

[DOWNLOAD] An Innocent, a Broad

## An Innocent, a Broad

Ann Leary

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF

# An Innocent, a Broad



"Equal parts  
heartfelt and  
humorous."

—*People*

ANN LEARY

 Download

 Read Online

#563462 in Books Ann Leary 2005-04-12 2005-04-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .58 x 5.311,  
.48 #File Name: 0060527242256 pages An Innocent a Broad | File size: 43.Mb

**Ann Leary : An Innocent, a Broad** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Innocent, a Broad:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Gratitude To The NHS By prisrob Ann Leary has written a wonderfully poignant account of the beginning of her life with husband, Denis, and their interlude in London when problems with her pregnancy occurred. Ann and Denis met when he was teaching a course on Comedic Writing at Emerson College in Boston. He was funny and a great teacher. Soon after the class was finished, they started dating,

moved in together and married. Denis was a fledgling comedian, and they had little money but the time seemed right to have a baby. In the fourth month of the pregnancy, Denis was offered a terrific one night job in London at BBC. Off they went, and that is when the fun began. On their second day in London, Ann's amniotic sac broke, and she found herself ensconced in the British National Health System. Pure luck brought them to the right hospital with the most expertise in premature births. Frightened and not understanding the system and the various levels of hierarchy, Ann and Denis listened to every word. It is very dangerous to deliver a baby at this early stage, so the plan was bed rest as long as possible before delivery. The care was excellent, and Ann was in a large ward with other women in the same spot. Denis was flying back and forth from the US, he needed to find jobs in the US, and it was difficult. Ann was given the most up to date care, and that is probably why their son, Jack, born at almost 28 weeks, weighing 2 pounds, 6 ounces, was able to breathe on his own. He was kept in the Intensive Care Unit for a month or so and then moved to a step down unit. And, then, Ann and Denis brought him to a rented apt. in London for another month before they could go home. There were many ups and downs, but Jack was a trouper and finally they got to go home to the US. Ann Leary conveys the terror of the experience, the emotional toll, the sense of feeling inadequate as a mother and her profound anxiety about her son's future. She stayed in the U.K. for months until the baby's lungs were strong enough for a flight back home. Leary's son shows no ill effects from his early birth. And Leary cherishes him in a way that only the mother of a preemie could. This is a book full of humor and anxiety, Ann Leary does a remarkable job in the writing of this tale. A gifted writer, Leary tells stories about her divorced parents, and Denis's large family who were always gracious and loving. In the end, the book is about Leary's gratitude for giving birth in a leading neonatal facility. Most of all, it's about her gratitude for her son's life. Highly Recommended. prsrob 02-14-131 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Solidly Entertaining, And Interesting Re: Health Care As Well By L. Erickson This was an enjoyable and interesting read. Ann Leary, wife of comedian Dennis Leary, recounts several months she spent in London, after she was unexpectedly hospitalized while pregnant with their first child. His premature birth, and long stay in the hospital, coincided with Dennis's rising fame, and it's all quite fascinating. Her voice is witty and smart, and her description of her experience with British healthcare honest and enlightening. She captures the heart-wrenching anxiety of caring for a premature infant, while also managing to stay funny and insightful. While this doesn't quite rise to the level of a 5-star memoir for me, it is a solid read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Witty and engaging and a study of the National Health Service from the view of an American By Laura H. Marshall As a health communications professional who's worked with a company studied by the NHS, I perhaps got a special benefit out of reading this story. It is interesting to view the difference between two health care systems from the point of view of someone who never planned to examine them--and who manages to write about her experiences with wit and verve. Tangentially, it's interesting to learn how Denis Leary's comedy career got off the ground during a frightening, difficult time for he and his wife and their tiny, fragile baby. All that said, it really is a sweetly funny book, too, and Ann knows how to wield the English language (whether with an American accent or a British one)!

