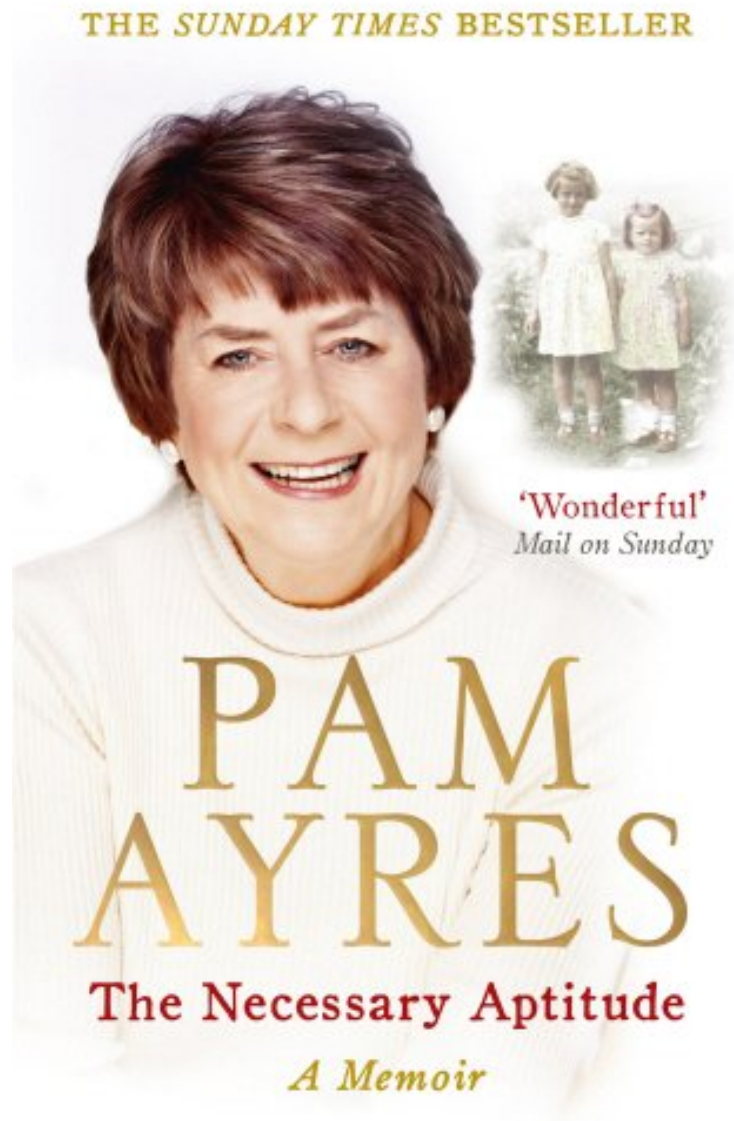


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The Necessary Aptitude: A Memoir

Pam Ayres

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Pam Ayres : The Necessary Aptitude: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Necessary Aptitude: A Memoir:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A 'must'listen to.By Robyn BiltonBought this for my mother she absolutely loved it.Being read by the author was a big plus would recommend to anyone who loves her poems storytelling.Like listening to a friend who has come for a visit!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The

book was interesting and I thoroughly enjoyed it. By Womansong I had long admired the humor in her poetry and was bowled over by her tales of growing up and how she got into writing. The book was interesting and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Next, I applied to work in the accounts department, a sealed room where women operated clattering machines like enormous typewriters. After I had catastrophically and erroneously applied all the wrong information to several trolley loads of documents and lumbered the staff with weeks of corrective work, I was shown the door by a tight-lipped manageress. I knew what was coming. Over the relentless, furious din of machinery, I lip-read the familiar words: "Lacks the necessary aptitude." Pam Ayres' early childhood in Stanford in the Vale was idyllic in many ways, and typical of that experienced by a great swathe of children born in rural areas in the immediate postwar years. Though her parents' generation was harrowed by war, better times were coming. Everything the family needed was within walking distance in the village, and life with four older brothers and a sister in their crowded council house was exceedingly lively. In her late teens, Pam grew dissatisfied with her life as a Civil Service clerk with only the local "hop" for scintillating excitement. Having seen three of her brothers called up for National Service and sent off to exciting destinations, Pam felt desperate for travel and adventure. She joined the WRAF and soon found herself in the Far East. There she began to write in earnest, and develop the unique talent that would make her one of Britain's favorite comics. Written with Pam's much-loved combination of humor and poignancy, *The Necessary Aptitude* is a beautifully written account of her early years.

"Ayres gives a wonderful account of what it was like to grow up poor but respectable in post-war rural England. Some of her writing in the early chapters, describing life as the youngest of six children in a council cottage in the Vale of White Horse, Berkshire, has the original freshness of classics such as Flora Thompson's *Lark Rise to Candleford*" -- Kathryn Hughes * *Mail on Sunday* * "I find her work sweet and sour, gentle and sad, and often very moving in its wistful way ... The descriptions of post-war Berkshire life in *The Necessary Aptitude* are wonderful ... The world Ayres evokes is Hardy's Wessex ... I do admire (and envy) this marvellous woman" -- Roger Lewis * *Daily Mail* * "Excellent ... Unsentimental, especially about herself, Ayres gives a surprisingly moving account of what it was like to grow up poor in rural England without any "aptitude" for making something of herself" -- Kathryn Hughes * *Christmas Guide to a Cracking Read, Mail on Sunday* * "Highly readable ... Pam's memoirs are a masterclass in effective and effervescent prose" * *The Lady* * "An evocation of long-gone village life as captivating as Thompson's *Lark Rise to Candleford*. At the book's height, she reaches up and touches Laurie Lee" * *Buckinghamshire Life* * About the Author Pam Ayres has been a writer, broadcaster, and entertainer for more than 35 years since winning the talent show *Opportunity Knocks* in 1975, and she has become an audience favorite for her sharp perception of the comic detail of everyday life. Pam is the author of several poetry collections, including *With These Hands*, *Surgically Enhanced*, and *The Works*. Her books, CDs, and DVDs have sold millions, and she is the star of *Ayres on the Air*