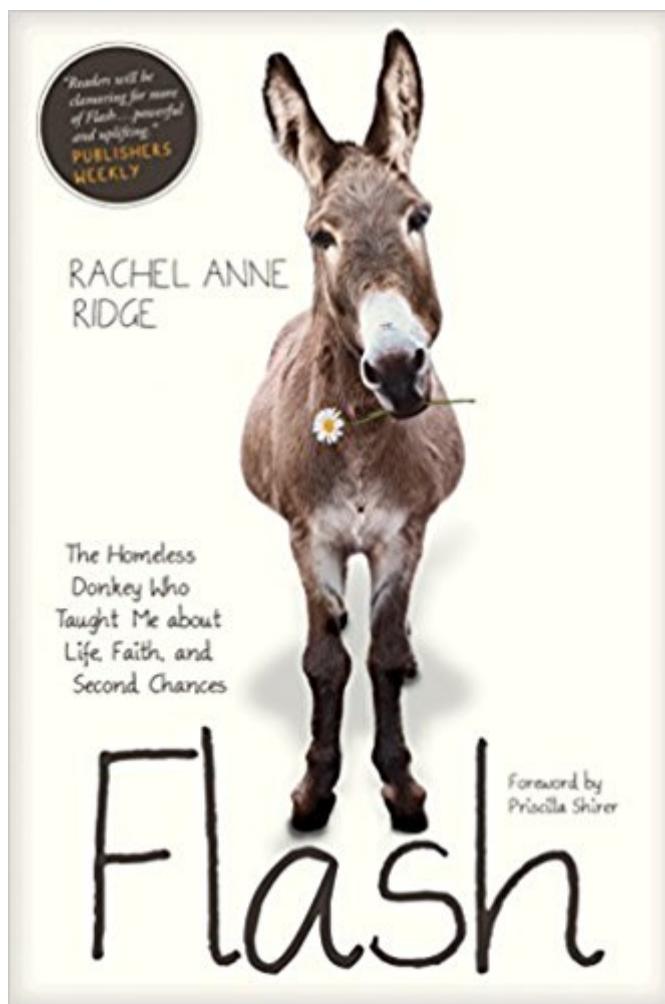


The book was found

Flash: The Homeless Donkey Who Taught Me About Life, Faith, And Second Chances (Flash The Donkey)



Synopsis

The heartwarming tale of an irrepressible donkey who needed a home and forever changed a family. Rachel Anne Ridge was at the end of her rope. The economy had crashed, taking her formerly thriving business along with it. She had been a successful artist, doing work she loved, but now she felt like a failure. How would her family pay their bills? What would the future hold? If only God would somehow let them know that everything was going to be all right . . . and then Flash the donkey showed up. If there is ever a good time to discover a wounded, frightened, bedraggled donkey standing in your driveway, this wasn't it. The local sheriff dismissed Flash as "worthless." But Rachel didn't believe that, and she couldn't turn him away. She brought Flash into her struggling family during their darkest hour and he turned out to be the very thing they needed most. Flash is the true story of their adventures together in learning to love and trust; breaking down whatever fences stood in their way; and finding the strength, confidence, and faith to carry on. Prepare to fall in love with Flash: a quirky, unlikely hero with gigantic ears, a deafening bray, a personality as big as Texas, and a story you'll never forget.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Starred Review." Artist and designer Ridge's business was tanking, along with her attitude and emotional well-being. So why, Ridge wondered, would God have a bedraggled donkey show up in

