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**\* NEW IN PAPERBACK \***  
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*A New York Times and Los Angeles Times*  
**BESTSELLER**  
**LISTENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE**  
*A Celebration of American Life from the*  
*StoryCorps Project*  
**Edited and with an Introduction by**  
**Dave Isay**

“In radio circles, it’s a home run when you deliver a ‘driveway moment.’ That’s when listeners in their cars reach their destination, but are so captivated they can’t bear to turn off the radio. *Listening Is an Act of Love* is the book equivalent of a driveway moment: You won’t want to stop turning pages.”

—*USA Today*

“Read a few [interviews] and you’ll want to grab a loved one and share your own story.”

—*People*

“As heartwarming as a holiday pumpkin pie and every bit as homey... what emerges in these compelling pages is hard-won wisdom and boundless humanity.”

—*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

“Dave Isay’s vision of collecting the everyday stories of Americans is so simple and yet so powerful. *Listening Is an Act of Love* will make you laugh, cry and think. These stories come from the souls of individual Americans. Collectively, they are who we are as a people. You cannot read this book without feeling proud of your country.”

—Former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley

“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.”

—Studs Terkel

“Dave Isay’s *Listening Is an Act of Love* is a gift. I loved this book. I savored these stories. So candid. So open-hearted. So full of life. The StoryCorps project may well be the most important cultural event in America today. It’s about us. About who we are. About where we’ve come from, and where we want to go. *Listening Is an Act of Love* is the equivalent of eavesdropping on America. Read it – and pass it on to family and friends. It’ll inspire.”

—Alex Kotlowitz, author of *There Are No Children Here*

In its permanent public recording booth in Foley Square in New York City, and in its many MobileBooths touring the country, StoryCorps, the most ambitious oral history project in American history, has collected the memories of people from all fifty states and every imaginable walk of life, background, identity group, age, and state of mind — more than twenty thousand in all. It is a nationwide celebration of our shared humanity, capturing for posterity the stories that define us. In small towns and big cities, from Indian reservations in the Pacific Northwest to Army bases in North Carolina, StoryCorps has brought people together to share the treasures of their lives in story.

These interviews with everyday people are archived with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and excerpts of selected interviews are broadcast regularly on National Public Radio. And last fall, legendary radio producer and founder of StoryCorps Dave Isay gathered some of the project's most remarkable stories in **LISTENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project** (Penguin Books; October 28, 2008), now available for the first time in paperback. Wholeheartedly embraced by both critics and readers alike, Isay's collection is culled from an astonishing pool of memories. He arranges the stories thematically into a mosaic of American life and binds them together with the history and principles of the StoryCorps project, in sections devoted to the themes that define all of our lives: Home and Family, Work and Dedication, Journeys, History and Struggle, and Fire and Water (stories centered around September 11<sup>th</sup> and Hurricane Katrina). The voices heard in these interviews connect readers to real people whose lives are filled with ordinary and extraordinary experiences — joy, sadness, courage, meaning, despair, good work and bad, good times and the hardest times.

StoryCorps is making history and **LISTENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE** honors the participants of this revolutionary project and reaches out to those who now have the opportunity to share their lives through storytelling. The incredibly moving personal stories in this book reveal the individuals who make up the American storybook and the preciousness of each and every one of our lives. This remarkable book is sure to be one of the fall's most significant and powerful paperbacks, as it honors the gift of meaning that each participant in StoryCorps has made, out of the raw stuff of his or her life, to the people who come after.

#### **About the Author**

**Dave Isay** is the founder of StoryCorps. His radio documentary work has won nearly every award in broadcasting, including five Peabody Awards. He has also received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a MacArthur Fellowship, a United States Artists Fellowship and an Edward R. Murrow Award. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and son.

### **LISTENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE** *A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project*

Edited and with an Introduction by Dave Isay

Penguin Books

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