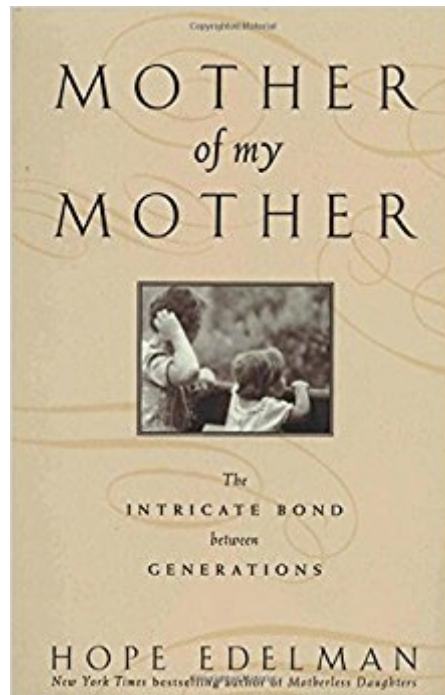




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# Mother Of My Mother: The Intricate Bond Between Generations



## Synopsis

In her acclaimed New York Times bestseller, *Motherless Daughters*, Hope Edelman explored the profound and lasting effects of mother loss, as well as her own search for healing. Now, in her compelling new work, Edelman explores another complex, life-changing relationship, the intricate bond between generations. Drawing from her own experience and the recollections of over seventy other granddaughters, Edelman explores the three-generation triangle from which women develop their female identities: the grandmother-mother-daughter relationship. With eloquent personal testimony, she demonstrates the vital roles grandmothers have played in their granddaughters' lives, as a source of unconditional love, family values and traditions, and backup parent, the ultimate safety net. Here are grandmothers in all their glory: The "Benevolent Manipulator", whose love for her family is matched only by her desire for control; The "Gentle Giant", awesome, respected, who possesses a quiet, behind-the-scenes power; The "Autocrat", who rules her extended family like a despot; The "Kinkeeper", the family hub, who offers a sense of cohesion to the extended clan. With insight and compassion, Edelman probes this unique and emotionally-charged relationship in a book that is a true celebration of an extraordinary bond--and a must read for every woman.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In *Motherless Daughters*, her bestselling study of the psychological impact of a daughter's loss of her mother, Edelman explored the terrain of grief and recovery. In this work, she expands her focus to include grandmothers and the love/hate relationships that can form between the three

generations, drawing on her own interviews with 70 granddaughters, and her survey of 186 more, as well as the work of psychologists and sociologists who study intergenerational dynamics. The result is slightly choppy, as the narrative jumps from scientific findings about bonding, self-esteem and matriarchal power in American society to memoir sequences in which Edelman's grandmother and mother are either enraged at each other or giggling like schoolgirls. Edelman is at her best illuminating the complexity of girls' and women's feelings toward their mothers and grandmothers. She identifies four major types of matriarchs (for example, "The Gentle Giant," "The Autocrat," or "Kinkeeper") and shows that many are combinations of all these roles. Her narrative of how her feelings toward her grandmother evolved from unconditional devotion to wary reticence reveals the way that family loyalties can shift for girls and adolescents, and may reassure those who experience guilt over severed or frayed family connections. Edelman's good intentions and insights make this a worthwhile read for any woman who has ever viewed her family dynamic as both minefield and saving grace. Agent, Elizabeth Kaplan. Author tour. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In her latest effort, Edelman (*Motherless Daughters*, LJ 5/1/94) continues her theme of deciphering the maternal bond. Reading her new book is much like reading a diary. We learn a great deal about Edelman's relationship with her mother and maternal grandmother and how Edelman feels these two relationships have influenced her own actions. Edelman also presents other women's stories about mothers and grandmothers to illuminate the reasons behind her own writing odyssey. The book is more inclined to make readers ponder their own lives than to present new psychological methodologies for understanding personal family dynamics. All in all, this is insightful reading, but its approach makes it more appropriate for public than academic libraries. ASheila Devaney, North Carolina State Univ. Libs., Raleigh Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I started reading this book after the death of my maternal beloved "nanny" whom patiently helped my mother raise me. I didn't need validation of our relationship but this helped me put our intimate bond into perspective ...this book helped me grieve in such a beautiful way! It also showed me how important my mother is to me and how important she is as a grandmother to my child!

