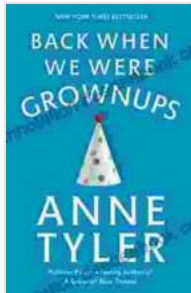


Back When We Were Grownups: A Poignant Exploration of Family Relationships and the Challenges of Aging



Back When We Were Grownups by Anne Tyler

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.1 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 5104 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 336 pages
Screen Reader	: Supported



Anne Tyler's novel, *Back When We Were Grownups*, is a poignant and perceptive exploration of the complexities of family relationships and the challenges of aging. The novel follows the Whitshank family as they navigate the challenges of growing old and the changes that come with it.

The Whitshanks are a close-knit family, but as they get older, they begin to drift apart. The patriarch of the family, Rex, is a retired professor who is struggling to come to terms with his own mortality. His wife, Maggie, is a kind and caring woman who is trying to keep the family together. Their children, Casey, Cody, and Jenny, are all grown up and have their own families. Casey is a successful businessman, Cody is a struggling artist, and Jenny is a single mother.

As the Whitshanks grow older, they begin to face a number of challenges. Rex is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and Maggie has to care for him as his condition worsens. Casey and Cody struggle to find their place in the world, and Jenny has to deal with the challenges of single motherhood. Despite the challenges they face, the Whitshanks remain a close-knit family. They love and support each other, and they are determined to make the most of their time together.

The Characters

The Whitshanks are a complex and well-developed family. Anne Tyler does an excellent job of bringing each character to life, and readers will feel like they know them personally. Here is a brief overview of each character:

- **Rex Whitshank:** The patriarch of the family, Rex is a retired professor who is struggling to come to terms with his own mortality. He is a kind and caring man, but he can also be stubborn and set in his ways.
- **Maggie Whitshank:** Rex's wife, Maggie is a kind and caring woman who is trying to keep the family together. She is a devoted wife and mother, and she is always there for her family.
- **Casey Whitshank:** Casey is the eldest of the Whitshank children. He is a successful businessman, but he is also struggling to find his place in the world. He is a kind and compassionate man, but he can also be judgmental and critical of others.
- **Cody Whitshank:** Cody is the middle child of the Whitshank children. He is a struggling artist, but he is also a talented and creative person. He is a sensitive and caring man, but he can also be impulsive and reckless.

- **Jenny Whitshank:** Jenny is the youngest of the Whitshank children. She is a single mother, and she is struggling to raise her children. She is a strong and independent woman, but she can also be lonely and isolated.

The Themes

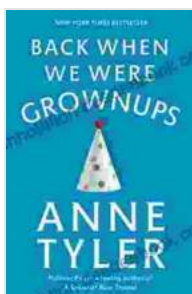
Back When We Were Grownups explores a number of important themes, including:

- **The challenges of aging:** The novel follows the Whitshanks as they navigate the challenges of growing old. They face a number of challenges, including health problems, financial difficulties, and the loss of loved ones.
- **The importance of family:** The novel explores the importance of family. The Whitshanks are a close-knit family, and they love and support each other. They are there for each other through thick and thin, and they help each other through the challenges of life.
- **The search for meaning in life:** The novel explores the search for meaning in life. The Whitshanks are all trying to find their place in the world. They are all searching for something that will make their lives more meaningful.

The Writing Style

Anne Tyler is a master of her craft, and her writing style is both beautiful and accessible. She has a gift for creating characters that are both relatable and complex. Her prose is clear and concise, and she has a knack for capturing the nuances of human emotion.

Back When We Were Grownups is a poignant and perceptive novel that explores the complexities of family relationships and the challenges of aging. The novel is beautifully written, and the characters are well-developed and relatable. Readers will find themselves drawn into the Whitshanks' world, and they will come to care deeply about their struggles and triumphs.



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