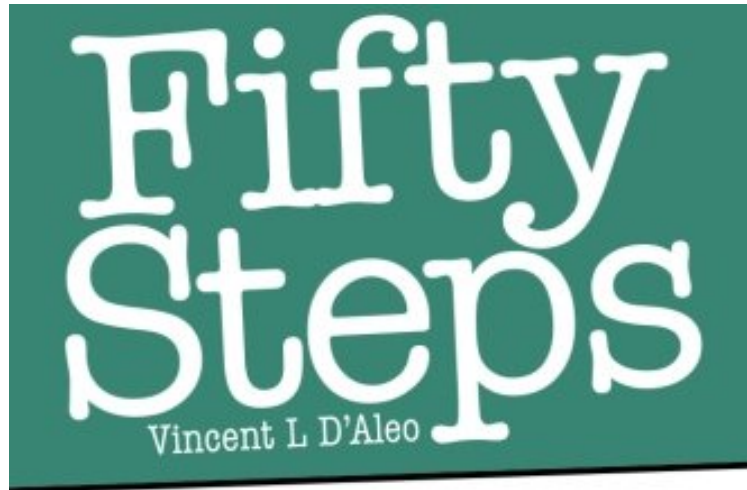


[Free read ebook] Fifty Steps

## Fifty Steps

*Vincent L D'Aleo*

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**Vincent L D'Aleo : Fifty Steps** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fifty Steps:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Happily surprised!By Kathy SeymourFirst of all, I'm not Kathy Seymour; I'm her husband, Dan. I learned of the book from Vinny's mother, my aunt, when she stayed at our home on the weekend of our family reunion this past July. Kathy hopped on the computer that evening and ordered the book from .I'd spent the summer of my 16th year in Connecticut with Vinny's family (I've always lived in upstate New

York) and found myself grinning like a fool while reading about that summer when we worked in the tobacco fields. I remember meeting some of the people of whom he wrote, and many of the places in Thompsonville. Him having survived the rigid standards of the Jesuit education at BC, it came as no surprise to find how well he was able to articulate his thoughts and feelings on the written page. Poignant as well as humorous stories were equally well thought out and expressed. The man can write! Congratulations to "My Cousin Vinny!" Dan Seymour danseymour434@yahoo.com 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By BOBHRamblings of a 60 year old and his views of life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Modern day philosopher and humorist. But he might not say that about himself!! By Daisy Diaz I had the pleasure of going to a book reading and sitting beside the author. It's the story of a remarkable journey told with wit, piercing insight, and a complete lack of pretentiousness. With a narrative voice reminiscent of an eccentric grandfather telling stories from his armchair, I was at times -- misty-eyed and near tears -- and at others -- falling off of my chair laughing. Some gems include the chapter about his marriage to the remarkable Marcie ("Sharing the Sandbox") and "Baby Steps", a chapter relating the lessons he learned from the life and passing of his friend, Steve. From "Sharing the Sandbox": "She wanted to go out more than once a month. She wanted to go grocery shopping to buy the things she wanted, even when the things I wanted were more healthful and cheaper... The woman even believed in going to the doctor, something that Sicilians know to be foolish and expensive. I could see that it was going to be a long road to educate her." From "Baby Steps": "He's given me a gift that Diane gave too. He talks about the power of little things, the power of neighborly visits to defeat cancer. Cancer, whose mission is to defeat life, is defeated itself by the simple act of living. Living people eat soup together and talk about football and remember when their kids were small together. My friend Steve doesn't let me forget that he's living, and that I'm living and that we have gifts to give each other that can't cure cancer, but that can defeat it." I'm happy to consider myself among his newest fans. Everyone needs a copy of this for their bedside table.

Every time Vincent D'Aleo has tried to talk to his kids, he's wound up sounding like his own father. Which is to say he has sounded like a cross between Almighty God and Yosemite Sam. The son of a Sicilian father and an Irish Catholic mother, the only parenting style he knew was "Father Speaks"; everyone does what father says. But his children weren't born during that era. It took him decades to sort out who he was and, consequently, who he is. And in an effort to save his kids time and countless hours of psychotherapy, he began to write stories, stories that would help demonstrate to them—and to himself—how he thinks and who he seems to be. From his irrational fear of monkeys, the 1950s meaning of the phrase, "Wait 'til your father gets home!" and the magical summer when Roger Maris hit 61 and Vincent caught two line drives in left field to the loss of good friends to cancer, westerns vs. horror movies at the Saturday matinees, and the use of adjectives, Daleo's journey paints a portrait of a life well-lived and lessons well-earned. A hilarious look at life, love, and the perils of travel, Vincent D'Aleo's stories and commentaries on the vagaries of being human opens up the proverbial Pandora's Box of idiosyncrasies that make us all unique. Inspired by the writings and musings of Andy Rooney and Bill Bryson, his "slices of life" belie deeper, more complex, and profound truths about what it means to be human. Smart, funny, and engaging, *Fifty Steps* is an extraordinarily way to remind yourself of the importance held within the little things in life.

From Kirkus s Vincent L D'Aleo recounts his life in his entertaining and often hilarious memoir. From childhood to college to falling in love to having kids and everything in between, D'Aleo writes of the standout moments from his life. He chronicles the summer Roger Maris hit 61 home runs and he himself caught two long shots playing baseball in the sandlot. He reminisces about his father, a master mason, who as a kid reminded him of Moses coming down the mountain with the Ten Commandments. He traces his relationship with his son and daughter; the terror he felt when his son was born; how parenting soon became natural to him; and the patience he had to have with his daughter, who, as a teenager, was thoroughly embarrassed by him. The strength of D'Aleo's memoir lies in the balance between the funny retellings of major and minor moments in his life and the insight he has gained from those experiences. But D'Aleo's memoir isn't all heartfelt family stories. In the latter half, he expounds on the serendipity of the Louisiana Purchase and how the universe can converge to create good luck, as well as his utter confusion at the popularity of tofu. In the namesake chapter, D'Aleo tells of how a friend who was diagnosed with cancer decided to run a marathon. Knowing no one person could push his wheelchair the whole way, he had every person push him just 50 steps. D'Aleo reminds us that little things can make all the difference in the world. And in the end, a life of little stories and moments and experiences can add up to create something more amazing and special than its individual pieces. Inspired and comic rendering of the extraordinary in the everyday. About the Author Vincent L. D'Aleo was born in 1949. Raised by a growling Sicilian father and an Irish Catholic mother who acted like Donna Reed, he spent the years 1967 through 1974 getting through four years at Boston College, culminating with a degree in philosophy. A teacher since graduating, he married (twice), accumulated two kids and a colossal mortgage, bowled six perfect games, and learned word processing. The rest, as they say, is history.