



Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss

By Hope Edelman

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Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss By Hope Edelman

In the tradition of *Passages* and *My Mother, My Self*, this unique, personal, and ground-breaking *New York Times* best-seller -- the first of its kind -- explores the profound pain of mother loss among women and is available here for the first time in paperback. "When my mother died, I knew no woman my age who had experienced mother loss. I felt utterly and irrevocably alone.

In college, where new friends knew only as much about me as I was willing to reveal, I told few people my mother had died. I searched the university library and local bookstores for writings about mother loss. In each book I found about mother-daughter relationships, I quickly flipped ahead to the chapter about a mother's death, but discovered they all assumed the reader would be in her forties or fifties when her mother dies. I was eighteen." --excerpt from *Motherless Daughters*.

Not only for motherless daughters, but for all women who want to better understand the mother/daughter relationship, this beautifully written work inspired an Anna Quindlen column; appeared in the *New York Times*, Ingram, Barnes & Noble, and San Francisco best-seller lists; and received an extraordinary amount of media attention including a feature on The Today Show. Hope Edelman lost her mother to breast cancer when she was eighteen. Unable to find a book to help her understand and cope with that loss, she decided to write her own. She posted notices asking motherless women to share their experiences with her, and was unprepared for both the number of responses she received, and for their emotional intensity. Eventually meeting with 92 women and surveying 154 by mail, Hope was able to compare how mother loss affects daughters differently depending on their ages, their relationships to their mothers, their father's attitude, and the support or dependency of siblings. But more important Hope's book explores what these women share -- a void in their lives they cannot seem to fill. Their common experiences and insights will help motherless daughters, and those who care about them, come to better understand how this painful loss shapes lives forever.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Edelman shares her own painful story and the stories of many other women who, as children or adults, lost their mothers. She explains the stages of grief and adjustment. She considers the secondary effects that can occur: the girl-child filling the lost mother's role at home for father and younger siblings. If you've lost your mother, you no longer have to face it alone.

From Publishers Weekly

The death of a mother--particularly during one's young years--is traumatic. Writing of her own experiences of losing her mother when she was 17, and the grief of hundreds of women she interviewed who lost their mothers through death, abandonment or another form of separation, freelance writer Edelman marshals a wealth of anecdotal evidence, supplemented with psychological research about bereavement, that indicates that one's longing for a mother never disappears. Though the focus is on early loss for girls and the implications for their developing identity, adult daughters also speak in these pages to provide another poignant perspective. The author succeeds in opening up cathartic dialogues, personalizing a life-changing event and offering guidelines to help women of any age live with their loss. Author tour.

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From Library Journal

Edelman was 17 years old in 1981 when her mother died. Ten years later, she wanted to share with other motherless daughters the profound influence and continuing effects of their mothers' deaths. She advertised in eight local, regional, and national publications for women willing to be interviewed or surveyed for this book. In all, 246 women were polled, ranging in age from 17 to 82, their losses occurring from infancy into their thirties. Anecdotes and reflections from Edelman's and the respondents' lives comprise the bulk of the book. References to authorities, studies, and statistical data add insight and support. The book is divided into three parts: "Loss," "Change," and "Growth." Chapters address particular issues, e.g., stages of grief, changes in family roles and relationships, and developing an independent identity. The book provides more insight into why motherless daughters feel the loss throughout life than advice on overcoming it. For public libraries.

Carol R. Nelson, Ball State Univ. Lib., Muncie, Ind.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Coffman:

Here thing why that Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss are different and dependable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content from it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no publication that similar with Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss. It gives you thrill looking at journey, its open up your eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your technique home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss in e-book can be your

alternative.

Tara Thornton:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book could be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the publication untitled Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss can be good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Julia Jenkins:

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss, you can enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Emanuel Douglas:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got college students? We believe that that issue was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And also you know that little person including reading or as looking at become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update about something by book. Numerous books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is actually Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss.

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