

One Life My Mothers Story

Charlotte Pierce-Baker did everything right when raising her son, providing not only emotional support but the best education possible. At age twenty-five, he was pursuing a postgraduate degree and seemingly in control of his life. She never imagined her high-achieving son would wind up handcuffed, dirty, and in jail. The moving story of an African American family facing the challenge of bipolar disorder, *This Fragile Life* provides insight into mental disorders as well as family dynamics. Pierce-Baker traces the evolution of her son's illness and, in looking back, realizes she mistook warning signs for typical child and teen behavior. Hospitalizations, calls in the night, alcohol and drug relapses, pleas for money, and continuous disputes, her son's journey was long, arduous, and almost fatal. *This Fragile Life* weaves a fascinating story of mental illness, race, family, the drive of African Americans to succeed, and a mother's love for her son.

A seventy-year-old West Indian woman looks back over the course of her life and examines the relationships that have given meaning to her existence

One Life My Mother's Story Canongate Books

A funny and tender memoir about the meaning of food, family and life Peter Gethers has loved food and wine all his life, and now he wants to give his 93-year-old mother a final gift: a spectacular feast featuring all her favorite dishes. Problem is, he doesn't know how to cook most of them, so he embarks upon a culinary journey that will ultimately allow him to bring his mother's friends and

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loved ones to the table one last time. The daughter of a restaurateur, Judy Gethers discovered a passion for cooking in her 50s. In time, she became a mentor and friend to several of the most famous chefs in America, including Wolfgang Puck and Jonathan Waxman. In her 80s, she was robbed of her ability to cook by a debilitating stroke. But illness has brought her closer than ever to her son: at least twice a week, Peter visits her so he can make her dinner, ask questions about her colorful past, and learn her kitchen secrets. Gradually his ambition becomes manifest: he decides to learn how to cook his mother the meal of her dreams and thereby tell the story of her life to all those who have loved her. With his trademark wit and knowing eye, Peter Gethers has written an unforgettable memoir about how food and family can do much more than feed us—they can nourish our souls.

“Honest and moving . . . Her painful tale is engrossing.”—Washington Post Book World For most of us, it was just another horrible headline. But for Deborah Spungen, the mother of Nancy, who was stabbed to death at the Chelsea Hotel, it was both a relief and a tragedy. Here is the incredible story of an infant who never stopped screaming, a toddler who attacked people, a teenager addicted to drugs, violence, and easy sex, a daughter completely out of control—who almost destroyed her parents’ marriage and the happiness of the rest of her family.

Sarah was born in 1911, behind the pale of settlement near the city of Kiev, Ukraine, to religious Jewish parents. She was the ninth child and youngest daughter.

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Before immigrating to America with her husband, daughter, son-in-law and grandson in 1979, Sarah spent sixty-eight years building a life of remarkable friendships, personal and professional achievements as well as unconditional love and devotion to her family. This story takes you on Sarah's journey, starting with memories of her father being savagely beaten during Russia's pogroms against Jews, her struggles through post-Revolutionary Russia's rapid social and political changes and the hardships and heartbreaking experiences during the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945. At sixty-eight years old Sarah left her home, her extended family, her friends and her country so that her daughter and her daughter's family could have a better life. Sarah spent the next fifteen years building a new life in America while always cherishing the memories of people, places and events of her past.

"A novel based on a true story [in which] a mother and daughter risk their lives to provide shelter to two families and a German soldier--all unbeknownst to each other--in a tiny two-room house in Sokal, Poland, during the Nazi invasion"--Amazon.com.

Twenty years after she lost her mother to breast cancer, Heather St. Aubin-Stout receives a postcard asking her to come back for magnifications of her recent mammogram. She asks for prayers from her family, friends, and neighbors. Prayers not for her to be cured but for her strength and wisdom. When she is diagnosed, she soon faces her memories of what she experienced with her mothers illness and death. However as she deals with her illness and treatments while she and her

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husband try to parent their three independent teenage sons she discovers that this is Not My Mothers Journey. Heather chronicles her journey with candid honesty discussing her challenges, confusions, and emotions with daily life while dealing with a potentially terminal disease. She engages the reader with everyday life experiences. She knows that each journey is unique, but she believes that we are here to help each other and by sharing our stories well make the individual path less painful, no matter what were dealing with.

"Beautiful and charismatic, Catherine, a.k.a.

'Maman, ' smokes too much, drives too fast, laughs too hard, and loves too extravagantly. During a joyful and chaotic childhood in Paris, her daughter Violaine wouldn't have it any other way. But when Maman is hospitalized after a third divorce and a breakdown, everything changes. As the story of Catherine's own traumatic childhood and adolescence unfolds, the pieces come together to form an indelible portrait of a mother as irresistible as she is impossible, as triumphant as she is transgressive"--Publisher's description.

“Sure to be one of the best memoirs of 2021.”

—Kirkus Reviews, starred review “So clear, sharp, and smooth that the reader sees, in vivid focus, Ford’s complicated childhood, brilliant mind, and golden heart. Ford is a writer for the ages, and Somebody’s Daughter will be a book of the year.”