her driveway, adding to the stresses of her family? While it didn't make sense to keep Flash, as he was lovingly dubbed, Ridge and her family made room for the poor wandering animal in their hearts and home. Ridge figured out, sometimes the hard way, how to properly care for Flash, and as she paid attention to his needs, she learned a whole lot of positive lessons about herself, her faith, and her life. Ridge examines some of life's most difficult issues with insight gained from sharing a home with an equine personality, summarizing lessons learned in pithy statement that conclude chapters ("Be a service animal; "Make things right with others"). Readers will be clamoring for more of Flash as soon as they digest the last story in this powerful and uplifting memoir.--Publishers Weekly Flash, a stray donkey, wanders onto the Ridge family's rural Texas property one night and ends up staying. Ridge--blogger, artist, wife, mother, and entrepreneur--recounts his story and the wisdom God gave her using this unlikely source. Ridge's voice is that of a friend offering encouragement and sound counsel. Her insights aren't earthshattering but are all solid life principles we should hear often. Each chapter holds an illustration from her odd and charming pet and a lesson, such as "Run with horses; the pursuit of excellence conquers fear" and "Stand where fruit is falling; the secret of abundance is in choosing gratitude," plus practical ways to put the insight into practice. She paints a clear picture of God's faithfulness through everyday life challenges, including financial problems, illness, and insecurity. Recommend to readers longing for encouragement.--CBA Retailers and Resources --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Stories that teach spiritual lessons, delight with humor, and make me lean in closer to God's heart are my favorites! And this unlikely treasure of a book does just that. You will fall in love with Flash and the way Rachel Anne processes their story together. (Lysa Terkeurst, NYT bestselling author of *The Best Yes* and president of Proverbs 31 Ministries) When I first heard that Rachel Ridge had written a book about her family's donkey, Flash, I had no idea what to expect. Nothing could have prepared me for such a delightful experience! I loved every page of Flash, and Rachel has such a gift for story telling that you can absolutely picture each scene. This book made me laugh at Flash's antics and cry as I identified with the lessons He has taught her family about the way God loves us and sees us. This book will make you fall in love with our Savior all over again and, more than likely, make you hope you can have your own pet donkey someday. (Melanie Shankle, NYT bestselling author of *Sparkly Green Earrings* and *Antelope in the Living Room*) This book is a delight; it's an honest, funny, and encouraging reminder of the creative, loving ways that God pursues us, teaches us, and changes us. Granted, I never expected that I'd have so much in common with a donkey, but Flash has taught me more than I

could have imagined. Thereâ€™s not a doubt in my mind that youâ€™re going to love this book, and when you finish reading it, youâ€™re going to want to follow Flashâ€™s lead and run with horses. Who knew that a donkey could be such a role model? Thanks, Rachel, for sharing these timeless lessons! (Sophie Hudson, Author of *Home Is Where My People Are* and blogger at BooMama.net) Flash is a marvelous, wonderful, funny, touching, and illuminating book. The author makes the good donkey Flash come alive on the pages. I agree with Rachel that God uses all sorts of thingsâ€¢ from dogs to donkeysâ€¢ to teach us more about himself, and all we have to do is pay attention. (Jim Kraus, Bestselling author of *The Dog That Talked to God*) Charming, poignant, funny, honestâ€¢ Rachel Anneâ€™s journey with Flash the donkey is pure reading pleasure as she shares her familyâ€™s misadventures with their four-legged friend. She opens her heart to us as well, helping us learn memorable lessons about doing life with more meaning and purpose. Flash is delightfully different. I loved it! (Liz Curtis Higgs, Bestselling author of *The Girlâ€™s Still Got It*) What a charming, endearing, numinous bookâ€¢ and donkey! From the first chapter, you will immediately fall in love with Rachel Anne Ridge and her beloved Flash. By the last line, your eyes will be opened to seeing the ways God shows up and reveals Himself in the most unexpectedâ€¢ and delightfulâ€¢ ways. (Lisa Whelchel, Actress and author of *The Facts of Life* and *Friendship for Grown-Ups*) Bravo to Rachel Ridge for this beautifully written book that so eloquently reminds us that our everyday happenings in life can be great lessons and blessings in disguise from our Makerâ€¢ even in the form of a donkey! Her unique ability to paint this picture of love and compassion for one of Godâ€™s creatures in need, evolving into a new family member that unknowingly brings courage and empowerment to a woman with so much to give, will inspire anyone. Two things you will want when you turn the last page is a donkey in your yard and Rachel as one of your besties! (Cindy Owen, Given Entertainment Group) What in the world could a donkey teach me about life? Lots. Why? Because donkeys are simple creatures who live simple lives. Isnâ€™t simplicity exactly what so many people are seeking to find amidst their busy and hectic existences? And the story is not just about the donkey. Itâ€™s about the author, Rachel Anne Ridge, who chooses to live a simple life, just a few yards down a simple road that she and I have shared for the last few years. In the pages of this book, you will findâ€¢ in the life of this woman and in the life of her surprise pet donkeyâ€¢ that simplicity is beautiful. (Chrystal Hurst, Coauthor of *Kingdom Woman*) I always stand amazed at Godâ€™s infinite creativity. When Rachel and Tom Ridge faced a financial crisis, I would have suggested a financial advisor or career counselor. God chose to send a homeless donkey. Farmers often abandon male donkeys during hard times because they are

