

The Shack
By William P. Young

Roughly half the hundreds of books I've read have been referred by other people. This one was referred by the limo driver on my way to the airport. I would classify it as a "spiritual" book although not in a traditional sense. According to the author, it was a story he pulled together to help educate his children. Enough saw value in it that it was turned into a book which, in turn, has generated much publicity. Here are some of the ahas I got out of reading it. Check off the boxes that resonate with you!

- Since most of our hurts come through relationships, so will our healing.
- The author really likes Bruce Cockburn, a Canadian folk singer.
- Sadness is a world between two gardens. – Kahlil Gibran
- It is important to get issues of the head out of the way when dealing with issues of the spirit or heart.
- The goal is not just to be loving but to be love itself.
- Relationships are never about power, and one way to avoid the will to power is to choose to limit oneself—to serve.
- Being *always* transcends appearance—that which only seems to be.
- [Sin] is its own punishment, devouring you from the inside.
- We are in a circle of relationship, not a chain of command.
- You rarely see or experience relationship apart from power. [Or, as Hawkins or Tolle would let us know, we rarely see relationships apart from our ego involvement in them. This is where expectations can really get us in trouble!]
- If you truly learn to regard each others' concerns as significant as your own, there would be no need for hierarchy.
- Trust is the fruit of a relationship in which you know you are loved.
- Freedom involves trusting and obedience inside a relationship of love.
- Humans have a great capacity for declaring something good or evil without truly knowing.
- You must give up your right to decide what is good and evil on your own terms.
- Rights are where survivors go, so they won't have to work out relationships.
- A child is protected because she is loved, not because she has the right to be protected.
- So why do I have so much fear in my life?
- Genuine relationships are marked by submission even when your choices are not helpful or healthy.
- Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge of Truth or Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods. – Albert Einstein
- Love is just the skin of knowing.
- Politics, religion, and institutions are the man-created trinity of terrorists that ravish the earth and deceive those God cares about.
- When people want to do what they think is right, they need a stern God. When they need forgiveness, they run to Jesus.
- Love that is forced is no love at all.
- God is a Verb. – Buckminster Fuller
- Emotions are the color of the soul.

Final thoughts: The ego masquerades as self love. But it is not love. Do you *truly* love yourself as God, Jesus, or your mom loves you? Love is about transcending the ego. The question I continue to ask is if I let me fully love me...and others? Without expectation or judgment? That's how I become a better person.