



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:

James Alvarez:

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Wayne Ross:

The particular book *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss* has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was written by the very famous author. The author makes some research before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can get the point easily after reading this article book.

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Benjamin Deloatch:

With this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you are related is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. Among the books in the top collection in your reading list will be *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss*. This book that is certainly qualified as *The Hungry Slopes* can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking way up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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