Got as a gift

I truly enjoyed this book, as I do all of Edelman's books. This book is a little less grief-centered and much more based on the intimate relationship that multi-generational women share. Her style of having more intellectual and narrative chapters interwoven was my favorite part. Her writing is truly talented and my own grief at the loss of my grandmother and mother was validated and satiated.

This book was a part of my wanting to come to terms with my Mother....It is the Three Generations of Mother, Daughter, and Granddaughters...and how your role changes with each passing of the Baton. Very Insightful and a subject that explains something we thought only was happening to us...a good source of "Knowledge is Power" Self Help and Development.

Excellent insights, stories, views from Hope Edelman. Laugh, cry, admit to your own behavior as you read "yourself" in her book. Best to read the 1st two books b/4 this one.

A Little Too Much Of A Good Thing, A Book Review of Mother of My Mother, the Intricate Bond Between Generations by Hope Edelman, Publisher, The Dial Press, Random House, Inc. 1999, pages 268. The personal narrative launches the book, as Ms. Edelman recounts her relationships with her grandmother and her mother. Though the topic sounded intriguing, I opened this pop psychology book as a skeptic. I was immediately impressed with the author's ability to write. Her tight, well-honed and descriptive use of language lent ease and interest to me, as a reader. Throughout the book, Ms. Edelman uses her "story" as an anchor. This device breaks up the monotony of the soft clinical research and conversely the facts reduce any tedium from the repetitive return to the author's recounting of her experience and that of her "examples". In doing it acts as a catalyst to trigger the memory of one's childhood, one's grandmother(s) and mother(s). Once meandering with the author refreshed my memory, I was given insight, tools for self-awareness and self-help by the author. These were offered in an effort to assist the reader in sense of one's past, present and future; great clarity gained through understanding of core familial relationships. She pinpointed four specific types of grandmother/matriarchs: Benevolent Manipulator "whose love for her family is matched only by her desire for control

Hope Edelman's book is successfully part memoir and part academic study. She has chosen a narrow scope for her research, and that's fine--that is, until she feels the need to dismiss other related topics (such as the equally intimate bond between granddaughters and paternal grandmothers) by claiming that they are just not as significant instead of acknowledging that she

simply did not choose to research them. The second hole in Edelman's research comes when she refers to how maternal grandmothers live longer than paternal ones--where the basis for this statement? I'll believe it when I see it. It's absolutely fine for her to choose to focus specifically on mother to mother to daughter generational relationships; what's not fine is for her to casually brush off related relationships as though they just don't matter as much. Within the context of her thesis, they are not as significant, but this is something that Edelman needs to address instead of pretending that she didn't write about them because they are not as significant. Other than these two crucial holes, Edelman's book holds merit in its well-written accounts of family, both from her own life and from her case studies. It's worth a read, not so much for its actual insights, but perhaps for the insight that it inspires its readers to pursue on their own.

Hope is a good writer--she's observant; reflective. I loved her book "Motherless Daughters" and she effectively uses her own experience to make her point. However. . . She lost me on this book because in one sentence (one sentence, mind you! ) she dismisses the relationship between a paternal grandmother and her granddaughter as never being as close as the maternal grandmother. That may be true in some cases--indeed, in many, and surely in her own. However, Hope's research is limited and biased. How can she effectively dismiss half of the population? Look at examples down through history of grandmothers & granddaughters (via their sons). . Their influence was great and I maintain ALL family relationships take investment and time. You get out of it what you put into it. The "mother of my mother" book a catchy idea, but the bias really bothers me. And what about adopted daughters? I have an adopted daughter, 4 sons, 1 grandson, & 1 granddaughter whom I love with all my heart (she's crazy about me, too). Each of my children and grandchildren are unique and each relationship is unique. This book depressed me for days until I was able to babysit my Kendsy (4 mos. old) for 5 days straight and re-fill my emotional cup. I gave this book 3 stars for the writing but the concept is weak! Sorry.

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