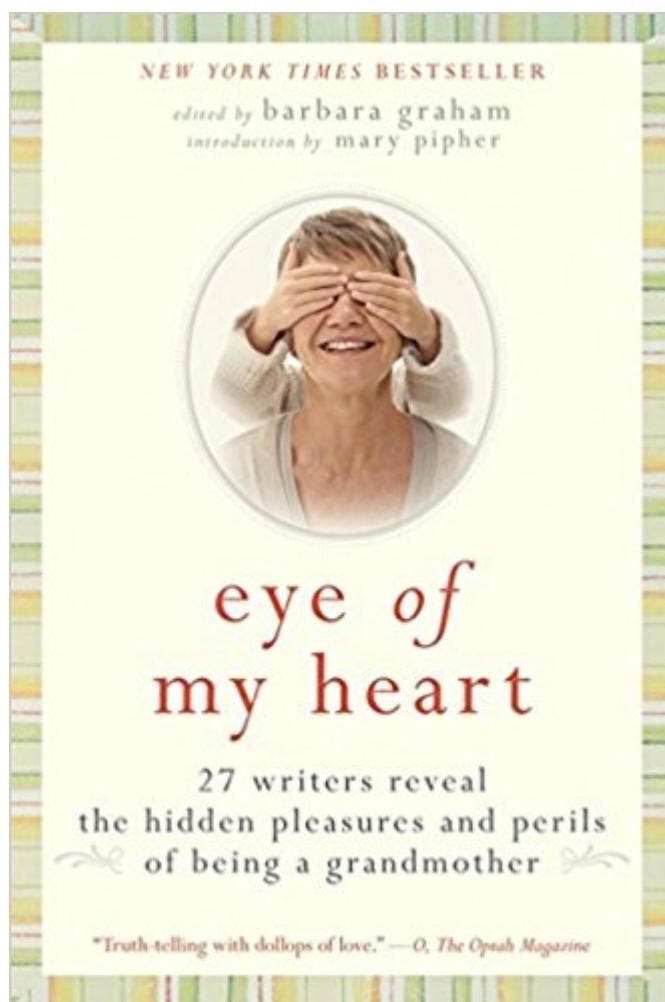


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# Eye Of My Heart: 27 Writers Reveal The Hidden Pleasures And Perils Of Being A Grandmother



## Synopsis

With A New Epilogue by editor Barbara Graham In this groundbreaking collection, twenty-seven smart, gutsy writers explode the clichÃ©s and tell the real stories about what it's like to be a grandmother in today's world. Among the contributors: Judith Viorst exposes the high-stakes competition for Most Adored Nana. Anne Roiphe learns to keep her mouth shut and her opinions to herself. Elizabeth Berg marvels at witnessing her child give birth to her child. Judith Guest confesses her failed attempt to be the perfect grandmother. Jill Nelson grapples with unforeseen mother-daughter tensions. Ellen Gilchrist reveals how grandparenthood has eased her fear of death. Beverly Donofrio makes amends for her shortcomings as a teenage mother. Bharati Mukherjee transcends her Hindu upbringing to embrace her adopted Chinese granddaughters. Mary Pipher deconstructs the role of grandmother in our changing world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Women who have achieved grandmotherly status will appreciate this engaging, honest volume of essays by 26 writers who articulate shared emotions about their grandchildren. All describe a new form of love different from the love they felt for their own children. Editor Graham (Women Who Run with the Poodles) calls it a besotted state. For some contributors, grandmotherhood is a promise of genetic continuity, while others value the freedom to play and indulge. Many essays may be sentimental, but they're also insightful and candid, sometimes painfully so. Notably, one pseudonymous writer lashes out at her cruelly withholding daughter-in-law; another describes raising her mentally disturbed daughter's unstable son. Perhaps most disturbingly, Sallie Tisdale

portrays a dire situation created by her financially irresponsible adopted son and his girlfriend, who keep producing more children. Yet humor abounds. In an irreverent piece, Abigail Thomas writes of fleeing a clan reunion by scheduling an appointment with her gynecologist. Judith Viorst confronts the taboo topic of jockeying for love with the other set of grandparents. All learn the lesson best expressed by Anne Roiphe: Seal your lips. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Spry and unsentimental. . . . Truth telling with dollops of love.” (O magazine) “So many different perspectives and vantage points are woven seamlessly that no matter what their personal relationship to the word “grandmother” is, readers will find much to make them laugh out loud—and also to break their hearts.” (Christian Science Monitor) “Insightful and candid, sometimes painfully so. . . . Women who have achieved grandmotherly status will appreciate this engaging, honest volume of essays by 26 writers who articulate shared emotions about their grandchildren.” (Publishers Weekly) “In illuminating, unsentimental essays, 27 writers offer up insights on the tricky art of grandmothering.” (People)

New to grand-motherhood, I found this book an absolute delight and often very moving, sometimes laugh aloud funny. A collection of essays about the experiences of being a grandmother, written by women who are published, respected writers, some of these essays took my breath away with their honest self-examination and clear eyed reflection on their experiences of grandmotherhood. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is a grandmother or soon to be one. There is as much diversity in the experiences of grand-motherhood as there is in motherhood. The focus is here is on the emotional experience of grand-motherhood and the changing, sometimes complicated relationships between grandmothers and their adult children and their spouses. Brava to all these grandmothers!

A gift to another grandma which includes essays about being a grandmother. I have already purchased multiple copies for my friends who are also new grandmothers. Insightful.

These stories are not the usual sentimental content aimed at a grandmother audience. Thank goodness. Instead, they are thoughtful, realistic essays on the process that occurs when one's child

becomes a parent. There is wonder but also realizations about the distance a grandparent should and must maintain. I purchased several of these and gave them as gifts to new grandparents I know. Response has been very positive.

Oh how I loved this book! I became a grandmother three months ago and found myself somewhat flummoxed by the experience. Yes I was pleased, loved seeing my daughter as a mother, so glad she and her baby were well. So glad she had managed at all to become a mother: she was an older mom ( 40 years odd) . But I kept remembering how tough it is to be a mother, how easy to make mistakes and then there was this new little person.....a small hostage to fate in this harsh world. This collection of stories, the sad and the glorious helped me feel part of a community of grandmothers who puzzle about all of this, love as well as they can and hold the rope steady.

I was looking for a book about being a grandmother since this is a new experience . The book is not about techniques or how to take care a grandchild. It is about feelings. Several grandmothers wrote about being one grandma. I really liked!!!!

Very satisfying collection of short stories regarding the grandmother milestone. Highly recommended.

A lovely group of essays that describe the many experiences grandmothers have dealing with their children, their children's spouses and the grandchildren themselves. Lots of good insight and information.

I highly recommend this book of very insightful, diverse, beautifully written essays for any budding or experienced grandparent. It so opened my eyes, enriched the understanding of the subtleties of my own complex relationship with my adult daughter, as she and I were entering this next phase of our lives--motherhood for her, grandmotherhood for me, that I've given it as a gift to other grandmothers and grandmothers-to-be. It helped me negotiate the transitions to what is now the best, most loving and mutually embracing phase of my relationship with my daughter yet!

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