deemed “worthless.” God showed Rachel that this stubborn and irrepressible animal was far from worthless. Flash used his considerable donkey charm to teach the family lessons about service, faithfulness, purpose, passion, and second chances. God spoke through a donkey in the Old Testament. Hundreds of years later, He spoke again through a homeless donkey named Flash. You will laugh (often) at the antics of Flash. You will be touched by the authenticity of Rachel’s writing. And you will be amazed at the depth of the lessons God revealed through an abandoned donkey with big ears and a bigger heart. (Dave Burchett, Author of *Stay and When Bad Christians Happen to Good People*)A kick-in-the-pants read! Flash is memoir plus heartwarming and sometimes stressful animal story, mixed together with spiritual truth, all tempered with humor at just the right spots. Though I live in the suburbs, this made me want to disobey my neighborhood bylaws and get myself a donkey! (Mary DeMuth, Author of *The Wall around Your Heart*)Rachel Ridge has a beautiful ability to take the common things of life (like words) and craft them in such a way that they flow like prose and poetry. Submerging yourself in *Flash: The Homeless Donkey Who Taught Me about Life, Faith, and Second Chances* is to become lost in a beautiful gallery of her finest art. With each turn of the page, the master storyteller shares a glimpse of humor, revelation, and hope. Every seemingly simple vignette leads you to a sweet discovery of spiritual truth hidden within the gentle donkey’s tale of adventure. Each eye-opening escapade feels like a breath of fresh air and gives you a hint at the tenderness and transparency of Rachel’s heart. We’d all like to have a friend like Flash, faithful and true. I recommend this book to anyone who has ever needed a true-blue friend, a second chance, or a fresh perspective. (Jan Greenwood, Pastor of *Gateway Women* and *Gateway Church* and author of *Women at War*)I believe that since Creation, God has used animals to teach us about ourselves and about our Creator—if we’ll pay attention. Rachel pays attention, and so will her readers as they delight in a quirky and lovable donkey, Flash. (Dandi Mackall, Author of *Winnie the Horse Gentler*, *Backyard Horses*, and *Starlight Animal Rescue*)Reader, BEWARE! By the end of this book you will be searching for a donkey for your own personal growth! From now on, every time I see one of these marvelous creatures out in the field, I will think of Flash, and I am sure a smile or giggle will follow, for the burden of this burrow is laden with humor and wisdom. Rachel has dignified a lowly creature to the point that you think it almost necessary to fence in your yard, buy some hay, and wait for the lessons to begin. Thank you, Rachel, for sharing your personal stories, and thank you, Flash, for being such a humorous teacher! (Tina Wesson, Survivor: The Australian Outback (Season Two) winner)I loved this whimsical, vulnerable, and simply profound book! Rachel tells how a broken, lost, and stubborn animal awakened her awareness of God’s voice in her life.

