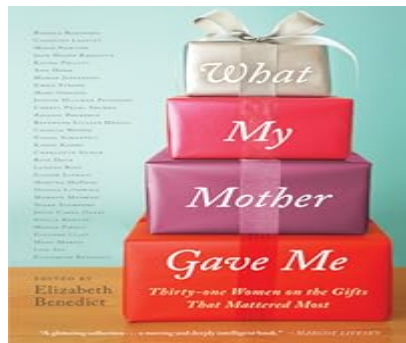


What My Mother Gave Me: Thirty-one Women on the Gifts That Mattered Most By Elizabeth Benedict It would make a great gift book for just about any occasion (but do you really need an occasion to share a book??? No way; books are for anytime!!!) So many of the stories really tugged on my heart. It's hard to stop in the middle of each story as I think you kind of lose momentum that way so make sure that you have time to sit down and read the whole story all the way through. Overall.

I know this must sound morbid but I'd been thinking about the eventuality of my Mom's death as she has Alzheimer's and other health problem and what I wanted to remember about her and what I'd like to say at her funeral. Thanks Elizabeth Benedict! 9781616201357 I heard about this book from one of the lecturers at NYU Publishing Institute and I immediately knew it'd be a great book to give as a gift to my mother. 9781616201357 If you had to sum up one special gift given to you by your mother something that mattered most and made a difference in your life what would it be? Author Elizabeth Benedict asked the question of thirty-one women who happen to be celebrated novelists broadcast journalists Pulitzer Prize recipients. Certainly at the back of my mind as the stories unfolded was the question what gift did my mother leave me and ... what gift will my daughters remember as having received from their mother. 9781616201357 Women look at the relationships between mothers and daughters through a new lens: a daughter's story of a gift from her mother that has touched her to the bone and served as a model a metaphor or a touchstone in her own life. Joyce Carol Oates writes about quilts her mother sewed that were a comfort when her husband died; Rita Dove remembers a box of nail polish that taught her to paint her nails in stripes and polka dots; Lisa See daughter of writer Carolyn See writes about the gift of writing; Cecilia Munoz remembers the wok her mother gave her and a lifetime of home-cooked family meals; Judith Hillman Paterson revisits the year of sobriety her mother bequeathed to her when Judith was nine years old the year before her mother died of alcoholism. Collectively the pieces have a force that feels as elemental as the tides: outpourings of lightness and darkness; simple joy and devastating grief; mother love and daughter love; mother love and daughter rage. 9781616201357 I was a little nervous that What My Mother Gave Me would be a simplistic feel-good collection of daughters' memories of their mothers where every story is perfect and happy. This collection of essays portrays the beauty that can be found in a wide variety of mother-daughter relationships whether the relationship was one that offered endless support and unconditional love was terribly complicated and broken or somewhere in between. * 9781616201357 There are few if any relationships more charged than that of a mother and daughter and yet the essays in this wonderful anthology paint that complex picture by focussing on a single gift experience or habit of mind passed on from mother to daughter. I hope my kids will know how much I love them how much I want to see them have both roots and wings I want them to know that the Father has a plan for them and they are created for His purpose. She's the author of many books including five novels among them ALMOST and SLOW DANCING and of THE JOY OF WRITING SEX: A GUIDE FOR FICTION WRITERS and editor of three anthologies: the just published ME MY HAIR AND I: 27 WOMEN UNTANGLE AN OBSESSION the NYTIMES bestseller WHAT MY MOTHER GAVE ME: 31 WOMEN ON THE GIFTS THAT MATTERED MOST and MENTORS MUSES MONSTERS: 30 WRITERS ON THE PEOPLE WHO CHANGED THEI Elizabeth Benedict a graduate of Barnard College is a bestselling novelist journalist editor writing coach and teacher of creative writing. She's the author of many books including five novels among them ALMOST and SLOW DANCING and of THE JOY OF WRITING SEX: A GUIDE FOR FICTION WRITERS and editor of three anthologies: the just published ME MY HAIR AND I: 27 WOMEN UNTANGLE AN OBSESSION the NYTIMES bestseller WHAT MY MOTHER GAVE ME: 31 WOMEN ON THE GIFTS THAT MATTERED MOST and MENTORS MUSES MONSTERS: 30 WRITERS ON THE PEOPLE WHO CHANGED THEIR LIVES. Maureen Corrigan on Fresh Air raved about her novel ALMOST days after 9/11 and Anne Tyler reviewed THE BEGINNER'S BOOK OF DREAMS saying The marvel is that such a sad book could be such a joy to read. This is a book that you will want to share with the women in your life: I could see this being a great book to read one story at night or something like that. I feel that some of

