since Lee's death in May, 2007, Ted has been writing and performing new plays with a number of other artists. Ted lives in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Along with writing and acting, his loves include his wife, Sue, three sons, Eliot, Ian, and Derek — and new daughter-in-laws, Katrina and Hannah; oh, and baseball.