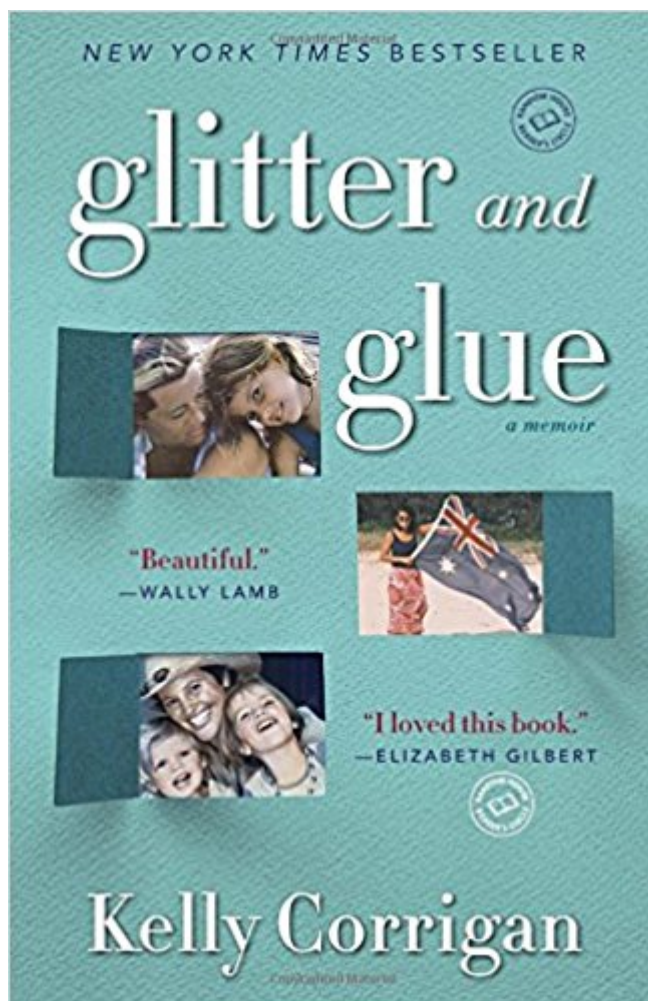


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Glitter And Glue: A Memoir



Synopsis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER *Glitter and Glue* Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. From the *Glitter and Glue* author of *The Middle Place* comes a new memoir that examines the bond—sometimes nourishing, sometimes exasperating, occasionally divine—between mothers and daughters. *Glitter and Glue* When Kelly Corrigan was in high school, her mother neatly summarized the family dynamic as “Your father is the glitter but I am the glue.” This meant nothing to Kelly, who left childhood sure that her mom—with her inviolable commandments and proud stoicism—would be nothing more than background chatter for the rest of Kelly's life, which she was carefully orienting toward adventure. After college, armed with a backpack, her personal mission statement, and a wad of traveler's checks, she took off for Australia to see things and do things and Become Interesting. But it didn't turn out the way she pictured it. In a matter of months, her savings shot, she had a choice: get a job or go home. That's how Kelly met John Tanner, a newly widowed father of two looking for a live-in nanny. They chatted for an hour, discussed timing and pay, and a week later, Kelly moved in. And there, in that house in a suburb north of Sydney, 10,000 miles from the house where she was raised, her mother's voice was suddenly everywhere, nudging and advising, cautioning and directing, escorting her through a terrain as foreign as any she had ever trekked. Every day she spent with the Tanner kids was a day spent reconsidering her relationship with her mother, turning it over in her hands like a shell, straining to hear whatever messages might be trapped in its spiral. This is a book about the difference between travel and life experience, stepping out and stepping up, fathers and mothers. But mostly it's about who you admire and why, and how that changes over time. Praise for *Glitter and Glue* “I loved this book, I was moved by this book, and now I will share this book with my own mother—along with my renewed appreciation for certain debts of love that can never be repaid.” —Elizabeth Gilbert, New York Times bestselling author of *Eat, Pray, Love* “Kelly Corrigan's thoughtful and beautifully rendered meditation invites readers to reflect on their own launchings and homecomings. I accepted the invitation and learned things about myself. You will, too. Isn't that why we read?” —Wally Lamb, New York Times bestselling author of *We Are Water* “Kelly Corrigan is no stranger to mining the depths of her heart. . . . [In] *Glitter and Glue*, Corrigan turns the microscope on her relationship with her own mother. . . . Through her own experience of caring for children, she begins, for the first time, to appreciate the complex woman who raised her.” —O: The Oprah Magazine “Corrigan [is] a lively, nimble

cheerleader for the joys of family. **•People** “[A] funny, sparkling memoir. **•More** “Corrigan writes with warmth and delicate humor. **•The Washington Post** “[An] irresistible cocktail of lyrical writing and solid, useful insight. **•San Francisco Chronicle** “In this endearing, funny, and thought-provoking memoir, Kelly Corrigan’s memories of long-ago adventures illuminate the changing relationships between mothers and children as well as everything else that really matters. **•Gretchen Rubin**, New York Times bestselling author of *The Happiness Project*

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books (February 17, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0345532856

