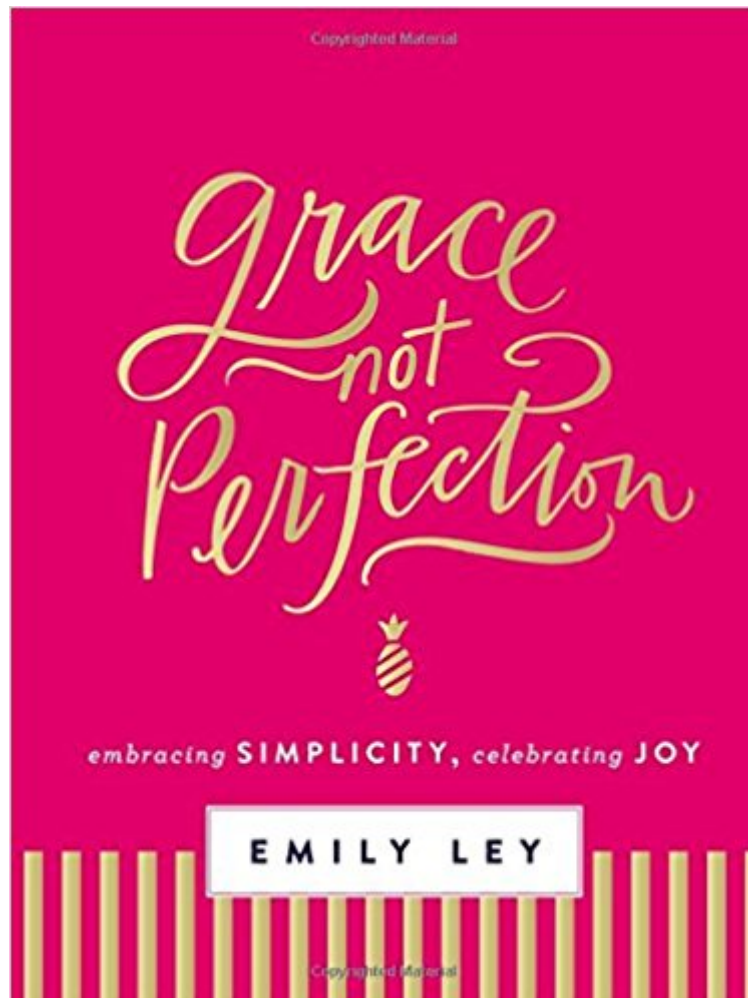




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# Grace, Not Perfection: Embracing Simplicity, Celebrating Joy



## Synopsis

I will hold myself to a standard of grace, not perfection. As a busy wife, new mother, business owner, and designer, Emily Ley came to a point when she suddenly realized she couldn't do it all. She needed to simplify her life, organize her days, and prioritize the priorities. She decided to hold herself to a standard of grace rather than perfection. This mantra led to the creation of her bestselling Simplified Planner®, a favorite among busy women everywhere—from mamas to executives and everywhere in between. Grace, Not Perfection takes this message from a daily planner to an inspirational book that encourages women to simplify and prioritize. Designed with Emily Ley's signature aesthetic, this book gives women tangible ways to simplify their lives to give space to what matters most. With a focus on faith, Emily reminds readers that God abundantly pours out grace on us and that surely we can extend grace to ourselves. Have you been told you can have it all, only to end up exhausted and occasionally out of sorts with the people you love? Are you ready for a new way of seeing your time? Learn to live a little more simply. Hold yourself and those you love to a more life-giving standard in Grace Not Perfection, and allow that grace to seep into your days, your family, and your heart. Ideas include: List Making 101—tips to create effective to-do lists and get through them one step at a time Simplify your life by simplifying the three major areas: your space, your time, and your mind Strategies to center your day around an intentionally slower rhythm of life

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Emily Ley is Founder and Creative Director of Emily Ley Paper & Gifts. She is also the creator of the

bestselling Simplified Plannerâ" a daily agenda for what matters most. Raised in Pensacola, Florida (home of the most beautiful beaches you ever did see), Emily graduated from the University of West Florida with degrees in English, creative writing, and public administration and then went on to become the executive director of the city ballet. From there, she worked in nonprofit management and public relations before launching her brand in 2008. Following the success found at its online home, EmilyLey.com, the Emily Ley brand quickly grew to be carried in over 500 retail outlets across the United States and around the world. Emily has been recognized with numerous awards, including Best New Productâ"Desktop (for the 2015 Simplified PlannerÂ®) at the National Stationery Show as well as Top 10 Designers to Watch in 2015 by Stationery Trends Magazine. Now as a businesswoman, wife, and mama to three, Emily enjoys Friday pizza parties on the living room floor, strong cappuccinos with her college-crush-turned-husband, and making memories to savor for a lifetime with her twins and preschooler.

