



Mean Mothers: Overcoming the Legacy of Hurt

By Peg Streep

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Drawn from research and the real-life experiences of adult daughters, *Mean Mothers* illuminates one of the last cultural taboos: what happens when a woman does not or cannot love her own daughter. Peg Streep, co-author of the highly acclaimed *Girl in the Mirror*, has subtitled this important, eye-opening exploration of the darker side of maternal behavior, “Overcoming the Legacy of Hurt.” There are no psychopathic child abusers in *Mean Mothers*. Instead, this essential volume focuses on the more subtle forms of psychological damage inflicted by mothers on their unappreciated daughters—and offers help and support to those women who were forced to suffer a parent’s cruelty and neglect.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

An exploration of the darker side of maternal behavior drawn from scientific research, psychology, and the real-life experiences of adult daughters, *Mean Mothers* sheds light on one of the last cultural taboos: what happens when a woman doesn't or can't love her daughter.

Mean Mothers reveals the multigenerational thread that often runs through these stories—many unloving mothers are the daughters of unloving or hypercritical women—and explores what happens to a daughter's sense of self and to her relationships when her mother is emotionally absent or even cruel. But *Mean Mothers* is also a narrative of hope, recounting how daughters can get past the legacy of hurt to become whole within and to become loving mothers to the next generation of daughters. The personal stories of unloved daughters and sons and those of the author herself, are both unflinching and moving, and bring this most difficult of subjects to life.

Mean Mothers isn't just a book for daughters who've had difficult or impossible relationships with their mothers. By exposing the myths of motherhood that prevent us from talking about the women for whom mothering a daughter is fraught with ambivalence, tension, or even jealousy, *Mean Mothers* also casts a different light on the extraordinary influence mothers have over their female children as well as the psychological complexity and emotional depth of the mother-daughter relationship.

About the Author

Peg Streep is both the daughter of a mean mother and the devoted mother of an adult daughter. She is the author or coauthor of eleven books, including *Quitting--Why We Fear It and Why We Shouldn't-- in Life, love, and work*, *Girl in the Mirror: Mothers and Daughters in the Years of Adolescence* and the bestselling *Necessary Journeys: Letting Ourselves Learn from Life*, both with Dr. Nancy L. Snyderman. Streep holds degrees in English from the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. She is a blogger for PsychologyToday.com and lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Trumbo:

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Mary Crouch:

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