

People
PICK

Books

Devotion

by Dani Shapiro | ★★★★★

REVIEWED BY MEREDITH MARAN

MEMOIR

"I want to do better," declares Dani Shapiro in this brave, compelling, unexpectedly witty account of one middle-class, middle-aged woman's spiritual crisis. "I wanted to be a better mother, wife, writer... I wanted to be someone who not only bought flaxseed oil at the health food store, but actually ingested it."

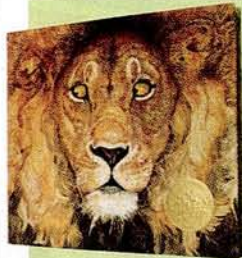
The author of five novels and the bestselling memoir *Slow Motion*, Shapiro rebelled young and hard against her deeply religious Jewish family. At 40, while living a picture-perfect, secular life in woodsy Connecticut with her beloved husband and son, she realizes, "Deep inside myself, I had begun to quietly fall apart... I needed to place my faith in something." And so she embarks on this stunningly intimate journey, hitting all the devotional hot spots: studying Torah, sitting *zazen* in a Buddhist temple, making a mentor of a New Age guru, plotting her next online shopping spree while practicing (or pretending to practice) yoga. Thanks to Shapiro's excruciatingly honest self-examination and crystal clear, lyrical writing, the journey—as secular swami Steve Jobs once famously said—is indeed the reward.

I had reached the middle of my life and knew less than I ever had before

devoti
a memoir
DANI SHAPIRO
author of *Slow Motion*



GREAT READS



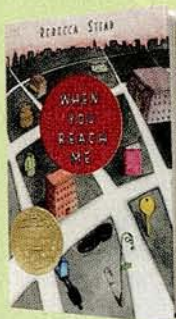
THE LION & THE MOUSE

by Jerry Pinkney

The '10 Caldecott Medal went to five-time

runner-up Pinkney's vivid retelling of Aesop's fable. (Ages 3-6)

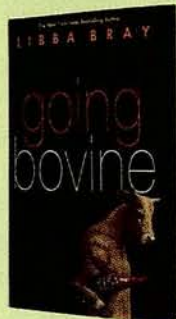
NEW PRIZEWINNERS FOR KIDS



WHEN YOU REACH ME

by Rebecca Stead

This engrossing tale of a 12-year-old unraveling a cryptic mystery got the Newbery. (Grades 4-7)



GOING BOVINE

by Libba Bray

The Printz Award winner: A sublimely surreal saga about a teen diagnosed with mad cow disease. (Young Adult)