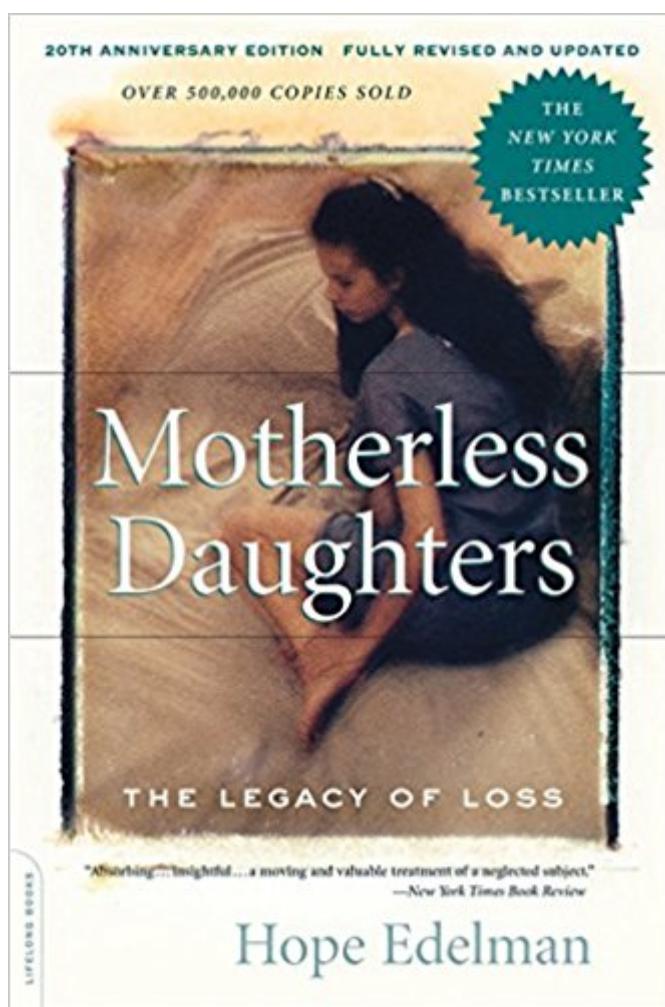


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# Motherless Daughters: The Legacy Of Loss, 20th Anniversary Edition



## **Synopsis**

Ask any woman whose mother has died, and she will tell you that she is irrevocably altered, as deeply changed by her mother's death as she was by her mother's life. Although a mother's mortality is inevitable, no book had discussed the profound, lasting, and far-reaching effects of this loss--until *Motherless Daughters*, which became an instant classic. Twenty years later, it is still the book that women of all ages look to for comfort and understanding when their mothers die, and the book that they continue to press into each other's hands. Building on interviews with hundreds of mother-loss survivors, the author's personal story of losing her mother, recent research in grief and psychology, and with a new afterword exploring how the legacy of mother loss shifts with the passage of time, *Motherless Daughters* reveals the shared experiences and core identity issues of motherless women: Why the absence of a nurturing hand shapes a woman's identity throughout her lifespan; How present-day relationships are defined by past losses; How a woman can resolve past conflicts and move toward acceptance and healing; What grief really is: not a linear passage, but an ongoing cyclical journey.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Excellent book and exactly what I expected to assist me with the sudden and recent loss of my beloved young vibrant mother.

An excellent book, very helpful. It is for those who feel isolated, abandoned, or simply don't know what is happening to their minds. Even learning you are not alone gives a level of comfort. The question is, then, what's next, how you handle it?

Sadly I lost my mother this year, and was hoping to find from this book a real path forward through the grief and into a better acceptance of her death. I really like this book's premise, and found it somewhat useful, but it is definitely geared toward women who lose their mothers as children, teens and very young adults. There is a lot of discussion of how that loss impacts a girl's psychology throughout the rest of her life. As I lost my mother as an adult woman, this didn't seem as applicable to me, but many of the themes and ideas in the book are still useful.

This is a great read. It's also a great book to send to a girlfriend that has recently lost their mother. They may not immediately read it, but once they find the time... it becomes a tool.

When my mother passed away I was over 40 years old with 3 children, etc. Also having lost my father I wondered why my heart was breaking and why at this age I felt like such an orphan.....I didn't think I would get through her death..... One of my friends gave me this book to read. It really explains what is so special in the relationships between mothers and their daughters. I find

that I now purchase it for everyone that I know that loses their mom - and give it to them with words to read it when they think they might be able to handle it.....it will help them understand why they hurt so bad, and it WILL help them get through day by day.....A terrific book, !!

I am 74 years old. This book was just recommended to me. I realized the death of my Mother when I was 11, was the cause of the problems I had for the rest of my life. This book told my story almost word for word. It has healed my heart, gotten rid of all the regret & guilt I felt, because of all the troubled relationships in my life, the mistakes I made & particularly the lack of feeling love in my heart. But more importantly it helped me find healing & peace finally! I struggled with self-esteem, lack of emotion, no self confidence, unhealthy relationships with spouses, brother & children. I am no longer alone, I am not the only one who had these issues. I finally grieved the loss of my mother as well as eliminating all the pain & suffering of always feeling less than all these years! I am filled with love & joy. Hopefully now I can turn around the relationships most important in my life, my husband, brother & 4 children. This book is a must read for any woman who lost her Mother but particularly if it was at a young age.Yvonne Herbert

This book was given to me 10 years ago and I don't think I was ready to read it, as it has a lot of case studies and it felt tedious to me at the time. I lost my mom when I was 17 and recently it came across my path again and I found it helped me make sense of some of my life choice and even possibly see more of how to allow more love into my world. It has a similar psychological reference that the book Attached has.

This was a great resource that was given to me by Hospice when my mother died. Recently, I decided to buy it for my own personal library so that I could pass it on if I needed to. It offers personal stories broken down by the type of death experienced (such as by daughters who provided caregiving for mothers with prolonged illness, daughters who experienced sudden death, or daughters who experienced the death of their mothers in childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, etc.).I am a daughter who lost her mother as a young adult and found my experience to be similar those in the same situation. My mother's death was one of the most traumatic life experiences I've ever had. Reading this let me know that I was not alone in the way I experienced bereavement, gave me perspective on how others process the loss of a mother, and helped me develop the emotional space I needed to grieve. I would recommend that anyone who is reading this to take it in bits and pieces. When I tried to power through the text, I found myself sobbing for hours. It was

profoundly easier to read small sections at a time. As a person who likes to read non-fiction and enjoys statistics, I found it to be an informative read that was still accessible and highly personal. I would recommend it to other grieving daughters.

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