—Glennon Doyle, #1 New York Times bestselling

author of *Untamed* “Ford’s wrenchingly brilliant memoir is truly a classic in the making. The writing is so richly observed and so suffused with love and yearning that I kept forgetting to breathe while reading it.” —John Green, #1 New York Times bestselling author

One of the most prominent voices of her generation debuts with an extraordinarily powerful memoir: the story of a childhood defined by the looming absence of her incarcerated father. Through poverty, adolescence, and a fraught relationship with her mother, Ashley Ford wishes she could turn to her father for hope and encouragement. There are just a few problems: he’s in prison, and she doesn’t know what he did to end up there. She doesn’t know how to deal with the incessant worries that keep her up at night, or how to handle the changes in her body that draw unwanted attention from men. In her search for unconditional love, Ashley begins dating a boy her mother hates. When the relationship turns sour, he assaults her. Still reeling from the rape, which she keeps secret from her family, Ashley desperately searches for meaning in the chaos. Then, her grandmother reveals the truth about her father’s incarceration . . . and Ashley’s entire world is turned upside down.

Somebody’s Daughter steps into the world of growing up a poor, Black girl in Indiana with a family fragmented by incarceration, exploring how isolating and complex such a childhood can be. As Ashley

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battles her body and her environment, she embarks on a powerful journey to find the threads between who she is and what she was born into, and the complicated familial love that often binds them. Wife and mother. Teacher and musician. Marathoner and rock climber. At 66, Dierdre Wolownick-Honnold became the oldest woman to climb El Capitan in Yosemite--and in *The Sharp End of Life: A Mother's Story*, she shares her intimate journey, revealing how her climbing achievement reflects a broader story of courage and persistence. Dierdre grew up under the watchful eyes of a domineering mother and realized early on that her parents' plans for her future weren't what she wanted for herself. Later, what seemed like a storybook romance brought escape, with new experiences and eye-opening travel, but she quickly discovered that her husband was not the happy-go-lucky man he had first appeared. Adapting as best she could, Dierdre juggled work and raising two young children, encouraging them to be fearlessly confident. She noted with delight how her "little lady" Stasia took it upon herself to look out for her baby brother, and watched in amazement as Alex (Honnold of "Free Solo" fame) started climbing practically before he could crawl. After years of struggle in her marriage and her ultimate divorce, Dierdre found inspiration in her now-adult children's passions, as well as new depths within herself. At Stasia's urging, she took up

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running at age 54 and soon completed several marathons. Then at age 58, Alex led her on her first rock climbs. A world of friendship and support suddenly opened up to her within the climbing “tribe,” culminating in her record-setting ascent of El Cap with her son. From confused young wife and busy but lonely mother to confident middle-aged athlete, Dierdre brings the reader along as she finds new strength, happiness, and community in the outdoors--and a life of learning, acceptance, and spirit.

NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • A Best Book of 2021: Entertainment Weekly, Good Morning America, Wall Street Journal, and more From the indie rockstar of Japanese Breakfast fame, and author of the viral 2018 New Yorker essay that shares the title of this book, an unflinching, powerful memoir about growing up Korean American, losing her mother, and forging her own identity. In this exquisite story of family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner proves herself far more than a dazzling singer, songwriter, and guitarist. With humor and heart, she tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of

food. As she grew up, moving to the East Coast for college, finding work in the restaurant industry, and performing gigs with her fledgling band--and meeting the man who would become her husband--her Koreanness began to feel ever more distant, even as she found the life she wanted to live. It was her mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer, when Michelle was twenty-five, that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her. Vivacious and plainspoken, lyrical and honest, Zauner's voice is as radiantly alive on the page as it is onstage. Rich with intimate anecdotes that will resonate widely, and complete with family photos, *Crying in H Mart* is a book to cherish, share, and reread.

“You will devour these beautifully written—and very important—tales of honesty, pain, and resilience” (Elizabeth Gilbert, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Eat Pray Love* and *City of Girls*) from fifteen brilliant writers who explore how what we don't talk about with our mothers affects us, for better or for worse. As an undergraduate, Michele Filgate started writing an essay about being abused by her stepfather. It took her more than a decade to realize that she was actually trying to write about how this affected her relationship with her mother. When it was finally published, the essay went viral, shared on social media by Anne Lamott, Rebecca

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Solnit, and many others. This gave Filgate an idea, and the resulting anthology offers a candid look at our relationships with our mothers. Leslie Jamison writes about trying to discover who her seemingly perfect mother was before ever becoming a mom. In Cathi Hanauer's hilarious piece, she finally gets a chance to have a conversation with her mother that isn't interrupted by her domineering (but lovable) father. André Aciman writes about what it was like to have a deaf mother. Melissa Febos uses mythology as a lens to look at her close-knit relationship with her psychotherapist mother. And Julianna Baggott talks about having a mom who tells her everything. As Filgate writes, "Our mothers are our first homes, and that's why we're always trying to return to them." There's relief in acknowledging how what we couldn't say for so long is a way to heal our relationships with others and, perhaps most important, with ourselves. Contributions by Cathi Hanauer, Melissa Febos, Alexander Chee, Dylan Landis, Bernice L. McFadden, Julianna Baggott, Lynn Steger Strong, Kiese Laymon, Carmen Maria Machado, André Aciman, Sari Botton, Nayomi Munaweera, Brandon Taylor, and Leslie Jamison. "A story that lingers in the heart long after the last page is turned." —HOPE EDELMAN, bestselling author of *Motherless Daughters* and *The Possibility of Everything* This provocative, poignant memoir of a daughter whose mother left her behind by choice

begs the question: Are we destined to make the same mistakes as our parents? One summer, Melissa Cistaro's mother drove off without explanation. Devastated, Melissa and her brothers were left to pick up the pieces, always tormented by the thought: Why did their mother abandon them? Thirty-five years later, with children of her own, Melissa finds herself in Olympia, Washington, as her mother is dying. After decades of hiding her painful memories, she has just days to find out what happened that summer and confront the fear she could do the same to her kids. But Melissa never expects to stumble across a cache of letters her mother wrote to her but never sent, which could hold the answers she seeks. Haunting yet ultimately uplifting, *Pieces of My Mother* chronicles one woman's quest to discover what drives a mother to walk away from the children she loves. Alternating between Melissa's tumultuous coming-of-age and her mother's final days, this captivating memoir reveals how our parents' choices impact our own and how we can survive those to forge our own paths.

