

BECCA STEVENS

Long Bio

The Reverend Becca Stevens is the author of nine books and an Episcopal priest serving as Chaplain at St. Augustine's at Vanderbilt University. Additionally, she is founder of Magdalene & Thistle Farms, a community and social enterprise that stands with women recovering from trafficking, prostitution, addiction and life on the streets. Magdalene, the residential model, serves women for two years at no cost to residents. Thistle Farms employs over 40 residents and graduates who manufacture, market and sell all natural bath and beauty products in over 200 retail stores across the globe.

Becca's personality infuses her writing and speaking. She is earnest and empathetic, focused and funny. She is known for her wit as well as her humility, for day-to-day absent-mindedness and for steadfast practicality. Her message is honest to a fault, shaped by the good and bad of life, and yet it is fervently hopeful and determinedly loving. At once graceful and intimate, her prose wears real skin and muscle as it moves through the heaven and hell that inhabit the earth, imbued with the sweet unexpected scent of grace.

Becca and Thistle Farms have been featured on NPR, PBS, CNN, O Magazine, Huffington Post, Southern Living, Christian Century, and Christian Science Monitor. She was named "Nashvillian of the Year" and "Tennessean of the Year" by the Nashville Scene and The Tennessean respectively. She is the youngest and first female recipient of The University of the South's "Distinguished Alumnus" award. Most recently, Becca was named by the White House' as one of 15 "Champions of Change." She was named the 2011 Social Entrepreneur of the Year in Nashville, TN and has received awards from the Frist Foundation and the Academy of Women of Achievement. To date, she has raised more than \$15 million for the organizations she supports.

Her newest book, "The Way of Tea & Justice: Rescuing the World's Favorite Beverage from its Violent History," released in the fall of 2014.

Stevens lives in Nashville with her husband, Grammy-winning songwriter Marcus Hummon, and their three sons.