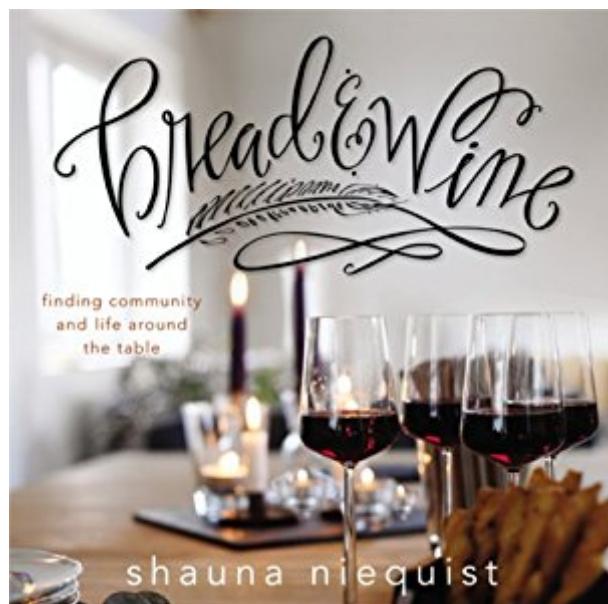


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# Bread & Wine: A Love Letter To Life Around The Table With Recipes



## **Synopsis**

As a follow up to her two best-selling books, *Bittersweet* and *Cold Tangerines*, author and blogger Shauna Niequist returns with the perfect listen for those who love food and value the community and connection of family and friends around the table. *Bread & Wine* is a collection of essays about family relationships, friendships, and the meals that bring us together. This mix of Anne Lamott and *Barefoot Contessa* is a funny, honest, and vulnerable spiritual memoir. *Bread & Wine* is a celebration of food shared, reminding listeners of the joy found in a life around the table. It's about the ways God teaches and nourishes people as they nourish the people around them. It's about hunger, both physical and otherwise, and the connections between the two. With wonderful recipes included, from Bacon-Wrapped Dates to Mango Chicken Curry to Blueberry Crisp, listeners will be able to recreate the comforting and satisfying meals that come to life in *Bread & Wine*.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I told myself upon receiving this book that I would read it slowly, savoring it like a well-aged Port. Well, forget that idea. I guzzled this book like light beer. It was so, well, me. I believe one of the keys to really enjoying this type of literature is finding a deep connection to the author - that the author is someone who you think, "I could hang out with this person for an evening." Mid-way through this book I told my wife and a good friend. "Shauna is the female version of me." While I don't write half as eloquently as Shauna, I think I've shared her sentiments about food, hospitality and *joie de vivre* on multiple occasions - around tables, cooking with the guys in my cooking club or even, on occasion from the pulpit. So, I have nothing bad to say about this book. If you love food, hospitality,

cooking, wine and just-for-the-fun-of-it dinner parties; if your idea of a great night is a house full of people and a whole afternoon spent cooking and smiling as you anticipate your guests; if you love having people in your home; if your idea of a good dinner is one that lasts several hours; if you love to give a good toast - to lock eyes with the people you love across a candlelit table and tell them why they're important to you; if you believe that everything is spiritual, and maybe especially food; if you love a well crafted sentence and rich metaphor, then this is your book. My only argument with this book is some of the early reviews I've seen. To quote one, "this is a wonderful book for women" For women? I'm not a woman, and I loved it. Why, in the Christian world must we keep perpetuating the notion that men write serious books about theology and leadership, while books about food and hospitality and sucking the marrow out of life are somehow "women's lit"?

There is much to enjoy about Shauna Niequist's bloggy book about the profundities of eating and drinking, and much of my enjoyment comes from my admiration for Niequist's honest--and sometimes quasi-confessional--approach to food. She eats cobbler for breakfast. She discusses the tangled relationship between food and shame in a way that's both sympathetic and sensible; "I feel this pain, and it's real, but I can deal with it." As when reading any book about food, I found that I left Niequist's book with a gnawing stomach. The recipes, mmm. The menu pairings, mmm-ier. At the same time, I also found myself not particularly hungry for the sort of thing that Niequist wants most to render attractive--the fellowship that she asserts comes with eating and drinking well with friends. Perhaps it's me--introverted me--but reading about dinner party after dinner party left me, though ready and primed for a fine meal, weary from the thought of so many people and so much talk. Food for Niequist is sacramental in both symbolic resonance and function--and this is a truth upon which she's right to insist. Yet I found myself wondering: could food be as functionally sacramental if it weren't so lush as it consistently is through this series of essays? Could a scrambled egg and toast, shared with an old friend over a glass of milk, serve the same function that the bacon-wrapped figs and ever flowing wine do? Could equally beautiful moments be made on a George Foreman grill in a college dorm room, or must Wusthof knives and Le Creuset cookware be involved in the preparation for it to be valuable? In short, how beautiful must the food be for the food experience to be beautiful as well?

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