When Ann Leary and her husband, then unknown actor-comedian Denis Leary, flew to London in the early nineties for a brief getaway during Ann's second trimester of pregnancy, neither anticipated the adventure that was in store for them. The morning after their arrival, Ann's water broke as they strolled through London's streets. A week later their son, Jack, was born weighing only two pounds, six ounces, and it would be five long months before mother and son could return to the States. In the meantime, Ann became an unwitting yet grateful hostage to Britain's National Health Service -- a stranger in a strange land plunged abruptly into a world of breast pumps and midwives, blood oxygen levels, mad cow disease, and poll tax riots. Desperately worried about the health of her baby, Ann struggled to adapt to motherhood and make sense of a very different culture. At once an intimate family memoir, a lively travelogue, and a touching love story, *An Innocent, A Broad* is utterly engaging and unforgettable.

.com Just 26 weeks into her first pregnancy, Ann Leary's water broke--an event she sardonically refers to as "the PROM" (doctor-speak for "premature rupture of membranes). Unfortunately for her, the "PROM" took place while she was strolling along Oxford Street during a weekend trip to London, where her (then-unknown) husband Denis Leary was booked to perform a BBC comedy show. Forbidden to return home and placed on total bed rest, Ann gets "knackered" from the medications pumped into her body to prevent premature labor. In some of the book's funniest passages, she makes great efforts to prevent her many hospital roommates from discovering she's American, lest they suspect she's freeloading off the National Health Service. (Don't let the bad pun of the book's title put you off; Ann's sense of humor is often as biting and gritty as her husband's). Despite the doctors' best efforts, baby Jack is born two weeks later, while Denis is back in the U.S. working at comedy clubs (and trying to keep the couple from being evicted from their apartment). Jack is in relatively good shape, but Ann's mental state is at risk, as sleep deprivation, anxiety, and loneliness get the best of her. Among her postpartum goofs is befriending another woman whose baby is also in intensive care; she mistakes her for a slim, serene Earth Mother instead of the heroin-addict she really is. So, *An Innocent, A Broad* is not so much a drama of Jack's survival as much as it is a chuckle-fest at the expense of both Ann's predicament and of the Brits in general, whose overwrought sense of propriety is mocked non-stop. Beware if

you think this might seem a perfect gift for a pregnant woman; the belly laughs are constant and likely to cause any expectant woman's water to break. --Erica JorgensenFrom Publishers WeeklyWhile pregnant, Leary, a television and film writer, fantasized about the birth of her son: it would include a home birth ("I would realize that there was no time to make it to the hospital"), an easy delivery (an "evening on our bed, laboring and breathing"), and, of course, a healthy child ("a beautiful, plump baby that my husband would triumphantly slide onto my bare belly"). This fantasy, Leary admits, occasionally included "a handsome fireman who was called upon in a moment of panic." Needless to say, it didn't happen that way. On a weekend trip with her husband, comedian Denis Leary (who was still relatively unknown at the time), to London in 1990 during her second trimester, Leary's water broke. No home birth, no healthy baby, no fireman. With a light touch and comic flair, Leary recounts the five months in London surrounding her son Jack's birth (they had to wait until Jack was more developed to travel back to the U.S.). Forgoing the gory medical details, Leary focuses on her life in and around the hospital and her naïveté about childbirth and parenting. Her cultural observations are especially droll, as Leary sorts out that "tea" is actually a meal and tries to prove that Americans aren't stupid: "I tried to look intelligent, but... I had nothing to read or even to look at, so I narrowed my eyes and stared at my fingernails, in what I hoped was a thoughtful way." Oddly, the one thing missing from the narrative is her husband, who plays a surprisingly small role. Still, this memoir is an easy read that finds the humor in this trying time in Leary's life. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistLeary never imagined that a weekend trip to London would turn into a five-month stay, but, then, she wasn't planning on going into labor four months early. She was traveling with husband Denis, a then-unknown comedian who had landed a gig on British television. So while she was admitted to University College Hospital in an attempt to prevent her labor, Denis was getting rave reviews in the British press and eventually traveling back to New York to work (and cover the couple's living expenses). Despite efforts to curtail her labor, Leary still delivered her son more than three months early, which earned him an extended stay in the Special Care Baby Unit. Leary describes her experience with humor and warmth, recounting the stress not only of having a baby but of having one prematurely and in a foreign country. Parents everywhere will be amazed at how well Leary seems to have coped and at her ability to transpose the most traumatic time of her life into a touching and funny memoir. Beth LeistensniderCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved