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The Names Of My Mothers



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Mothers

—
Dionne Sanders Riordan



Synopsis

"The Names of My Mothers" is the touching story of the tender and all-too-brief relationship forged late in life between Dianne Riordan (nee Susanne Sanders) and her birth mother. In 1942 Elizabeth Bynam Sanders was a young woman who left home under false pretenses and travelled to Our Lady of Victory, a home for unwed mothers in upstate New York. Shortly after surrendering her daughter for adoption, she returned to her life in Johnston County, North Carolina. She never married and never had another child of her own. This powerful and moving memoir speaks of the profound need for connection. It is a story about identity, the hunger we feel for a sense of belonging and the ineffable significance of blood.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Such an interesting story.... I have always wondered how people adopted felt - some have desired to meet the birth parents, some were afraid, some were angry. I don't know how I would feel, but reading this book made me see things in a different way. I appreciate the author's desire to meet her birth parents and how lucky she was that the feeling was mutual. A good read for

sure.....anything that makes you think, put yourself into the story is definitely worth your time to read. Enjoy.

I was a little skeptical about buying this book at first since I knew it involved adoption. I assumed I wouldn't enjoy it because I couldn't connect to the author. I was wrong. So very wrong! This is a beautifully written book that had me crying tears of sorrow and joy almost the whole time. Dianne uses such vivid language that it transported me to a different point of view and I was able to connect with her and feel everything she surely felt. I rode the roller coaster of emotions along with her as I read. Dianne lets us in to a very intimate part of her life and doesn't hold back on her feelings, opening up to us how strong a person she is, even though at first she feels lost and scared. We are allowed to discover who she is even as she does.

A gripping personal tale, the likes of which you might be told on a girl road trip, on a porch overlooking the coast...with margaritas. Thank you Diane for sharing your journey to family completeness and for sharing your heart.

The extraordinary true story of one woman's reconnection with her birth mother after 50 years. Heartwarming and sad. Extremely well written. As someone who has looked for her birth mother all my life, I really enjoyed reading this book

Dear Dianne, A beautiful work of art, your book. You truly inherited the grace of your mother. I am a birth mother from years gone by, and your words somehow healed my own history. Thank you.

A warm and bittersweet story of the author finding her birth mother late in life. I don't remember the last time I read a book where I hated for it to end. So I savored each finely crafted chapter as Dianne recounts her journey to connect with her mother, Betsy, and to discover her roots and family once lost. The time together is short and Dianne is mostly "incognito" to her new-found extended family out of respect for her mother's desires to keep her past private. A "gotta" read. Well done, Dianne!

This is a beautiful book about an adopted child who as an adult searches for her roots. The author's sensitivity to the newly found family is a lesson in patience, love and miracles. I love the way she uses her birth mother's name in her signature.

Very moving. I found the ups and downs of the reunion portrayed here really paralleled those in my own reunion.

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