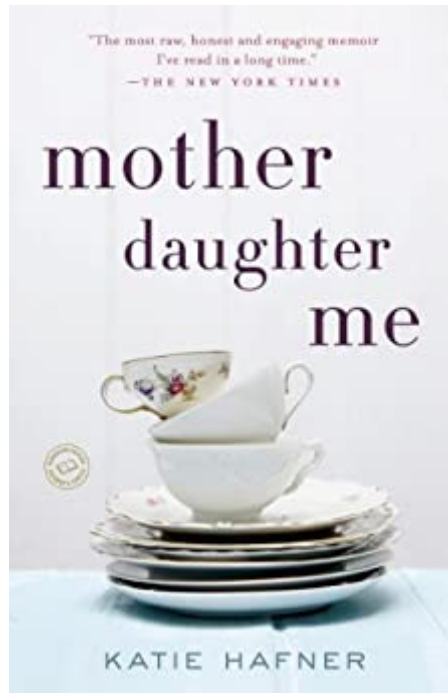




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# **Mother Daughter Me: A Memoir**



## Synopsis

"Book of the Week" - Oprah.com  
One of Ten "Titles to Pick Up Now" by O Magazine  
One of Five Top Non-Fiction Reads for Summer 2013 by Parade Magazine  
"The Best Memoir I've Read This Year"- The New York Times, Motherlode Blog  
"Next for Your Reading List" - The Atlantic  
July 2013 Goodreads "Mover and Shaker"  
The complex, deeply binding relationship between mothers and daughters is brought vividly to life in Katie Hafner's remarkable memoir, an exploration of the year she and her mother, Helen, spent working through, and triumphing over, a lifetime of unresolved emotions. Dreaming of a "year in Provence" with her mother, Katie urges Helen to move to San Francisco to live with her and Zoë, Katie's teenage daughter. Katie and Zoë had become a mother-daughter team, strong enough, Katie thought, to absorb the arrival of a seventy-seven-year-old woman set in her ways. Filled with fairy-tale hope that she and her mother would become friends, and that Helen would grow close to her exceptional granddaughter, Katie embarked on an experiment in intergenerational living that she would soon discover was filled with land mines: memories of her parents' painful divorce, of her mother's drinking, of dislocating moves back and forth across the country, and of Katie's own widowhood and bumpy recovery. Helen, for her part, was also holding difficult issues at bay. How these three women from such different generations learn to navigate their challenging, turbulent, and ultimately healing journey together makes for riveting reading. By turns heartbreaking and funny--and always insightful--Katie Hafner's brave and loving book answers questions about the universal truths of family that are central to the lives of so many. Praise for *Mother Daughter Me* "This brilliant, funny, poignant, and wrenching story of three generations under one roof is quite unlike anything else I have ever read. I love Katie Hafner's prose, her humor, the images she conjures, her choices of what to tell and when, the weaving together of family threads to produce this luminous and lasting tapestry. The story lingered with me long after I read the last page." - Abraham Verghese, author of *Cutting for Stone* "Weaving past with present, anecdote with analysis, Hafner's riveting account of multigenerational living and mother-daughter frictions, of love and forgiveness, is devoid of self-pity and unafraid of self-blame." - Elle Magazine "With crystalline prose and impressive narrative control, Hafner candidly probes a host of issues: the lingering impact of alcoholism and parental abandonment on adult children, how dysfunction ripples through future generations, whether it is necessary to confront the past in order to redeem it." - Slate Magazine "Katie Hafner is a first-rate storyteller, and *Mother Daughter Me* is a rare, utterly riveting memoir... What a triumph this is, and what a story." - Elizabeth Benedict, editor of NY Times Bestseller *What My Mother Gave Me: 31 Women on the Gifts That Mattered Most* "Heartbreakingly honest . . . In a narrative that skillfully moves between her present

predicament and her difficult childhood, Hafner offers a compelling portrait of her remarkable mother and their troubled relationship." - Kirkus Reviews"... an unusually graceful story, one that balances honesty and tact." - Jane Smiley, writing in *Harper's Magazine*"Hafner writes with compassion and wit about the often uneasy alliances between mothers and daughters and the surprising ways in which relationships can be redeemed even late in life." - *Booklist*"Scrap any romantic ideas about what goes on when a 40-something woman invites her mother to live with her and her teenage daughter for a year. As Hafner hilariously and touchingly tells it, being the center of a family sandwich is, well, complicated." - *Parade Magazine*"An emotional whodunit that uses brilliant journalistic acumen to crack the code of old family secrets." - Madeleine Blais, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Uphill Walkers*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thought I would skim this book when recommended by a friend, but found myself reading each chapter. Each in its own way spoke to me though our only commonality seemed to be as adult children of alcoholics. Lots to think about though I am two decades older so wondering about my

remaining sister, children and grandchildren.

I found her story enlightening. I was very lucky, I was raised in a Beaver Clever house. My cousins not so much....and my stepsons. I have a deeper understanding of their parental tugs. Both in their 50s, but there are days when they hurt like when they were 10 again. I'm so glad I read this book.

I didn't like this book at first. I thought everyone was rude and self serving. But then I realized the pain everyone of these people had gone through. Never having experienced parents and grandparents like these I couldn't see treating and thinking of relations like this for all of them at first. But then I saw the lack of healthy relationships handed down . Then saw as slowly each began to try for better understanding.

I was fortunate in my own childhood to not have alcohol issue within our family. However my best childhood friend did. Even after all these many years I hadn't really realized how it affected her and why she made what I thought were mistakes in her own adult life. This book has helped me understand her better. Well worth reading

I could not put this memoir down! Katie Hafner is direct, down to earth, and never sugar coats her story. She overcame many things in her life and keeps on going. Reading her life story was therapeutic for me and I have recommended it for several friends and my sister who share the same dysfunctional childhood.

This was a powerful story for me, since I cared for my aging mother for several years, and also raised two daughters. The book held my interest from the beginning, moving from humorous to poignant as I turned the pages. I don't know if people who have not had this experience would relate as well, but it's worth a try. It was very well written, and I will look for other books by this author.Betsy

Very interesting about mother and daughter relationships,

Mother Daughter Me was an easy, enjoyable read. As a grandmother, mother and daughter, I could relate to all the characters. I loved how they all grew emotionally as the story progressed and how they realized that life is all about love and forgiveness.

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