Her story gives hope to anyone who has ever felt inadequate or unseen. She takes the simple and makes it shine to encourage the reader to look with a fresh perspective at the potential God puts in each of us. (Paige C. Green, Director of Adult Events, LifeWay Christian Resources) --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I enjoyed this delightful book; however, I had just finished reading A Wolf Called Romeo, and I found the constant references to Judeo-Christian biblical texts a bit off-putting, primarily because the book is not presented as a Christian-bookstore-type-of book, up front. A Wolf Called Romeo was every bit as inspiring without resorting to relating any aspect of the story as somehow related to God as presented in the Judeo-Christian bible. In the final analysis, even though I identify Christianity as my preferred belief system, I resent the fact that "Flash" was not presented in a more honest manner. In fact, even though the author claims her parents were missionaries, nowhere is there any mention of what church or sect they and she represent--a lacunae in terms of an honest, open, and straightforward manner. If you like reading works that relate every single thing that happens in them to a biblical passage, this is your book! When the introductions to is say "faith," they mean that is the entire focus of the book..

I had received the audiobook to review for free, but enjoyed this book so much I bought a hard copy of the book for a gift. I really like the way this author writes. I could really relate to her emotions and thoughts, and felt she put it all together very well in this story. Most importantly, to me, was the fact that there was not one use of bad language. I knew I could give this book as a gift for a teenager I am very close to, without any hesitation or concern. You may have to be an animal lover to enjoy the book, but regardless, the message is there for anyone if you are willing and open to receive it. I know so many other reviewers have gone into more detail about this book, but I am just here to say: Its a clean, decent book with a clear clean message. If you are looking for a clean read or a gift for someone, this is a book you can purchase without concern.

I don't usually write ratings for books because I feel like it is a personal preference but this one just released left at me. This is humorous and fun to read while at the same time speaks my heart of such lessons that I needed to learn years ago and will be applying to my life I am sure in the years ahead! Thank you for such a special perspective and a loving hand with which to write! You have blessed me and many others I am sure!

I had gone and seen some wild donkeys they are so beautiful I just fell in love with them. A few days later we were in a book store I was just walking the isles waiting for my husband when I walked by this book. It seemed to jump right off the shelf and into my hands. Had no intention of purchasing a book that day. I bought it and began to read before long I read how Flash came to their home and laughed as Rachel Anne Ridge began to tell about putting him in the pasture. I know how these four footed animals can make their own decisions and they might not be the same as yours. You will enjoy this book so much as you will gain much learning from this donkey named Flash.

I'm absolutely in love with Flash! A simple, profound, transformative memoir. Rachel is a wonderful writer who poured our her heart and soul to deliver a powerful message of vulnerability, honesty, love and faith. Caution: this book comes with an unlikely messenger... a lovable, headstrong donkey who will bring out your very best. Funny, touching and memorable. I shared it with my friends and family.

This is a very good story! Particularly when the author relates it to stories written in the Bible. It is the story of a donkey and all of the exciting things that a donkey will cause those who own him to do.

I JUST GOT FLASH IN THE MAIL TODAY. AND READ IT ALL IN ONE SITTING, I JUST LOVED THIS WARM SWEET FUNNY FUNNY GOD LOVING BOOK. I COULDN'T PUT IT DOWN SO GOOD I LOVED IT SO MUCH I JUST ORDERED ANOTHER COPY OF IT TO SEND TO MY IN LAW. SHE WILL JUST LOVE IT. LIKE I JUST LOVED IT. I LOVE ANIMAL STORIES AND BOOKS AND THIS ONE HAS BE ONE OF MY VERY FAVORITE ANIMAL BOOKS THAT I HAVE EVER READ IN VERY LONG TIME. AND FOR THOSE NASTY PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T LIKE IT AT ALL STOP READING GOOD BOOKS IF YOU DON'T LIKE GIVING GOOD REVIEWS FOR VERY GOOD BOOKS. AND FIND ANOTHER HOBBY, YOU WILL BE ALOT HAPPIER THAT WAY.

I was attracted to this book because of the donkey, as I have one too. Add spiritual lessons and it was irresistible. It turned out to be even better than I thought. My donkey is every bit as special as Rachel's and I love her to death. Spiritual lessons with a donkey flavor are amazing. Thanks for the insights, Rachel. I'll never see my life or my Lulu the same again!

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