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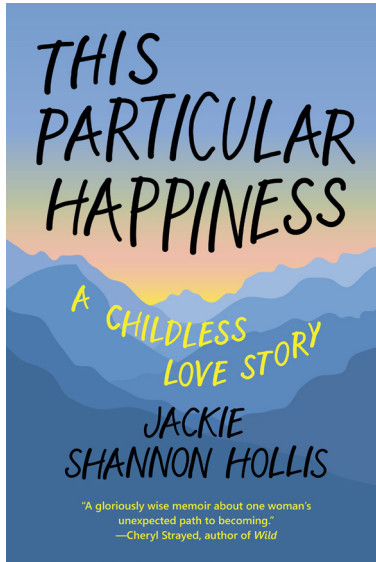


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MEMOIR

THIS PARTICULAR HAPPINESS

by Jackie Shannon Hollis



Foreword by Jody Day, internationally renowned childless advocate and founder of Gateway Women

As a farm girl in eastern Oregon, feeding bottles to bummer lambs and babysitting her little sister, Jackie Shannon Hollis expected to become a mother someday. Then she meets Bill, the man of her dreams—except he doesn't want children. Told in short nonlinear chapters, *This Particular Happiness* explores the fracturing of female identity as Shannon Hollis questions her childless decision, navigates her roles as daughter and wife and sister and friend, and ultimately learns to listen to her own heart. This debut memoir is about what we keep and what we abandon to make space in our lives for love.

"This Particular Happiness is a gloriously wise book about one woman's unexpected path to becoming."

—Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild*

"This deeply engaging memoir wrestles with one of the most important questions of all: Why do we want what we want? Jackie Shannon Hollis explores how her own desires have been shaped by a culture that celebrates 'mother' more than any other role for women, and the possibilities that open up when she chooses not to play the role. A vibrant, absorbing, intimate book."

—Leni Zumas, author of *Red Clocks*

"The perfect book for anyone contemplating motherhood—or not!"

—Caroline Leavitt, author of *Pictures of You*

"This book is a celebration of living life using your own damn map."

—Yuvi Zalkow, author of *A Brilliant Novel in the Works*

"This Particular Happiness examines the particularly female journey—how and where do we make room for love? And whether lover, wife, mother, or daughter, how can we be our most authentic selves? Jackie Shannon Hollis explores this rich terrain with clarity and courage, in spare and lovely prose evocative of the high plains landscape and fertile farmland she hails from."

—Jennie Shortridge, author of *Love Water Memory*

"A powerful book for both genders and any sexual orientation."

—Kate Carroll de Gutes, author of *The Authenticity Experiment*

"This Particular Happiness claims an important place in the conversation about what it means to be female, especially a female who doesn't follow the script written by a traditional rural family."

—Sheila Hamilton, author of *All the Things We Never Knew*

"Any person who has wondered about the path not taken—especially as it relates to child-rearing—will find themselves riveted."

—Zoe Zolbrod, author of *The Telling*

"Sit down. Make tea. Hold *This Particular Happiness* by Jackie Shannon Hollis in your hands and read it slowly because she has written you a love letter."

—Kate Gray, author of *Carry the Sky*

Details

MEMOIR

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Author Bio

Jackie Shannon Hollis, a lifelong Oregonian, resides with her husband in a home her friends call the treehouse. Her education and work as a counselor also pushed her to hold up the mirror to her own self. In addition to thinking she would be a mother, she once dreamed of being a June Taylor dancer or a racecar driver. Her short stories and essays have been published in *The Sun*, *Slice*, *Inkwell*, *High Desert Journal*, *Rosebud*, and other publications.

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