I really want to be able to give this book 5 stars. I've been following Emily's work for quite some time now and I always find her to be so inspiring. So I'll start with the good. The book is easy-to-read and is filled with good intentions. Much of her advice is practical and beneficial to those of us (which is basically all of us) with very busy lives. The book is elegantly designed and I loved the "worksheet" style pages that allowed me to take time to reflect and engage with her words and my own life. The pages are thick enough to write on with marker-style pens with no bleed-through and it is well bound. The images throughout are gorgeous and there is a nice balance of personal reflection with practical advice. The book gives me something to strive for (although it seems like that "something" is perfection--or my idea of it) and it allowed me an opportunity to slow down and give myself permission to enjoy her book instead of the million other insane tasks I've set for myself. Although it may seem like her advice is "easier said than done," there is a lot of truth to her wisdom and although it may be difficult, I'm going to try to take her suggestions to heart. And the not-so-good. I love the idea of this book. But as some other reviewers have mentioned, it's not always easy for many of us to achieve--especially without ample income. As much as I'd love to buy the Simplified Planner, for example, (which is routinely referenced in the book--no surprise, so I'm not sure why people are upset by this), I simply can't afford \$58 for a planner when I can buy one that does much the same thing--albeit not nearly as pretty--for a fraction of the price. And I know the point of including such picture-perfect images throughout the book is to sell the book and to sell what she's talking about. But if she's trying to convince me that I should be happy with my house and life as it is, I wasn't entirely convinced. Professional photography equipment and lighting and staging don't

seem "simplified" to me. And it's not necessarily Emily's fault that I feel this way, but if I'm not supposed to chase perfection, why do I feel like after reading this (and following her blog) that I need to have clean white walls and carefully articulated displays of my life in an almost art form with perfectly photographed children (in my case, pets) and a tailored wardrobe and perfect handwriting and be full of abundant creativity (etc. etc. etc.)? Looking at her photos, I got the opposite impression that she was trying to make. But then again, messy carpets and dirty dishes probably wouldn't sell many books. So I understand the point. All of this is to say that if you're looking for a magic book that will transform your life in a matter of seconds, this isn't that book. There is no such book. But if you truly take Emily's beautifully crafted words to heart and realize that the advice is difficult and--for some of us impractical--it's definitely worth a read. Her book isn't perfect, but neither is she, neither am I, and neither are you. And that's the point. Live. Love. and strive for grace.

Love the book but my copy was supposed to be a gift for someone and it came with bent corners and inside the book it had some gunk on one of the pages like someone had been eating while reading it seems used. :( I can't give this to my friend and I won't be buying from this seller again.

I love Emily Ley and her message but this book just didn't do it for me. It was very pretty and well laid out but the concepts were pretty simple and I didn't feel like there was much 'meat' to the chapters. I wanted to love it but unfortunately it didn't add much to my life.

Found this book at my local library and am now purchasing to pass around to the women in my family. It's so easy to get caught up in comparing your life to the "perfect" seeming lives of others... Taking pauses and being grateful is a conscious effort. I laughed out loud when Emily wrote about wiping the countertops 18x a day and trying to keep up with Pinterest board competition! It's a breath of fresh air to know other women are feeling similar social pressures. I plan to follow her advice about de-cluttering social media and unnecessary email noise. As some other reviewers have mentioned, Emily now has a successful business and writes about things like hiring landscapers and housekeepers. Don't get caught up in the financial choices she and her husband have made--focus on the fact that there CAN BE choices. They happen to choose outsourcing some chores in order to spend that time with their children. Emily mentions other ways to achieve the same result (taking turns with family members or other parents to watch kids for date night, etc.). The book didn't read as a sales plug to me. It wouldn't be possible to write about her journey without mentioning the ups and downs of entrepreneurship. There are clever "write in" sections of the book where Emily

asks the reader to jot down topical thoughts and lists while reading. I do not have children and I keep my religious beliefs/ relationship with God very personal. Emily focuses a lot on her kids and her interpretation of God and what He wants for each of us. If you can wade through this book and find segments that ring true to your personal journey, I consider it a win!

Loved this book. From the moment I saw its hot pink cover and gold foil and couldn't wait to read it. Emily does an amazing job about reminding us to refocus in what's important in life. Forget the material and photo-perfect life; it's about living moments in action and taking it all in. Love love love!

Disappointed. I ordered this book before (new) from another seller and it came with a nice cover on it. I ordered this particular book for a friend of mine as a gift. When it arrived, it did not have a nice cover on it and also had a few scratches which makes it appear used. The book (content) is great that's why I ordered it a second time however, I'd be skeptical that it arrives in "New" condition.

This was my first book purchase from Emily Ley, and she did not disappoint! Her words felt like they were being directly spoken to me - such an encouraging, uplifting book. A must read, and worth every penny! I am looking forward to purchasing her next book!

My heart needed this book! Sweet stories from her life, practical advice, and the best cover/pages/pictures you could ever ask for!! I'm buying this for all my girl friends for Christmas!

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