A raw and affecting memoir about a mother and daughter who beat the odds together. Perdita Felicien's story is woven into her mother's like an intricate braid. To understand Perdita's story, you must know Catherine's. Catherine is larger than life. At seventeen years old, she is determined and

tenacious, and longing to experience a better life. But she is also pregnant with her second child, and just scraping by in St. Lucia by selling homemade jewellery on the beach. So when she meets a wealthy white Canadian family vacationing on the island, she knows she's found her chance. After babysitting the couple's infant son for two weeks, she asks them to bring her to Canada and employ her as a nanny. Somehow, they agree. This was the beginning of Catherine's new life: a life of great opportunity, but also profound suffering. Within a few years, she would find herself pregnant a third time--this time in a new country, Canada, with no family supporting her, and this time, with Perdita. Together, in the years to come, they would experience poverty, racism, domestic abuse and even homelessness, but Catherine's will would always pull them through. As Perdita grew and began to discover her preternatural gifts--athleticism at what would one day prove to be an Olympic level--she was edged onward by her mother's love, grit and faith. Facing literal and figurative hurdles, she learned to leap, and pick herself back up when she stumbled. Beautifully written and deeply absorbing, *Gold Mettle* is a daughter's memoir--a book about the power of a parent's love to transform their child's life.

'Wow... A fantastic, gripping read. As soon as I started reading it I knew I was going to love it, it

grabbed me straight away and I couldn't put it down. I finished it in 2 sittings, staying up very late and then getting up very early as I just wanted to know how it was all going to finish.' Goodreads reviewer, ?????? What if the person you trust most in the world is lying to you? I'd heard of the Baby Caroline case, of course. When a baby is snatched from her mother's arms, the whole country knows about it. I knew about the parents left lying by the swimming pool, the open window in the nursery. But I never dreamed it had anything to do with me. Today, my beautiful daughter turned one. We were unwrapping gifts and blowing out candles when the knock came at the door, and they took my mother away. The police say she's not really my mother. That she stole me, thirty years ago. When I visit her, desperate for answers, she looks me in the eye, and says nothing. I can barely breathe. Is my whole life a lie? I have to find out, but the more I learn, the more scared I become. And soon I start to wonder, am I losing my grip on reality or is my own daughter in terrible danger? An absolutely gripping psychological thriller, perfect for fans of Gillian Flynn, Ruth Ware and Lisa Jewell. See what readers are saying about Not My Mother: "Absolutely addictive and gripping... Filled with twists and turns which will knock you sideways... It had me on the edge of my seat biting my nails and staying awake late at night to find out what happened next... I LOVED it" Bookworm 86, ?????? "Wow!... I devoured

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this in just one sitting and have been completely pulled in and addicted to this one... a magnificent masterpiece... a rollercoaster read and one I've thought about long after finishing. A definite five-star read" Little Miss Book Lover 87 "I did not want to put this book down!! It grabbed me from the first page and I had to force myself to stop reading"

Goodreads reviewer, ?????? "Amazing... I just couldn't stop reading it! Everytime I wanted to stop, my inner self screamed 'One more chapter pleaseee!'"

Goodreads reviewer, ?????? "Absolutely amazing! It's twisty and shocking, it really kept me on the edge of my seat" Books Candles Cats, ?????? "Wow!... So

compelling that I literally have a burn on my arm from my straightener because I couldn't even put it down to do my hair!... Sucks you in from the beginning and the plot twists just keep coming...

highly recommend this one to any psychological thriller addicts!" Goodreads reviewer, ?????? "You cannot put this book down!! It's addicting. I loved it from the start to the very last page. I flew through the pages all afternoon." Goodreads reviewer, ??????

"Loved it!... Chilling, unputdownable, and fast paced!... Will make you flip like a madman, needing it to finish... Lots of thrills, chills, twisty turns, and shocks!" NetGalley reviewer, ??????

"Absolutely the best psychological thriller I've read in a long time!...

Will take you on the ride of your life" Goodreads

reviewer, ?????? "From the beginning to the very end

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this book kept me page turning... I loved the twists, turns... I needed the answers!" Musings by Maureen, ????? "Just does not let go... I could not put it down. Even my dog is in a sulk as I haven't walked her yet... I had to finish this story first." Goodreads reviewer, ????? "So many twists and turns you don't know which way is up... Totally addictive... Knows how to bring out your goose bumps and give you whole body chills." NetGalley reviewer, ?????

A Mother's Life Story: A window into my mother's heart' is a mother's memory journal where your mother can record her memories of her life for her children. While mom is a prominent figure in our life growing up, it is usually not until our later years that we really appreciate what an important part she played in our life. Not only did she give us life, but she helped mold our character and had a big impact on who we are as an adult. Rarely do we think of her as a child or of having had a life before us as her children. We have become so consumed with our own lives that we rarely take the time to really find out about mom and her life, both before we were around and now that the nest is empty. 'My Mother's Life Story' is one of the most in-depth guided journals about a mother's life you will find. Get to really know your mother by having her fill this book out for you. You will be able to see who she is as a complete person. You will treasure it in days to come, if for no other reason than to have the information to pass on to your own children. Perhaps this is a book mom has purchased herself and filled out and given to you as a gift. If so, be thankful she took the time

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to do so. It is a window into her thoughts, her dreams, her heart. One day she won't be here to answer those questions and if you don't get the answers now, they will be lost forever. You will be guaranteed to learn something you never knew before or would have never thought to ask. Enjoy getting to know your mother through 'A Mother's Life Story: A window into my mother's heart.'

