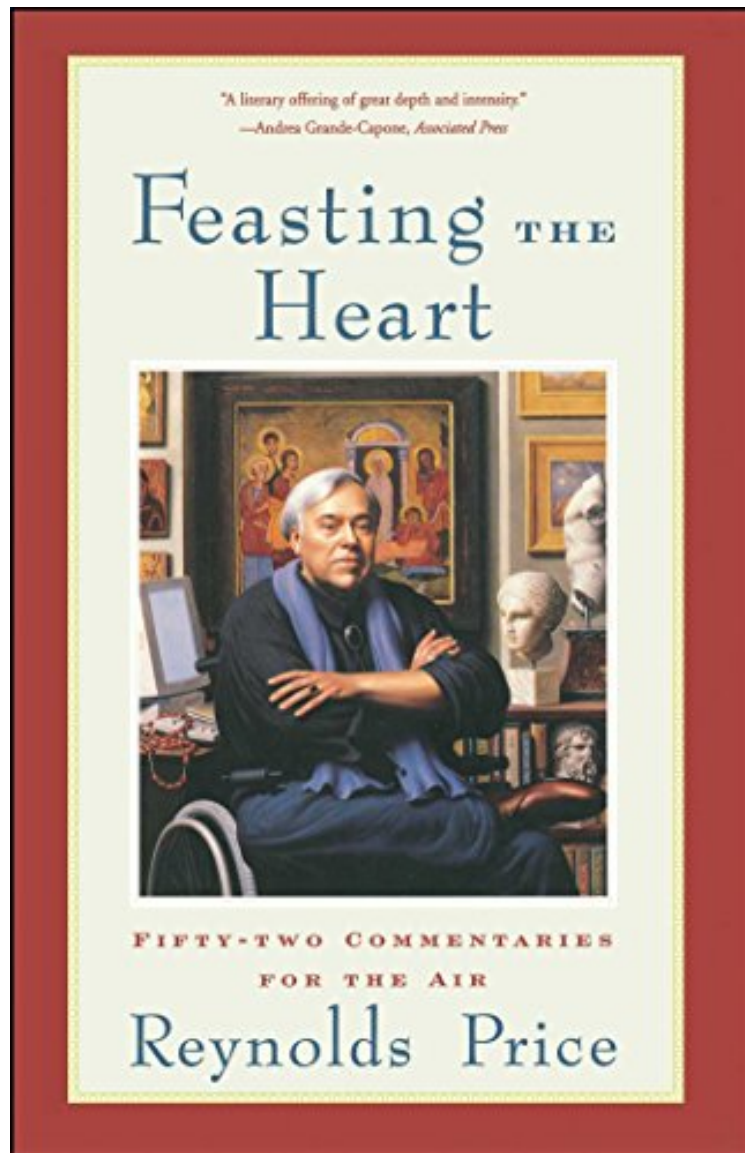


Feasting the Heart: Fifty-two Commentaries for the Air

Reynolds Price

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Reynolds Price : Feasting the Heart: Fifty-two Commentaries for the Air before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Feasting the Heart: Fifty-two Commentaries for the Air:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Five Star Four Star BookBy Eliot MarxThe only reason that I

didn't give *Feasting the Heart* five stars is because "I love it" is something that I reserve for the few books that I really love. While reading 52 commentaries, there are always the ones that you like more, the ones you like less. Having said that, I devoured this book (read it in one day) and need to reread it again soon (which I will certainly do). The realisation is that I have just recommended this book to myself. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He is an intelligent, likable person. By Elaine A. Foster Reynolds Price is very interesting. His reflections on everyday things give you a different perspective. He is an intelligent, likable person. I never realized that I have to connect with authors and I have to like them as people through what I learn of them through their voice. I will search for more of this material. He makes you feel good. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. thoughtful and thought-provoking. By J. E. Mynchenberg There are a variety of subjects and styles among these essays. Most are quite brief -- an easy and enjoyable read. I picked them up when I was between books but wanted something worthwhile to occupy my mind.

Whether recounting events from his past or examining the details of his current experience as a writer, teacher, traveler, and general witness of the world, Reynolds Price shows us how a writer finds meaning in the day-to-day details of living. In this engaging collection of fifty-two personal essays originally aired on NPR's *All Things Considered*, Price explores topics that range from family and faith to capital punishment and his adventures while navigating an immensely inaccessible America in a wheelchair. Throughout, Price never loses sight of the origin or spirit of the essay -- in French, *essayer* means to try or attempt -- and each piece is a well-informed, revealing, often amusing and refreshing foray into a moment unlike any other we've shared with him.

From *Publishers Weekly* In 1995, NPR's *All Things Considered* commissioned acclaimed Southern novelist Price (Kate Vaiden; Roxanna Slade; etc.) to contribute occasional editorial commentaries on any subject he chose. The results, along with an earlier Christmas story written for NPR's *Morning Edition*, are collected here, voicing Price's thoughts on topics ranging from the movies to the writing life to family relations. Recurring themes that he explores with particularly compelling insight include the cultural and emotional blessings of a small-town Southern boyhood, the difficulties and surprising advantages of being physically disabled (Price has been confined to a wheelchair for about 15 years after a bout with spinal cancer), and the richness of his experiences as both a student and a teacher. Price displays an impressive talent for using few words to convey a great deal, as he does in "The Last Great Weeper," where, musing on his tendency to cry at unexpected moments, he concludes that he is moved to tears by seeing "our kind at the highest pitch of skill and luck... those moments where somebody gets something right. Exactly right, the rarest event." Although ranging in tone from elegiac to angry, these pieces mostly evince a thoughtful optimism, chronicling and celebrating the small but significant pleasures of everyday life. While undoubtedly appealing to fans of Price's NPR broadcasts, this collection will also be of value to admirers of his fiction, as it offers a panoramic glimpse of the writer's mind at work. Price's readers and NPR listeners will find it a delight. The brevity and broad range of these pieces also makes this an ideal introduction to this important novelist for readers who do not know his work. Author tour. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* You've heard him on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. Now Price has selected 52 of these commentaries for your reading pleasure. One a week for the entire year. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Noted fiction writer Price was commissioned to do a commentary for National Public Radio, and the assignment grew into a semi-permanent one. More than 50 of the pieces that aired on *All Things Considered* are gathered here. Price was allowed considerable leeway in his choice of topics, which, of course, perfectly suited his wide range of interests and opinions. For a writer for whom trimming stylistic sails was never a chief concern, he suddenly found himself, in writing these commentaries, being very conscious that concision is a "prime virtue." In "Book Tour," Price offers a poignant remembrance of meeting people impacted by AIDS while on a promotional tour. In "The Last Great Weeper," he ponders being brought to tears not by sadness but by "those moments when somebody gets something right." In "Portable Music," he posits that if he were "king of American education" he would require everyone to learn to play a "portable" musical instrument. And mentioning these three essays just hints at the humor, poignancy, and--yes--concision he demonstrates in all these commentaries. Brad Hooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved