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Variety

# Replay of old favorite: 'The Station'

**Dear Readers:** One of the most frequently requested essays since I have been writing this column is "The Station" by Robert Hastings. That talented writer died recently, but his work will be read and appreciated for many years. What follows will be familiar to many of you. I believe it was his best.

## **The Station** by Robert J. Hastings

Tucked away in our subconscious minds is an idyllic vision in which we see ourselves on a long journey that spans an entire continent. We're traveling by train, and from the windows, we drink in the passing scenes of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at crossings, of cattle grazing in distant pastures, of smoke pouring from power plants, of row upon row of cotton and corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of city skylines and village halls.

But uppermost in our minds is our final destination — for at a certain hour and on a given day, our train will finally pull into the station with bells ringing, flags waving and bands playing. And once that day comes, so many wonderful dreams will come true.



**Ann Landers**

So restlessly, we pace the aisles and count the miles, peering ahead, waiting, waiting, waiting for the station.

"Yes, when we reach the station, that will be it!" we promise ourselves. "When we're 18 . . . win that promotion . . . put the last kid through college . . . buy that 450 SL Mercedes-Benz . . . pay off the mortgage . . . have a nest egg for retirement."

From that day on, we will all live happily ever after.

Sooner or later, however, we must realize there is no station in this life, no one earthly place to arrive at once and for all. The journey is the joy. The station is an illusion — it constantly out-distances us. Yesterday's a memory; tomorrow's a dream. Yesterday belongs to history; tomorrow

belongs to God. Yesterday's a fading sunset; tomorrow's a faint sunrise. Only today is there light enough to love and live.

So, gently close the door on yesterday and throw the key away. It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad, but rather the regret over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow.

"Relish the moment" is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, swim more rivers, climb more mountains, kiss more babies, count more stars. Laugh more and cry less. Go barefoot more often. Eat more ice cream. Ride more merry-go-rounds. Watch more sunsets. Life must be lived as we go along.

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December, 2025

Dear

This book, "Let Them", is one I wish had seen, and read, when I turned 18, 67 years ago,

It is tips, not answers, to issues that come up in everyone's life — that's why it is divided into 20 sections. Look at it in pieces, start wherever you wish, discuss it, argue about it.

"The Station:" is more recent, but always relevant to everyone's life.

Enjoy.



Dec. 16, 2025

This is the first year I've decided to give my kids and grandkids a book. The cover is shown at right.

Succinctly, it's a book of suggestions for anyone willing to look and at least think about what is suggested.

The author ("she") is someone we saw on the Bill Maher show recently, and she was impressive.

If you haven't seen the book, next time at local bookseller pick it up and browse pp 131-134, one of the 20 sections of the book. It will give you an idea.

Mel Robbins has a very active presence on YouTube, and got her start on TEDx, so you can find lots of content on the internet.

The book is one of those that you can browse at will and jump around anywhere within it. I think it would be good for book club use.

Just a thought.

*Quik*

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

A Life-Changing Tool That Millions of  
People Can't Stop Talking About

**THE  
LET  
THEM  
THEORY**  
**Mel Robbins**  
*and Sawyer Robbins*