"A literary thriller about the complex underbelly of the immigrant American dream--the triumphs and failure, mundane and aberrant--and the dangerous ripple effect one person's damages can have on the lives of others, all told by an unexpected narrator: a house that has held unspeakable horrors. When Lucien flees Haiti with his wife, Marie-Ange, and their three children to New York City's South Ozone Park, he does so in the hopes of finding reinvention, wealth, and comfort. He buys a rundown house in a community that is quickly changing from one filled with Italian mobsters to one attracting American Dream seekers like himself, and begins life anew. Lucien and Marie-Ange call their home La Kaye, "my mother's house," and it becomes a center for their fellow immigrants to find peace, a good meal, and legal help. But as a severely emotionally damaged man emigrating from a country whose evils he knows to one whose evils he doesn't, Lucien soon falls back into his worst habits and impulses, with his new house acting as the backdrop for his lasciviousness. What Lucien can't even begin to fathom is that La Kaye is always watching and passing judgement, and everything comes to a head on the day that it decides to stop the sins inside. But La

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Kaye doesn't even know the darkest secrets held within its walls, and only after it has set itself aflame does it hear the frightened whispers that will reveal Lucien's ultimate evil" -- Provided by publisher.

From the million-copy bestseller Amanda Prowse, the queen of heartbreak fiction. Amanda Prowse is the author of *The Coordinates Of Loss* and the no.1 bestsellers *Perfect Daughter*, *My Husband's Wife* and *What Have I Done? I deserve all this because I did the worst thing a woman can do. The very worst. Jessica's wedding was like a fairytale. Her dress strewn with crystals. Her dad made a tearful speech. Her husband Matthew declared himself the luckiest man alive. But when their beautiful baby girl is born, Jessica is gripped by panic. She can't tell anyone how she feels. Even when her life starts to spiral out of control... This is her story. A mother's story.* Reviews for Amanda Prowse: 'Prowse handles her explosive subject with delicate skill ... Deeply moving and inspiring' DAILY MAIL. 'Powerful and emotional family drama that packs a real punch' HEAT. 'A gut wrenching and absolutely brilliant read' IRISH SUN. 'Captivating, heartbreaking, superbly written' CLOSER. 'Very uplifting and positive, but you may still need a box (or two) of tissues' HELLO. 'An emotional, unputdownable read' RED. 'Prowse writes gritty, contemporary stories but always with an uplifting message of hope' SUNDAY INDEPENDENT.

With 200 thought-provoking and lighthearted writing prompts and exercises organized into chapters based on her life, *My Mother's Life* guides your mother to begin her life's memoir and create a fully realized record of her

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adventures, stories, and wisdom for you and your family to cherish for future generations.

As seen on the Today Show: This true story of an unforgettable mother, her devoted daughter, and their life in the Detroit numbers of the 1960s and 1970s highlights "the outstanding humanity of black America" (James McBride). In 1958, the very same year that an unknown songwriter named Berry Gordy borrowed \$800 to found Motown Records, a pretty young mother from Nashville, Tennessee, borrowed \$100 from her brother to run a numbers racket out of her home. That woman was Fannie Davis, Bridgett M. Davis's mother. Part bookie, part banker, mother, wife, and granddaughter of slaves, Fannie ran her numbers business for thirty-four years, doing what it took to survive in a legitimate business that just happened to be illegal. She created a loving, joyful home, sent her children to the best schools, bought them the best clothes, mothered them to the highest standard, and when the tragedy of urban life struck, soldiered on with her stated belief: "Dying is easy. Living takes guts." A daughter's moving homage to an extraordinary parent, *The World According to Fannie Davis* is also the suspenseful, unforgettable story about the lengths to which a mother will go to "make a way out of no way" and provide a prosperous life for her family -- and how those sacrifices resonate over time.

'Clear, authentic and utterly engaging . . . it is as successful as it is authentic' *Independent* on Sunday
Born to an unhappy marriage and into a deeply sexist society, Nance Russell worked hard for everything she had, and while the world changed around her, she went

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on to university, to opening businesses and raising a family. One Life is Nance's story - and many other women's too - beautifully captured by her daughter, the bestselling novelist Kate Grenville. Kate draws on the tales passed down to her to create an evocative portrait of life in twentieth-century rural Australia, and a deeply intimate and caring homage to a mother.

When you were a kid, what were some of the things you dreamed of being when you grew up? What's something you wish you had asked your parents, but never did? These and other thoughtful questions will get Mom talking. One thing's for sure: Doing the interview will help make wonderful new memories, along with a volume that will be prized for generations to come.

Sophie describes her relationships with a series of boys as she searches for Mr. Right.

My Life, My Story is a legacy journal for mothers.

