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**Anna Quindlen**

**Vuodet kuin kuiskaus**



Title: Vuodet kuin kuiskaus

Author: Anna Quindlen

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## Description

This powerful new novel by the bestselling author of *Black and Blue*, *One True Thing*, *Object Lessons*, and *A Short Guide to a Happy Life* begins when a teenage couple drives up, late at night, headlights out, to Blessings, the estate owned by Lydia Blessing. They leave a box and drive away, and in this instant, the world of Blessings is changed forever. Richly written, deeply moving, beautifully crafted, *Blessings* tells the story of Skip Cuddy, caretaker of the estate, who finds a baby asleep in that box and decides he wants to keep her, and of matriarch Lydia Blessing, who, for her own reasons, decides to help him. The secrets of the past, how they affect the decisions and lives of people in the present; what makes a person, a life, legitimate or illegitimate, and who decides; the unique resources people find in themselves and in a community—these are at the center of this wonderful novel of love, redemption, and personal change by the writer about whom *The Washington Post Book World* said, “Quindlen knows that all the things we ever will be can be found in some forgotten fragment of family.”

## Insightful reviews

Becky : I really enjoyed this fast and easy read. Its a story of a man who works for a wealthy woman and lives in an apartment above the garage and wakes one morning to find a baby in a cardboard box left on the step. He gets a baby book and decides to raise the baby as his own, and the elder woman ends up helping him. Very likeable characters, very descriptive dialogues... but almost "Garrison Keillor" like in describing details. Could have been said much faster. And the dialogue flip flops from past to present a lot, but still very entertaining. I'd recommend it, but not as a great literary piece. She uses rare adjectives more than once in the book... like "inchoate." I mean... come on. Who really uses that word more than once?? It felt a little like she had just learned it and wanted to use it. This book is good if you just plowed through something challenging and want a quick break for fun.

Carol: What a precious book, totally enjoyed reading it. One night a baby is dropped off at the wealthy Blessings home, they look inside a cardboard box outside the estate and find a new born baby. This act totally changes Blessings forever. Richly written, deeply moving, beautifully crafted. Quindlen tells the story of Skip Cuddy, caretaker of the estate, who finds a baby asleep in that box and decides he wants to keep her, and of matriarch Lydia Blessing, who, for her own reasons, decides to help him. The secrets of the past, how they affect the decisions and lives of people in the present is what makes a person, a life, legitimate or illegitimate, and who decides. Also the unique resources people find in themselves, and in their community. It is a book of love, personal change, and redemption.

Donna LaValley: This is the first book I've experienced on CD, so I'm not sure I gave it a proper "reading." Being in a post-surgical haze could have altered my opinion downward, but the happy-helping pain pills should have compensated in the other direction, right? I'd give it 2.5 stars if possible.

Anna Q. writes beautifully. I used to read -and save- her columns from *Newsweek* before she stopped to write novels. The first of her novels that I heard of was *One True Thing*, about a

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mother and daughter facing the mother's cancer. Since my own mother suffered 4 years before her death (I was 13) I passed on repeating the experience vicariously. Then, somehow, the other novels didn't reach my hands.

Here came "Blessings," a title that sounded great. "Blessings" is the name of a lovely estate with a large farmhouse, outbuildings, acres of land, trees, and a "pond" with trout. "Blessings" is also what the reader (in my opinion) is meant to understand from the plot - the characters who endure it are to glean blessings therefrom.

Two story arcs intertwine. In the one I cared about, a young man (with bad friends) finds a newborn baby on this estate, where he works. He falls in love with the tiny abandoned thing and becomes a loving father while he can. The 80-year old matron of Blessings eventually colludes with him to keep the beautiful, thriving child. Meanwhile, she looks back at raising her own only child, a daughter, at Blessings. Her husband and her brother, both good men, had their own history there, shared with her.

There was too much looking back and figuring out or ruminating on obvious things from the past. The climax scene was well-written and probably true to character, but also not able to carry the book to a higher level. Peripheral characters are well made and real, but they didn't have the heft needed to lift either. The best thing about this novel is Anna's beautiful, graceful writing and descriptions of place and feeling. Details were perfectly woven in (such as the way a baby moves her arms at 3 weeks).

"Blessings" where a young man finds his better self, and an "old" woman looks back over her life, didn't take the book where I wanted it to go (however, it's not My book!). I would read another novel by Anna Quidlen and recommend her as an author, but I don't recommend this novel. She really is a great writer, though!

Maria: i discovered this on a unfastened pile of books and idea the identify vaguely intriguing. loose appeals, and that i appeared to bear in mind that i might learn Black and Blue as soon as -- related writer -- and beloved it. This novel is soothing, certain it is, yet it's kind of trite, and there's simply one, simply one, relatively sharply depicted poignant second overdue within the narrative (where the hero has suffered a massive loss) that is so well-done i used to be left openmouthed; also, there's a captivating stress-free review of Agatha Christie books. that is not enough. however the tone, as I say, is soothing, and the farmhouse position on lots of well tended land is bucolic and calming. i may have taken a tablet for faster and extra enjoyable effect.

Pat: I particularly loved this book. A teenaged couple leaves a child on the storage door of the town's "big house", and the newborn is located by way of the estate's caretaker, Skip, a guy who has saved undesirable company, made undesirable choices, and had undesirable success his whole life. He in short debates calling the police or bringing the kid to his employer, 80-year-old Lydia Blessing, then makes a decision to deal with the kid and maintain her a secret. Of course, as June becomes July, the key will get out. child religion turns pass right into a accountable "dad", and is helping humanize Lydia, who has been dwelling some time past on her estate, within which she had felt exiled from the existence in NYC society which she had

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deliberate whilst she used to be a debutante sooner than WWII. Lydia is helping continue the infant a secret, yet brings in her housekeeper's daughter to help in baby care, and so they create a delightful existence for themselves, headquartered on Faith. either bypass and Lydia are transformed. although idyllic the summer, fall brings changes. The surroundings is bucolic and lovely. I loved the sluggish pacing, as soon as I bought into the book, and Lydia's ruminations. whereas a few will without doubt be unsatisfied with the ending, and that i admit i might have cherished a happier one, the finishing is, in my opinion, the one one possible, and finally quite satisfying. I frequently get pleasure from Anna Quindlen's writing, and this can be no exception. What i did not like is the heavy-handed symbolism of the ebook name and property name, Blessings, and of the kid's name, Faith. Yes, yes, they fit, yet simply too rattling obvious. Let's provide the reader a bit extra credits to make the connections; do not hammer her or him over the head.

Angie Noble: nice story, even though slightly unrealistic. I consistently love how Anna Quindlen ties jointly the typical Joe and anyone who has lived the privileged lifestyles to teach that all of us particularly usually are not that different.

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