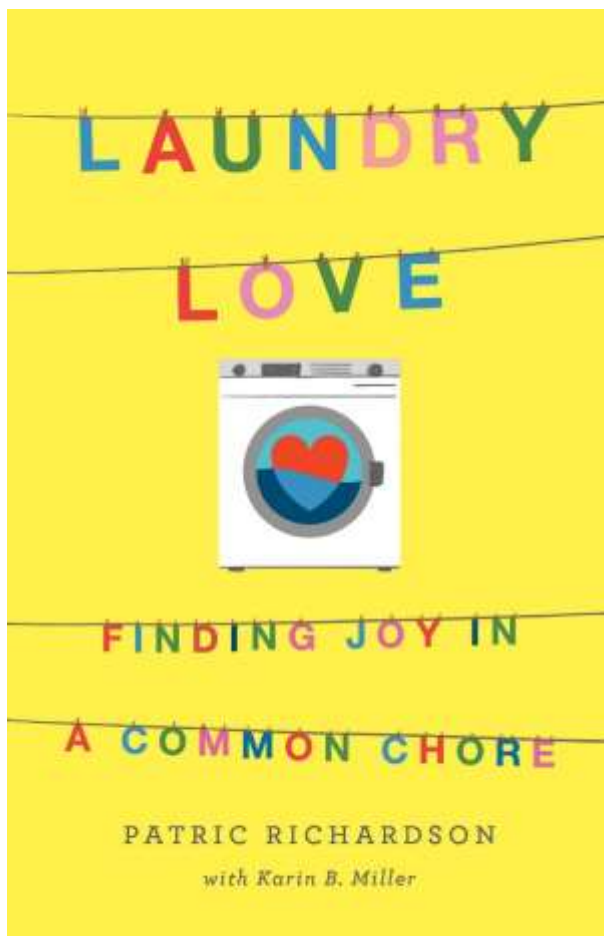


## Allison's Book Corner June 2021

### ***Laundry Love: Finding Joy in a Common Chore***

by Patric Richardson with Karin B. Miller  
(Flatiron Books 2021)

I have just read the most delightful little book and it is all about laundry. Yep, LAUNDRY. I saw this book on display at Albert Wisner Library and the title called to me. I just thought this must be a book of humorous little anecdotes. Laundry is not at the top of my fun list.



To my surprise, I discovered a a must-have manual on how to do your laundry. And, instead of being a boring text, it is part memoir, part how-to, with a few Southern recipes thrown in for good measure.

The book is indeed eccentric, like our author. Patric Richardson was raised by a group of very loving women in Kentucky. His father was there, too, but it was the women, including an affectionate stepmother, who inspired in him a love of clothes and fashion, and of how to keep his clothes clean. Even our author admits that his fascination with the washing machine - from age two - was unique. And not every eleven year-old boy requests the men's fashion bible "Dress For Success" for his birthday.

Lucky for all of us, this auspicious beginning led Richardson to a great fashion and textile education at the University of Kentucky. He then landed in high-end department stores and is now dubbed the "Laundry Evangelist" who teaches "Laundry Camps" at the Mall of America in Minnesota. His camp is now on my bucket list. I am not ashamed to admit it.

The book is worth reading just for the chapter on stain removal alone. We have all been doing it wrong. If you have both white vinegar and rubbing alcohol at home, you could have been removing some tough stains without running to the supermarket. Richardson goes into great depth on types of stains and on how to remove them. I have just mentioned two common, inexpensive products. You'll have to read his successful techniques for yourself.

Readers, you feel immense relief when this laundry guru confirms that you have done something right. And there is shame when you learn you have done something wrong. Shh.....no one needs to know...just correct immediately after putting the book down. There is absolutely nothing about laundry that Richardson does not cover in this book, including how to remove the smell of cigarette smoke or strong food odor from clothes. His method involves vodka, and it is not for drinking.

The charming parts of this book are the true stories, shared throughout, about his family and their shopping and laundry adventures. Richardson is a Southern gentleman and so some of these stories include food. At the end of the book, he provides the recipes of some of his favorites mentioned in the preceding chapters.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that Richardson cares about the impact of harmful chemicals on our planet. Part of his laundry evangelist mission is to get us to stop dry cleaning. He also wants us to consider using less harsh alternatives for washing our clothes. Do not get upset: no one is telling you to throw out your Tide. Richardson offers suggestions and alternatives.

Bottom line: this book does what every good book is supposed to do. It makes you think, and makes you want to change some of your behavior. The prospect of doing your laundry may even begin to - dare I say it - excite you. You will want to refer to this book often. This is one to keep on your nightstand, folks, or on your laundry room shelf. Patric Richardson is on all social media, and I was happy to discover that he also has a new show on Discovery Plus called "The Laundry Guy."