The prompts enable a mother to share her life with her children and pass on the wisdom, values, and memories that have graced her days. The structured format enables a mother to share her story from childhood, through to courtship and then parenthood, sharing her unique experiences and memories along the journey.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A moving memoir about the legendary author's relationship with her own mother. Emma Watson's Our Shared Shelf Book Club Pick! The story of Maya Angelou's extraordinary life has been chronicled in her multiple bestselling autobiographies. But now, at last, the

legendary author shares the deepest personal story of her life: her relationship with her mother. For the first time, Angelou reveals the triumphs and struggles of being the daughter of Vivian Baxter, an indomitable spirit whose petite size belied her larger-than-life presence—a presence absent during much of Angelou’s early life. When her marriage began to crumble, Vivian famously sent three-year-old Maya and her older brother away from their California home to live with their grandmother in Stamps, Arkansas. The subsequent feelings of abandonment stayed with Angelou for years, but their reunion, a decade later, began a story that has never before been told. In *Mom & Me & Mom*, Angelou dramatizes her years reconciling with the mother she preferred to simply call “Lady,” revealing the profound moments that shifted the balance of love and respect between them. Delving into one of her life’s most rich, rewarding, and fraught relationships, *Mom & Me & Mom* explores the healing and love that evolved between the two women over the course of their lives, the love that fostered Maya Angelou’s rise from immeasurable depths to reach impossible heights. Praise for *Mom & Me & Mom* “*Mom & Me & Mom* is delivered with Angelou’s trademark good humor and fierce optimism. If any resentments linger between these lines, if lives are partially revealed without all the bitter details exposed, well, that is part of Angelou’s forgiving design. As an account of

reconciliation, this little book is just revealing enough, and pretty irresistible.”—The Washington Post “Moving . . . a remarkable portrait of two courageous souls.”—People “[The] latest, and most potent, of her serial autobiographies . . . [a] tough-minded, tenderhearted addition to Angelou’s spectacular canon.”—Elle “Mesmerizing . . . Angelou has a way with words that can still dazzle us, and with her mother as a subject, Angelou has a near-perfect muse and mystery woman.”—Essence “Amy was one of those rare people who made an impact . . . She was a bundle of emotions, at times adorable and at times unbearable. . . . Amy’s passing did not follow a clear line. It was jumbled, and her life was unfinished—not life’s natural order at all. She left no answers, only questions, and in the years since her death I’ve found myself trying to make sense of the frayed ends of her extraordinary existence.” Arguably the most gifted artist of her generation, Amy Winehouse died tragically young, aged just twenty-seven. With a worldwide fan base and millions of record sales to her name, she should have had the world at her feet. Yet in the years prior to her death, she battled with addiction and was frequently the subject of lurid tabloid headlines. Amy’s mother, Janis, knew her in a way that no one else did. In this warm, poignant, and at times heartbreaking memoir, she tells the full story of the daughter she loved so much. As the world watched

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the rise of a superstar, then the free fall of an addict to her tragic death, Janis simply saw her Amy: the daughter she'd given birth to, the girl she'd raised and stood by despite her unruly behavior, the girl whose body she was forced to identify two days after her death—and the girl she's grieved for every day since. Including rare photographs and extracts from Amy's childhood journals, *Loving Amy* offers a new and intimate perspective on the life and untimely death of a musical icon.

Becoming My Mother's Daughter: A Story of Survival and Renewal tells the story of three generations of a Jewish Hungarian family whose fate has been inextricably bound up with the turbulent history of Europe, from the First World War through the Holocaust and the communist takeover after World War II, to the family's dramatic escape and emmigration to Canada. The emotional centre and narrative voice of the story belong to Eva, an artist, dreamer, and writer trying to work through her complex and deep relationship with her mother, whose portrait she cannot paint until she completes her journey through memory. The core of the book is Eva's riveting recollection of the last months of World War II in Budapest, seen through a child's eyes, and is reminiscent in its power of scenes in Joy Kogawa's *Obasan*. Exploring the bond between generations of mothers and daughters, the book illustrates the struggle between the need for

independence and the search for continuity, the significant impact of childhood on adult life, the reshaping of personality in immigration, the importance of dreams in making us face reality, and the redemptive power of memory. Illustrations by the author throughout the book, some in colour, enhance the story.

"One of those memoirs that remind you why you liked memoirs in the first place... It has the density of a very good novel... As you do with the best writers, you feel lucky to be in Ms. Brockes's company."

--Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*

A chilling work of psychological suspense and forensic memoir, *She Left Me the Gun* is a tale of true transformation: the story of a young woman who reinvented herself so completely that her previous life seemed simply to vanish, and of a daughter who transcends her mother's fears and reclaims an abandoned past. "One day I will tell you the story of my life," promises Emma Brockes's mother, "and you will be amazed." Brockes grew up hearing only pieces of her mother's past—stories of a rustic childhood in South Africa, glimpses of a bohemian youth in London—and yet knew that crucial facts were still in the dark. A mystery to her friends and family, Paula was clearly a strong, self-invented woman; glamorous, no-nonsense, and frequently out of place in their quaint English village. In awe of Paula's larger-than-life personality, Brockes never asked

why her mother emigrated to England or why she never returned to South Africa; never questioned the source of her mother's strange fears or tremendous strengths. Looking to unearth the truth after Paula's death, Brockes begins a dangerous journey into the land—and the life—her mother fled from years before. Brockes soon learns that Paula's father was a drunk megalomaniac who terrorized Paula and her seven half-siblings for years. After finally mustering the courage to take her father to court, Paula is horrified to see the malevolent man vindicated of all charges. As Brockes discovers, this crushing defeat left Paula with a choice: take her own life, or promise herself never to be intimidated or unhappy again. Ultimately she chooses life and happiness by booking one-way passage to London—but not before shooting her father five times, and failing to kill him. Smuggling the fateful gun through English customs would be Paula's first triumph in her new life. She Left Me the Gun carries Brockes to South Africa to meet her seven aunts and uncles, weighing their stories against her mother's silences. Brockes learns of the violent pathologies and racial propaganda in which her grandfather was inculcated, sees the mine shafts and train yards where he worked as an itinerant mechanic, and finds in buried government archives the court records proving his murder conviction years before he first married. Brockes also learns of the turncoat stepmother who may have perjured

herself to save her husband, dooming Paula and her siblings to the machinations of their hated father. Most of all, *She Left Me the Gun* reveals how Paula reinvented herself to lead a full, happy life. As she follows her mother's footsteps back to South Africa, Brockes begins to find the wellsprings of her mother's strength, the tremendous endurance which allowed Paula to hide secrets from even her closest friends and family. But as the search through cherished letters and buried documents deepens, Brockes realizes with horror that her mother's great success as a parent was concealing her terrible past—and that unearthing these secrets threatens to undo her mother's work. A beguiling and unforgettable journey across generations and continents, *She Left Me the Gun* chronicles Brockes's efforts to walk the knife-edge between understanding her mother's unspeakable traumas and embracing the happiness she chose for her daughter.

An acclaimed writer on her mother's tumultuous life as a Jewish immigrant in 1930s New York and her life-long guilt when the Holocaust claims the family she left behind in Latvia *A story of love, war, and life as a Jewish immigrant in the squalid factories and lively dance halls of New York's Garment District in the 1930s, My Mother's Wars* is the memoir Lillian Faderman's mother was never able to write. The daughter delves into her mother's past to tell the

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story of a Latvian girl who left her village for America with dreams of a life on the stage and encountered the realities of her new world: the battles she was forced to fight as a woman, an immigrant worker, and a Jew with family left behind in Hitler's deadly path. The story begins in 1914: Mary, the girl who will become Lillian Faderman's mother, just seventeen and swept up with vague ambitions to be a dancer, travels alone to America, where her half-sister in Brooklyn takes her in. She finds a job in the garment industry and a shop friend who teaches her the thrills of dance halls and the cheap amusements open to working-class girls. This dazzling life leaves Mary distracted and her half-sister and brother-in-law scandalized that she has become a "good-time gal." They kick her out of their home, an event with consequences Mary will regret for the rest of her life. Eighteen years later, still barely scraping by as a garment worker and unmarried at thirty-five, Mary falls madly in love and has a torrid romance with a man who will never marry her, but who will father Lillian Faderman before he disappears from their lives. America is in the midst of the Depression, Hitler is coming to power in Europe, and New York's garment workers are just beginning to unionize. Mary makes tentative steps to join, despite her lover's angry opposition. As National Socialism engulfs Europe, Mary realizes she must find a way to get her family out of Latvia, and she spends frenetic

months chasing vague promises and false rumors of hope. Pregnant again, after having submitted to two wrenching back-room abortions, and still unmarried, Mary faces both single motherhood and the devastating possibility of losing her entire Eastern European family. Drawing on family stories and documents, as well as her own tireless research, Lillian Faderman has reconstructed an engrossing and essential chapter in the history of women, of workers, of Jews, and of the Holocaust as immigrants experienced it from American shores. One of . . . Electric Literature's "Most Anticipated Debuts of Early 2020" • O, The Oprah Magazine's "31 LGBTQ Books That'll Change the Literary Landscape in 2020" • Publishers Weekly's "Spring 2020 Literary Fiction Announcements" • BuzzFeed's "Most Highly Anticipated Books of 2020" • The Millions's "Most Anticipated: The Great First-Half 2020 Book Preview" • The Rumpus's "What to Read When 2020 Is Just Around the Corner" • LGBTQ Reads's "2020 LGBTQAP Adult Fiction Preview: January-June" • Lit Hub's "Most Anticipated Books of 2020" • BookRiot's "Must-Read Debut Novels of 2020" • Bitch's "27 Novels Feminists Should Read in 2020" • Harper's Bazaar's "14 LGBTQ+ Books to Look For in 2020" • NewNowNext's "11 Queer Books We Can't Wait to Read This Spring" • Cosmopolitan's "12 Books You'll Be Dying to Read This Summer" • Salon's "The Best and Boldest New

Must-Read Books for May" • Lambda Literary's "Most Anticipated LGBTQ Books of May 2020" • The Rumpus's "What to Read When You Want to Celebrate Mothers" "A queer tour-de-force . . . Compelling and astonishing."—Kristen Arnett, author of *Mostly Dead Things* Intimacy has always eluded twenty-seven-year-old Maggie Krause—despite being brought up by married parents, models of domestic bliss—until, that is, Lucia came into her life. But when Maggie's mom, Iris, dies in a car crash, Maggie returns home only to discover a withdrawn dad, an angry brother, and, along with Iris's will, five sealed envelopes, each addressed to a mysterious man she's never heard of. In an effort to run from her own grief and discover the truth about Iris—who made no secret of her discomfort with her daughter's sexuality—Maggie embarks on a road trip, determined to hand-deliver the letters and find out what these men meant to her mother. Maggie quickly discovers Iris's second, hidden life, which shatters everything Maggie thought she knew about her parents' perfect relationship. What is she supposed to tell her father and brother? And how can she deal with her own relationship when her whole world is in freefall? Told over the course of a funeral and shiva, and written with enormous wit and warmth, *All My Mother's Lovers* is the exciting debut novel from fiction writer and book critic Ilana Masad. A unique meditation on the universality and

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particularity of family ties and grief, and a tender and biting portrait of sex, gender, and identity, *All My Mother's Lovers* challenges us to question the nature of fulfilling relationships.

