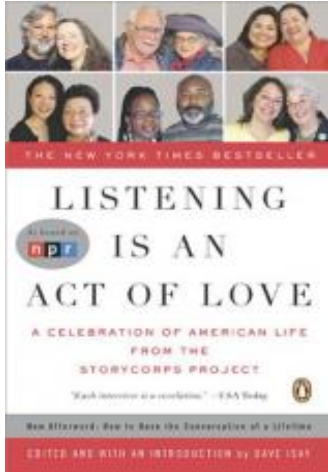


# Listening Is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project

by Dave Isay

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## About the Book

StoryCorps founder and legendary radio producer Dave Isay selects the most memorable stories from StoryCorps' collection, creating a moving portrait of American life.

The voices here connect us to real people and their lives—to their experiences of profound joy, sadness, courage, and despair, to good times and hard times, to good deeds and misdeeds. To read this book is to be reminded of how rich and varied the American storybook truly is, how resistant to easy categorization or stereotype. We are our history, individually and collectively, and **Listening Is an Act of Love** touchingly reminds us of this powerful truth.

## Discussion Guide

1. Why do our stories matter?
2. Has anyone in the group done a StoryCorps interview? Interviewed members of their family or their friends? What was their experience? Did they learn anything that surprised them?
3. If you could interview anyone, whom would you choose?
4. What questions would you most want to ask him or her?
5. What story would you like to tell?
6. In what ways will being better listeners change the world around us?

7. What important lessons have you learned in your life?
8. What does your earliest memory say about who you are? Your most precious memory?
9. Why do we?or do we?care more about celebrity stories than our own?

## Author Bio

Dave Isay is the founder of StoryCorps and the recipient of numerous broadcasting honors, including five Peabody Awards and a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship. He is the author/editor of numerous books that grew out of his public radio documentary work, including two StoryCorps books: LISTENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE (2007) and MOM: A Celebration of Mothers from StoryCorps (2010) --- both *New York Times* bestsellers.

## Critical Praise

"This book is absolutely remarkable. **Listening is an Act of Love** is history in the richest sense of the word, the kind that makes people feel like they count. It's a celebration of the lives of the uncelebrated. In our world today people feel helpless, but once they speak of their lives they become alive! This is what our country is all about. Never has a book been more timely or necessary."

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