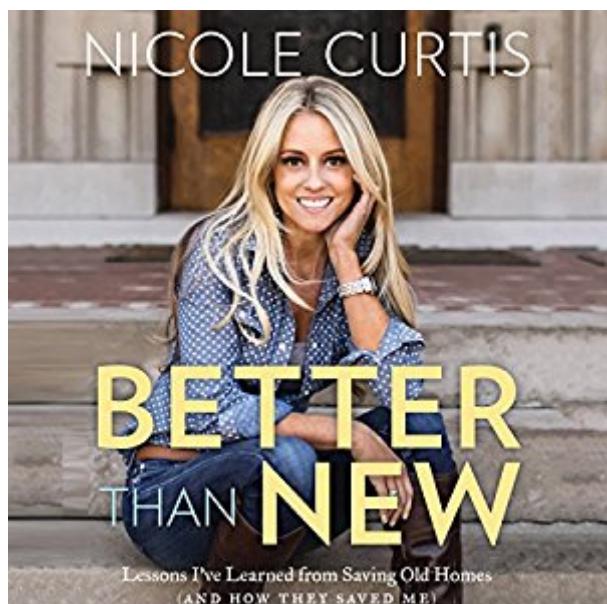


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# **Better Than New: Lessons I've Learned From Saving Old Homes (and How They Saved Me)**



## Synopsis

A New York Times and USA Today best seller. For the first time, Nicole Curtis, the star of the megahit HGTV and DIY Network show *Rehab Addict*, reveals her private struggles, her personal victories, and the inspiring lessons we can all learn from them. Nicole Curtis is the tough, soulful, charismatic dynamo who, for the past 20 years, has worked tirelessly to restore historical houses, often revitalizing neighborhoods in the process. And also in the process drawing millions of fans to her television show, *Rehab Addict*, where they follow each step of the hard work and singular vision that transform the seemingly lost cause of a run-down building into a beautifully restored home. But there is so much more to this self-taught expert and working mom. With her signature irresistible honesty and energy, Curtis writes about a project that every listener will find compelling: how she rehabbed herself. *Better Than New* reveals what's not seen on TV - Curtis' personal battles and her personal triumphs, her complicated relationships, her life as a single mother, the story of how she got started remodeling houses, and the consuming ins and outs of producing a megahit television show while keeping up with two kids, two rescue dogs, and countless tasks on her home renovation punch lists. Followers of the show will get an inside look at some of her most famous restorations, including the Dollar house, the Minnehaha house, the Campbell Street project, and the Ransom Gillis mansion. Part inspirational memoir and part self-help guide, *Better Than New* is a journey in eight chapters - each pinned to the story of a house that Curtis has remodeled, each delivering a hard-fought lesson about life - that takes listeners to the place we all want to be: home. As fans of her show can attest, Nicole is totally unscripted, and this audiobook - featuring extensive new material exclusive to the audio edition - is no exception.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours and 33 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: April 4, 2017

Language: English

ASIN: B06XS4ZKVB

Best Sellers Rank: #22 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Arts & Entertainment > Design  
#560 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Decorating &

## Customer Reviews

This book is wonderful! Nicole tells an amazing story. She lets you in to her life in a way that inspires and entertains. I can't recommend this book enough!

The book came today and I sat down and basically finished it. You can really hear her voice in the writing and you can also really hear her passion for working hard, on lessons learned and the importance of family. I've always liked her TV show and the book really gave me insight into how houses are rehabbed and how a television show about rehab comes to be.

Love her! Bought this in advance, and even had someone go and get it signed by her because i am ill. She wrote such a nice message, and the person who got it signed said she was incredibly personable and spent a good amount of time with each fan. Love this woman.

I have only watched a season of Rehab Addict. I like the show and Nicole. This book felt rushed and all over the place. I would have liked to know more of her thought process and planning process with each house she takes on, I feel she flies by the seat of her pants but not everyone's path to success looks the same. She's a fellow Michigander and I share her interests in house renovations and historic preservation, but I feel the book only barely touched the surface of her life and how she came to her success.

I was given the opportunity to read Better Than New via Artisan Books and NetGalley. This is my honest opinion of the book. Nicole Curtis, star of the HGTV show Rehab Addict, was brought up to reuse and transform that which others might just throw away. Buying her first home to renovate at the age of 18, Nicole says that her projects all have taught her valuable lessons about life. Always independent, Nicole moved to Atlanta with her boyfriend, then to Tampa, where she worked and scraped to fulfill the vision she had of herself. Being in the right place at the right time, Nicole pitched the show Rehab Addict, a show dedicated to restoring old and neglected homes back to their former splendor. As a woman in a male dominated field, Nicole has had many struggles along the way, but she proves that drive and determination can open many doors. The book details the homes that she has restored, both on the show and on her own time, with the trials and tribulations

that threatened many of her projects. I have been watching Rehab Addict for years, so I was very excited to see Better Than New: Lessons I've Learned from Saving Old Homes (and How They Saved Me). It is amazing how much Nicole has accomplished in her life, with all of the heartaches, challenges, and pitfalls along the way. It is clear to see the passion that Nicole has for her work and the love she feels for all of her restorations. Readers who are familiar with Nicole Curtis and Rehab Addict will enjoy the behind-the-scenes looks at their favorite restorations. Regardless of a reader's familiarity with the show, Better Than New is a very motivational look at the life of a woman who lives life on her own terms and fights hard for what she believes in. I definitely recommend this book and wish the best of luck to the author.

I really liked how honest Nicole was about her life but felt sad that she had so many struggles and not a lot of encouragement in her life. She is a fighter, very tenacious! I appreciate that she stands on the side of life and loves her children so much. They are beautiful and so is she. I hope she finds the lasting love that she has looked for but never found.

Nicole is an incredible inspiration to watch on Rehab Addict and her written word is even better. She is totally candid about her trials and tribulations in her personal life and life as "Rehab Addict". She is the one person who made Rehabbing Properties a HGTV/DIY popular. Without Nicole Curtis, I doubt there would be so many of us watching "rehabbing" television. I hope she comes back to do more quality "Rehab Addict" shows. The book is easy to read and personal photographs are wonderful. Best of Luck to Nicole Curtis. She has inspired a whole generation.

Nicole's voice really comes through in this book and offers such an interesting perspective to the episodes of her show. It's engaging and honest. The ending feels a little abrupt, maybe rushed. Definitely a must-read for fans, and it's inspiring even if you've never seen the show!

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