Nance was a week short of her sixth birthday when she and Frank were roused out of bed in the dark and lifted into the buggy, squashed in with bedding, the cooking pots rattling around in the back, and her mother shouting back towards the house: Goodbye, Rothsay, I hope I never see you again! When Kate Grenville's mother died she left behind many fragments of memoir. These were the starting point for *One Life*, the story of a woman whose life spanned a century of tumult and change. In many ways Nance's story echoes that of many mothers and grandmothers, for whom the spectacular shifts of the twentieth century offered a path to new freedoms and choices. In other ways Nance was exceptional. In an era when women were expected to have no ambitions beyond the domestic, she ran successful businesses as a registered pharmacist, laid the bricks for the family home, and discovered her husband's secret life as a revolutionary. *One Life* is an act of great imaginative sympathy, a daughter's intimate account of the patterns in her mother's life. It is a deeply moving homage by one of Australia's finest writers.

A Message from Mike Rowe, the Dirty Jobs Guy: Just to be clear, *About My Mother* is a book about my

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grandmother, written by my mother. That's not to say it's not about my mother—it is. In fact, *About My Mother* is as much about my mother as it is about my grandmother. In that sense, it's really a book about "mothers." ...It is not, however, a book written by me. True, I did write the foreword. But it doesn't mean I've written a book about my mother. I haven't. Nor does it mean my mother's book is about her son. It isn't. It's about my grandmother. And my mother. Just to be clear.—Mike A love letter to mothers everywhere, *About My Mother* will make you laugh and cry—and see yourself in its reflection. Peggy Rowe's story of growing up as the daughter of Thelma Knobel is filled with warmth and humor. But Thelma could be your mother—there's a Thelma in everyone's life. She's the person taking charge—the one who knows instinctively how things should be. Today Thelma would be described as an alpha personality, but while growing up, her daughter Peggy saw her as a dictator—albeit a benevolent, loving one. They clashed from the beginning—Peggy, the horse-crazy tomboy, and Thelma, the genteel-yet-still-controlling mother, committed to raising two refined, ladylike daughters. Good luck. When major league baseball came to town in the early 1950s and turned sophisticated Thelma into a crazed Baltimore Orioles groupie, nobody was more surprised and embarrassed than Peggy. Life became a series of compromises—Thelma tolerating a daughter who pitched manure and galloped the countryside, while Peggy learned to tolerate the whacky Orioles fan who threw her underwear at the television, shouted insults at umpires,

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and lived by the orange-and-black schedule taped to the refrigerator door. Sometimes, we're more alike than we know. And in case you're wondering, Peggy knows a thing or two about dirty jobs herself...

A New York Times Book Review Notable Book, *A Life's Work: On Becoming a Mother* is multi-award-winning author Rachel Cusk's honest memoir that captures the life-changing wonders of motherhood. Selected by the New York Times as one of the 50 Best Memoirs of the Past 50 Years The experience of motherhood is an experience in contradiction. It is commonplace and it is impossible to imagine. It is prosaic and it is mysterious. It is at once banal, bizarre, compelling, tedious, comic, and catastrophic. To become a mother is to become the chief actor in a drama of human existence to which no one turns up. It is the process by which an ordinary life is transformed unseen into a story of strange and powerful passions, of love and servitude, of confinement and compassion. In a book that is touching, hilarious, provocative, and profoundly insightful, novelist Rachel Cusk attempts to tell something of an old story set in a new era of sexual equality. Cusk's account of a year of modern motherhood becomes many stories: a farewell to freedom, sleep, and time; a lesson in humility and hard work; a journey to the roots of love; a meditation on madness and mortality; and most of all a sentimental education in babies, books, toddler groups, bad advice, crying, breastfeeding, and never being alone. "Funny and smart and refreshingly akin to a war diary—sort of *Apocalypse Baby Now*...*A Life's Work* is wholly original and unabashedly true."—The New York Times Book

Review

In this fascinating memoir the Dalai Lama's mother tells a compelling woman's story. With vivid and intimate details, she recounts her life's humble beginning, the customs and rituals of old Tibet, the births of her sixteen children (only seven of whom survived), learning her son's remarkable destiny, the family's arduous move to Lhasa before the Chinese invasion of Tibet, and their escape and eventual exile. Rich in historic and cultural details, this moving memoir personalizes the history of the Tibetan people—the magic of their culture, the role of their women, and their ancient ideals of compassion, faith, and equanimity.

In this lyrical and deeply moving memoir, one of America's most revered actresses weaves stories of her adventures and travels with her mother, while reflecting on the beautiful spirit that persists even in the face of her mother's struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Marcia Gay Harden knew at a young age that her life would be anything but ordinary. One of five lively children born to two Texas natives—Beverly, a proper Dallas lady, and Thad, a young naval officer—she always had a knack for storytelling, role-playing, and adventure. As a military family, the Hardens moved often, and their travels eventually took them to Yokohama, off the coast of Japan, during the Vietnam War era. It was here that Beverly, amid the many challenges of raising her family abroad, found her own self-expression in ikebana, the ancient Japanese art of flower arranging. Using the philosophy of ikebana as her starting point, Marcia Gay Harden intertwines the seasons of her mother's life with

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her own journey from precocious young girl to budding artist in New York City to Academy Award-winning actress. With a razor-sharp wit, as well as the kind of emotional honesty that has made her performances resonate with audiences worldwide, Marcia captures the joys and losses of life even as her precious mother gracefully strives to maintain her identity while coming to grips with Alzheimer's disease. Powerful and incredibly stirring, *The Seasons of My Mother* illustrates the unforgettable vulnerability and beauty of motherhood, as Marcia does what Beverly can no longer do: she remembers.

