



# 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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## Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss By Hope Edelman Bibliography

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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:**

#### **Robert Brown:**

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They may be reading whatever they get because their hobby is reading a book. Think about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, person feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss.

**Marshall Jackson:**

The book *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So just why must we leave the good thing like a book *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss*? A few of you have a different opinion about e-book. But one aim in which book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely proper. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, it is possible to give for each other; you may share all of these. Book *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss* has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and large function for you. You can appearance the enormous world by start and read a guide. So it is very wonderful.

**Sharon Wilson:**

In this era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of several books in the top checklist in your reading list is actually *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss*. This book which is qualified as *The Hungry Slopes* can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking upward and review this guide you can get many advantages.

**Luis Gazaway:**

As a college student exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher requested them to go to the library as well as to make summary for some guide, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's spirit or real their passion. They just do what the trainer want, like asked to go to the library. They go to right now there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring and can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is being complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss* can make you really feel more interested to read.

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