

Melanie Shankle

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Melanie Shankle is the *New York Times* bestselling author behind *Nobody's Cuter Than You*, *The Antelope in the Living Room*, *Sparkly Green Earrings*, and the forthcoming *Church of the Small Things: The Million Little Pieces That Make Up a Life*, out October 3, 2017. She first shared her hilarious observations and loving wisdom on [The Big Mama Blog](#), which helped define a new genre of blogging for women as it attracted a devoted audience now thousands deep. The Texas A&M graduate is also a guest blogger for high profile outlets and an in-demand speaker at events across the country. A proud Texan, self-professed Target junkie, and lover of Anthropologie sales, Melanie calls San Antonio home with her husband Perry, teenage daughter Caroline, and two wild dogs Piper and Mabel. For more information, please visit www.MelanieShankle.com.

Why Melanie Shankle?



- Melanie Shankle has earned a loyal following thousands strong thanks to her uncanny ability to combine laugh-out-loud wit with practical advice that addresses everything from how her readers shop to how they can live fully and faithfully.
- Melanie connects with women in all of life's stages by tackling universal struggles and feelings of inadequacy. "We are a generation of women who have never worked harder to have it all, yet go to bed most nights worrying that we aren't enough," she writes.
- Whether it's guest posts on blogs such as [The Pioneer Woman](#) and [TODAY.com](#) or a keynote delivered in front of thousands at a premier conference, Melanie is the writer and speaker today's leading voices turn to for perspective.
- Melanie's engaged Twitter following continues to grow thanks in large part to her 140-character-ready sense of humor: "About to take my first yoga class. They just handed me a stick. I feel ill prepared and slightly confused."
- Mother to one daughter, Melanie is a member of a rapidly growing segment of the population: parents who are raising only children. She can speak to the unique gifts and challenges of this family dynamic.
- With careful and often hilarious attention to detail, always layered over with an emphasis on love and family, Melanie illustrates how to cultivate and celebrate the relationships that matter most. She models a life well lived without ever being pedantic, instead choosing to show others what's possible through laughter, inclusion and unwavering encouragement.

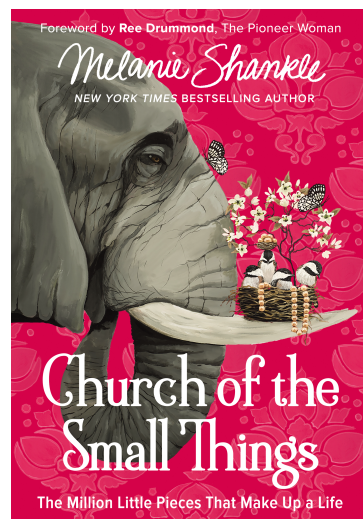
“The true joy of life is found in the everyday. It's the moments that don't necessarily take our breath away at the time that often become the ones that matter most.” – Melanie Shankle, *Church of the Small Things*

“No one else can live our story. So maybe it's time to embrace all that is uniquely ours and realize that is exactly what makes it special.” – Melanie Shankle, *Church of the Small Things*

About the Book

Church of the Small Things: The Million Little Pieces That Make Up a Life

In the highly anticipated **CHURCH OF THE SMALL THINGS: THE MILLION LITTLE PIECES THAT MAKE UP A LIFE** (Zondervan; ISBN: 978-0310348870; October 3, 2017; \$22.99), *New York Times* bestselling author and beloved Big Mama blogger Melanie Shankle uses her signature blend of laugh-out-loud commentary, honesty, and soulful reflection to reveal it's the tiny moments of the everyday that give life meaning. A collection of thematically cohesive but standalone essays, **CHURCH OF THE SMALL THINGS** covers exercise dread, fashion and beauty faux pas, technology challenges, faith, parenting, aging, and more, all with witty panache. The book also dives into Melanie's life, exploring time with her grandparents, father, sister, daughter, husband, and friends to create moving snapshots that ultimately provide insight into all relationships that matter most. An expansive, heartwarming work thanks to Melanie's willingness to be vulnerable and open, **CHURCH OF THE SMALL THINGS** will become a book readers turn to again and again.



Zondervan | ISBN: 978-0310348870 | October 3, 2017- \$22.99

Why Church of the Small Things?

- Fueled by Melanie Shankle's humor and warm openness, **CHURCH OF THE SMALL THINGS** celebrates ordinary moments in an infectious way that will prompt readers to find the joy they've overlooked in their own lives.
- **CHURCH OF THE SMALL THINGS** can be loved easily piecemeal in the stolen minutes of hectic schedules or enjoyed straight through in one sitting with a cocktail on a beach.
- Lists of what Melanie "wishes she had known" when she was a child about God, high school, parenting, and more offer real wisdom and often, hilarity: "Breastfeeding is great when it works, but nobody is going to end up in long-term therapy just because they drank formula from a bottle."
- When it comes to topics like parenting, Melanie offers smart advice alongside comforting confessions that she's just as lost as the rest of us. "What if we showed our kids what kindness and compassion look like?" she writes. "There is never any weakness in showing mercy and grace, because those characteristics are the very heartbeat of God."
- **CHURCH OF THE SMALL THINGS** doesn't offer fairytale versions of everyday life in its quest to elevate the ordinary. Whether it's honest looks at a childhood shaped in part by her parents' divorce or fights with a sister who'd become her best friend, Melanie refuses to smooth over rough edges. As a result, the joy she shares and encourages others to find in their own lives is more real and more attainable.

“We have to host a conference, start a movement, adopt fifteen kids, or fight human trafficking to really matter. Which are all great things things, but can cause us to lose sight of the small things that can also change a life: bringing dinner to a sick neighbor, smiling at a waitress who's having a bad day, reading to your kids before bed, and simply praying for someone going through a rough time.” – Melanie Shankle, *Church of the Small Things*