A NATIONAL BESTSELLER “Exquisite and harrowing.”

—New York Times Book Review “This electrifying, gorgeously written memoir will hold you captive until the last word.” —People NAMED A BEST FALL BOOK BY

People * Refinery29 * Entertainment Weekly * BuzzFeed * NPR's On Point * Town & Country * Real Simple * New York Post * Palm Beach Post * Toronto Star *

Orange Country Register * Bustle * Bookish * BookPage * Kirkus* BBC Culture* Debutiful A daughter's tale of

living in the thrall of her magnetic, complicated mother, and the chilling consequences of her complicity. On a hot July night on Cape Cod when Adrienne was fourteen, her mother, Malabar, woke her at midnight with five simple words that would set the course of both of their lives for years to come: Ben Souther just kissed me.

Adrienne instantly became her mother's confidante and helpmate, blossoming in the sudden light of her attention, and from then on, Malabar came to rely on her daughter to help orchestrate what would become an epic

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affair with her husband's closest friend. The affair would have calamitous consequences for everyone involved, impacting Adrienne's life in profound ways, driving her into a precarious marriage of her own, and then into a deep depression. Only years later will she find the strength to embrace her life—and her mother—on her own terms. *Wild Game* is a brilliant, timeless memoir about how the people close to us can break our hearts simply because they have access to them, and the lies we tell in order to justify the choices we make. It's a remarkable story of resilience, a reminder that we need not be the parents our parents were to us.

When Kate Grenville's mother died she left behind many fragments of memoir. These were the starting point for *One Life*, the story of a woman whose life spanned a century of tumult and change. In many ways Nance's story echoes that of many mothers and grandmothers, for whom the spectacular shifts of the twentieth century offered a path to new freedoms and choices. In other ways Nance was exceptional. In an era when women were expected to have no ambitions beyond the domestic, she ran successful businesses as a registered pharmacist, laid the bricks for the family home, and discovered her husband's secret life as a revolutionary. *One Life* is an act of great imaginative sympathy, a daughter's intimate account of the patterns in her mother's life. It is a deeply moving homage by one of Australia's finest writers. Kate Grenville is one of Australia's most celebrated writers. Her bestselling novel *The Secret River* received the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and was shortlisted for the Man Booker

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Prize and the Miles Franklin Literary Award. The Idea of Perfection won the Orange Prize. Grenville's other novels include Sarah Thornhill, The Lieutenant, Lilian's Story, Dark Places and Joan Makes History. Kate lives in Sydney and her most recent book is One Life: My Mother's Story. 'What a difficult thing it must have been to write, but what a treasure [Grenville] has given us...Evocative and fascinating, this brave and heartfelt tribute will appeal to anyone interested in their own family story, Australian history, or the lives of women.'

Books & Publishing 'Losing your mother is a turning point in everyone's life...Kate Grenville has translated that revelation into a totally mesmerising story which reads not like a memoir, but rather like a perfectly paced novel.'

Australian Women's Weekly 'Real life painted with with an almost fictional verve, it's an intensely engaging portrait of a world in flux.'

New Daily 'The writing glides, egoless, through this one life that adapted to the massive changes of a century...I closed the book with regret, wanting more.'

Monthly '[A] social history written with the storytelling skill of a novelist.'

Australian 'A gift to countless readers who will recognise their own experience, or their mother's experience in these pages.'

Australian Book Review 'With her customary elegance and warmth, Kate Grenville has lovingly documented her mother's life, capturing the aura of the times. I thoroughly enjoyed her engrossing story.'

Chronicle 'A tribute to a generation of tough Australian women whose stories have mostly been considered unworthy.'

North and South 'The sharing of this story of resilience, persistence and a mother's enduring love will

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resonate across generations.’ Good Reading ‘Not only one of the world’s greatest writers, but one of the world’s most intelligent writers, Kate Grenville does an astounding job in telling the story of her late mother in One Life.’ Booktopia, Books of the Year 2015 ‘One Life focuses on her mother’s specific history but in a way that resonates with us all...She makes one ordinary woman’s life seem remarkable and emblematic.’ Aviva Tuffield on ArtsHub

The New York Times–bestselling graphic memoir about Alison Bechdel, author of *Fun Home*, becoming the artist her mother wanted to be. Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home* was a pop culture and literary phenomenon. Now, a second thrilling tale of filial sleuthery, this time about her mother: voracious reader, music lover, passionate amateur actor. Also a woman, unhappily married to a closeted gay man, whose artistic aspirations simmered under the surface of Bechdel’s childhood...and who stopped touching or kissing her daughter good night, forever, when she was seven. Poignantly, hilariously, Bechdel embarks on a quest for answers concerning the mother-daughter gulf. It’s a richly layered search that leads readers from the fascinating life and work of the iconic twentieth-century psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott, to one explosively illuminating Dr. Seuss illustration, to Bechdel’s own (serially monogamous) adult love life. And, finally, back to Mother—to a truce, fragile and real-time, that will move and astonish all adult children of gifted mothers. A New York Times, USA Today, Time, Slate, and Barnes & Noble Best Book of the Year “As complicated, brainy, inventive and satisfying as the finest

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prose memoirs.”—New York Times Book Review “A work of the most humane kind of genius, bravely going right to the heart of things: why we are who we are. It's also incredibly funny. And visually stunning. And page-turningly addictive. And heartbreaking.”—Jonathan Safran Foer “Many of us are living out the un-lived lives of our mothers. Alison Bechdel has written a graphic novel about this; sort of like a comic book by Virginia Woolf. You won't believe it until you read it—and you must!”—Gloria Steinem

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