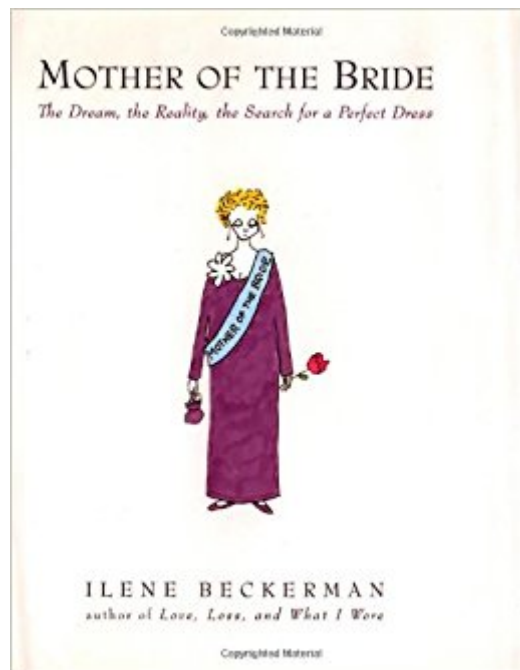




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Mother Of The Bride: The Dream, The Reality, The Search For A Perfect Dress



Synopsis

“An account that is sweetly sentimental and brutally honest, touching and witty—in short, a true gem.” Publishers Weekly, starred review “A work that adds great luster to an already golden event.” The Memphis Commercial Appeal “Her prose is spare, but rich with meaning and always very honest.” The Cleveland Plain Dealer “Pithy wit and cute drawings sketch the happy tears, bittersweet memories and flares of anxiety that a daughter’s wedding elicits.” The Dallas Morning News The relationship between a mother and daughter is often fraught—but never so much as during the preparations for that walk down the aisle. Ilene Beckerman has taken that walk with three daughters and tells us—with great wisdom and wit—why childbirth is less painful than planning a wedding.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With light, humorous prose and attractive drawings, Beckerman deftly recounts her journey down the winding path between watching a film clip of the royal wedding of Elizabeth II in 1947 and becoming the mother of a modern American bride in the 1990s. Her daughter’s announcement of her engagement, accompanied by “a ring you wouldn’t be afraid to wear on a subway,” initiated 12 months of decisions and crises involving flowers, cakes, champagne, hors d’oeuvres, dresses, music and an all-knowing, ever-present, unflappable and impeccably dressed wedding consultant named Deirdre. With an enticing mix of wry sophistication and loving naiveté, Beckerman succinctly

expresses motherhood's enduring push-and-pull: "All the parenting books say, 'Don't rush in with advice,' but who else is going to tell a daughter she needs a slip under that dress?" Her well-selected memories illustrate the joys and headaches of mothering a daughter--the aspirations, worries and wishes that buoyed and buffeted her from the time of her pregnancy through her daughter's adolescence and early adulthood, culminating in a year of wedding preparations. As Beckerman tells it, "childbirth was easier than being the mother of the bride." Beckerman (*What We Do for Love; Love, Loss, and What I Wore*), who started her writing career at the age of 60, breathes fresh vitality into this familiar rite of passage, in an account that is sweetly sentimental and brutally honest, touching and witty--in short, a true gem. 50,000 first printing; Book-of-the-Month Club selection; 25-city tour. (Apr.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"An enticing mix of wry sophistication and loving naivete...a true gem." -- Publisher's Weekly
"As much about the bond between mothers and daughter as a quest for the ideal wedding gown." -- New York Times
As much as every mother wants her daughters to get married, says Ilene Beckerman, no mother is prepared to be a Mother Of The Bride. Beckerman's daughter wanted a grand, traditional fete, no skimping. Every detail--from the type of stamps used on the invitations to the shade of the flowers--was crucial. The details were too much for even a supermom like Beckerman to handle, so she hired a wedding consultant. Still, Mom--not the consultant--had to accompany the bride as she shopped for a wedding gown. Beckerman was unprepared: "I thought peau de soie was something Julia Child made.... That Alencon lace was a cheese people with bad cholesterol could eat. My daughter tried on a dress made from 50 yards of Thai silk. I couldn't find her." But this is no mere humor book. Amid the drolleries are the poignant reflections of a mother who is not just gaining a son-in-law. She is also, in a way, losing a daughter. (Beliefnet, June 2000)
-- From Beliefnet

Ilene Beckerman, a few years ago thrilled readers when she told the story of her life through her clothes in the book *Love, Loss and What I Wore*. In Ms. Beckerman's second book, *What We Do for Love*, she wrote about her courtship, marriage, divorce and remarriage. And now in her latest book, *Mother of the Bride*, this witty and poignant author describes to her readers the true story of what it means to be the mother of the bride. And what a fun and insightful book this turns out to be. Because nestled between the quest for a suitable mother of the bride dress and a menu which won't cause indigestion, and other stress factors which are off the Richter scale, the author also tells us what it means to raise a daughter and watch her walk down the aisle towards her own married life.

What every mother thinks she longs for becomes bittersweet for Ms. Beckerman as her days as an important Mommy to her daughter are now replaced by her daughter's Prince Charming. I not only loved the words Ilene Beckerman wrote but the clever illustrations she did to depict events and her feelings. And I especially like the way she summed up this event at the end by saying that, "the planning took a year, the ceremony took 20 minutes, the wedding reception was four hours long and I'd do it again in a heartbeat." Actually Ms. Beckerman has two other daughters so hopefully she got to do this again or will be doing it in the near future. As I closed this book I thought how much I am looking forward to my turn as the mother of the bride when our daughter finds her Mr. Right. For now I am content to clutch Ms. Beckerman's book in hand and dream of a long aisle and wishes for health and happiness as our daughter is married.

This is a cookie book. It's fun and sweet and quick. It really isn't a full book but it is certainly worth the read and it's delightfully illustrated. I don't usually use the word "delightfully" but it seems to work for this book. I especially recommend it for mothers of brides. It's laugh out loud funny and then you have to get a Kleenex. The format is unique and I liked it. James Thurber would have loved it. I would recommend it as a gift for a friend as soon as she tells you her daughter is getting married. She'll appreciate it.

As a (gulp) M.O.B - to - be this July, I was feeling overwhelmed to the nth degree. This book calmed me down and gave me a few much needed laughs away from my To-Do lists and frantic search for the perfect MOB dress. Absolutely a delightful read with the cutest of whimsical sketches (done by the author). This book was so good I wish I'd written it. Buy it for any lady you know who is about to embark on this wonderful and terrifying journey.

My soon-to-be-married daughter gave this to me last year. I laughed, I cried, I loved this book. Then I bought it for two friends last month. They loved it, too! A light-hearted look at being "Mother of the Bride"!

My younger daughter just set a date for her wedding so when I ran across this book I decided it might be interesting. Although humorous, there is so much that touches my heart. It also reminded me not to go overboard when my daughter plans HER wedding.

Funny book? Sure. But pages aren't in order and repeat randomly. Definitely not gift quality.

Cute, quick read. Entertaining, not informing, but it does lighten the burden a bit.

I would give this to any of my friends who has an engaged daughter. Made me laugh and cry.

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