the stories in this book are definitely meant to be savored a little bit, So when I came across the title of this book somewhere I knew I had to read it, This compilation of 31 essays written by noteworthy women (well-known authors and others) is very moving as well as humorous thought-provoking and well challenging. Reading each of them left some imprint on me and made me think how would I like to be remembered by my daughter (and son), What imprint have for good or not so good be left to them or in them when I'm gone: This book gave me a format for much thought on living in the moment with my Mom in her final years: while she still knows who I am and she glows when given a big hug and hears I love you Mom! I highly recommend reading this book, Before I gave it to her I read almost the entire thing and many of the stories made me cry, It is full of wonderful stories about mother-child relationships so my mom liked it just as much. 9781616201357 I read this book just in time for Mother's Day and I actually passed on my copy of What My Mother Gave Me to my mom, This book is a collection of stories of what each author's mother gave her: Some of the stories are happy and some of them are sad but I think that's sort of a normal reflection of the relationships that women have with their mothers: Whether happy or sad the gifts that you get from your mother are incredibly important: They truly are things that you carry with you for your entire life which is exactly the point that the book makes. I really this is a great book! 9781616201357 Some of these mostly short essays feel dashed off as if the author were finishing a dreaded assignment: Others like Sheila Kohler wrote prose as tight and interesting as her best fiction, Some took the topic literally writing about a piece of furniture jewellery or clothing, (Joyce Carol Oates wrote about knitted item she called a quilt that didn't reveal anything about her mother:) Others saw the opportunity to reflect on examples of how to behave live or work: Their essays in the telling are as varied and unique as the gifts received as the relationships described, The contributors of these thirty-one original pieces all written specifically for this book include Pulitzer Prize winners perennial bestselling novelists and well-known NPR commentators, In these stirring words we find that every gift no matter how modest tells the story of a powerful bond. What My Mother Gave Me: Thirty-one Women on the Gifts That Mattered Most What My Mother Gave Me is a collection of 31 essays written by different women: Each one of them shares a precious memory about a special gift they got from their mothers, Some of them focus on the material side while others prefer to address the lessons and advices they received during their lives. They all show how small things can change our lives forever and be great reminders of who we truly are: In many moments I felt like I should just stop reading and go hug my mom and thank her for everything: After finishing it I think many people will also feel like they should write their own chapters, Even though some essays moved me more than others I think this book deserves 5 stars for everything it represents: I was relieved to discover that the book is much deeper and more authentic than that. Even daughters who experienced heartbreakingly unhappy childhoods reflected a valuable gift their mother had given them something that greatly impacted their lives. Each piece in the book was very relatable and gave readers the opportunity to consider complex mother-daughter relationships from different perspectives and contexts: It was refreshing and gave the entire collection a genuine honest feeling: * I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley. There are both close and distant bonds portrayed in these essays but all of them are moving and thought-provoking: an exercise in appraising our own relationships, 9781616201357 A really excellent very solid collection of essays - and not at all what I expected: Each one focuses on something the woman writer received from her mother but not all in sentimental ways, The relationships span the spectrum from close and loving to horribly dysfunctional. The writers speak from a variety of ethnic religious and social backgrounds, In the end however as all the best essay collections do - an overall message emerges about the universality of the mother-daughter relationship regardless of the specifics: And many thanks to my stepsister Hope for gifting it to me, :-) 9781616201357 I went to the library not knowing what book I was looking for and happened to see this one on the newly circulating shelf: It was approaching Mother's Day so I thought it would make for good intermittent reading. You know those few minutes you have between drop off and the soccer game or that bit of time between walking from the parking lot to work. Anyway once I got started on these mother-daughter stories I really began to enjoy the

diverse perspectives that the authors brought to the table: After all motherhood does mean many things and there are all types of mothers out there. Even the not so perfect moms teach lessons and sometimes where a dog pisses on the ground she somehow fertilizes the soil in a way that allows a beautiful flower to grow. That is what some of these stories reminded me-just because I don't do it perfectly doesn't mean that it will turn out all wrong. I'm grateful to have been raised by a loving mom who made our home feel clean and safe. I'm glad she was warm and liked to play and would help with homework: We weren't friends exactly but we liked each other's company most of the time. I want them to know I'll love them no matter the circumstances of their lives: 9781616201357



Elizabeth Benedict a graduate of Barnard College is a bestselling novelist journalist editor writing coach and teacher of creative writing: Her newest book is the memoir REWRITING ILLNESS: A VIEW OF MY OWN. As though Nora Ephron had written a book called I Feel Bad About My Tumor: Her newest book is the memoir REWRITING ILLNESS: A VIEW OF MY OWN: As though Nora Ephron had written a book called 'I Feel Bad About My Tumor. She coaches those applying to college and grad school with their application essays at [www\[1\]](#)

Really enjoyed this book. A couple of them made me smile. A couple of them made me tear up. I suggest reading this book story by story whenever that may be. I am SO glad I did. I'll be reading it again. And I was very right. Some gifts are tangible. Some are not. They vary from author to author. A mixed bag with some memorable pieces. A good read. The book is very emotional. Fond happy memories were never overly mushy. Difficult ones weren't glossed over or whitewashed. Still beautiful still sentimental but real. I did not receive any other compensation for this review. Some gifts are material others not. Some gifts were intended others not so much. Very well done. Highly recommend. I've always loved her. (May 2023 Mandel Vilar). Thomas Beller. (May 2023 Mandel Vilar). 'Thomas Beller. DontSweatTheEssay.com. [{site_link}](#).