ISBN-13: 978-0345532855

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 378 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #137,977 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Travel >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Kelly Corrigan on her new memoir *Glitter and Glue* I’m Irish. That must be where the luck comes from, the luck required to find a publisher after filling diaries and journals for thirty years, first in a gingham wonderland from Sears, then in a dorm room in Virginia, finally in a fixer-upper near Oakland, California. My first book, *The Middle Place*, was about my father, Greenie, who was very sick at the same time that I was very sick. Next, in 2010, I tried to capture what it has been to my daughters’ mother in *Lift*. Finally, with *Glitter and Glue*, my mother gets her due. Now, Mary Corrigan is a complicated topic, as most mothers are. Think stoic, gritty, unbending; one part saint, two parts sergeant. Or, as she put it, “Your father’s the glitter, but I’m the glue. It takes both, Kelly. I hope that somehow, given the toppling pile of books on your nightstand, you can find an evening to spare for this story of how I came to wonder who my mom

was before I arrived, what motherhood had done to her and who she had become since I left home. Parenthood is so distorting; we all deserve a second, longer look. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

When mother of two Corrigan struggles with cancer, she remembers a mother she never met more than 20 years earlier in 1992 in Australia. Back then, seeking money to enhance the next leg of her round-the-world travels, Corrigan became the nanny for a widower, John, whose family—five-year-old Martin and seven-year-old Milly as well as a garage-living stepson and an in-law-apartment-living father-in-law—had just lost their matriarch to cancer. Though it's a true story, Corrigan has changed the names and some of the details to disguise identities. Here, the memories of her work as companion, surrogate mom, and onetime lover to various family members are filtered through Corrigan's experiences, good and bad, of herself as mother and herself as daughter (her mom's admonitions and pronouncements, served up in italics, support the young nanny as well as the text, then and now). The flavor of what a youthful, journal-writing Corrigan probably once hoped this book would be—a spectacle of travel and awesome experience—comes through in the writing but doesn't disturb this touching, hard-won paean to mothering and parenting, living and losing. --Eloise Kinney --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

The timing of reading *Glitter & Glue* couldn't have been better. I read it while I sat holding my dying mother's hand for 9 days. Until that moment I was certain nobody had problems thru out life w/a not so warm & fuzzy mom. *Glitter & Glue* was therapy. It was healing. It was exactly what I needed at exactly the moment I needed it. I get it now. I can smile & laugh & it felt so right to tell my mom "you are the best mom in the world" when I last kissed her sweet face. I do appreciate Kelly Corrigan for sharing her thoughts in such a humorous manner & closing a chapter in my life for the better. I absolutely will read this book more times than once. Undoubtedly I'll also be giving it as gifts. Thank You, Kelly from the bottom of my grateful heart. Ginny Renaud, Scottsdale, Arizona

Another excellent Kelly Corrigan. Greenie would be proud (of course he'd be proud if she made him a macaroni necklace) and her mother would be able to actually give her a solid compliment. Reading Kelly Corrigan is like sitting in a room with your BFF, drinking a glass of wine and listening as she catches you up on the latest events of her life. Her story of a complicated, ever changing mother / daughter relationship is amazingly relatable; add that to the fact that she is an excellent storyteller, a

very likeable narrator and you have a great book. I rarely ever give a book 5 Stars but I felt this book deserved it. Clearly written from the heart, it is a story about a woman discovering what an excellent mother she had been blessed with although she spent the first half of her life taking her mother for granted, trying to change her and at times even wishing for a more 'fun' mom. First, caring for children whose mother had recently passed away and then parenting her own children made her understand and fully appreciate her mother. The story was so absorbing, I kept having to do a reality check and remind myself the book is a memoir, not fiction. It wasn't going to have a tidy little ending with Kelly swooping in like 'Mary Poppins' and willing the family she nannied for into eternal magical happiness. I also found myself wanting her to fall in love with Evan and stay with the family forever but then remembering that I have read her other books and I know that's not how the story goes. I highly recommend reading this book.

Reading one of Kelly's books is like sitting down at lunch with your hysterical soul sister who's been there, done that, so full of wisdom that you want more and more of this girl who writes like the wind with her heart. You want that lunch to go on into dinner and into the night below the stars with a glass of wine so you can hear her life stories and keep telling yourself, "Yes! My feelings exactly! You too?!" This sister of yours just has a way about her, and the Mindful Readers are forever devoted students in this world of Kelly Corrigan. We read. We listen. We learn so much from her. We are always moved to tears. So in this book *Glitter and Glue* we thank Kelly once again for her lighthearted journey, this time reliving life with Ma, Mary Dwyer Corrigan, the woman she admires, I'm sure, most in this world; the woman who's shaped her into the person she is today; the mother, grandma, and queen she comes to understand and respect most beautifully. Because moms are like that: We appreciate them more powerfully at certain times and in different ways throughout our lives. And we miss them desperately when they're gone. So like the metaphor used in this book, moms mirror the queens in chess. We must always be aware of them. Protect them. This book will inspire moms and daughters, but as I am a writer with two sons, I bear witness that *Glitter and Glue* will turn any mom's world upside down in the most perfect, sobbing-mommy mess kind of way. A good way. "The mother is the most essential piece on the board, the one you must protect. Only she has the range. Only she can move in multiple directions. Once she's gone, it's a whole different game." | Kelly Corrigan

This is a true story about a young woman who realizes how important her mother is to her while she was working as a nanny to two recently motherless children. She realized that in her family her mother was the glue that kept her children growing in a responsible way. Her dad was the fun guy, or the glitter. With Kelly's realization of how important her mother was her resentment vanished and she came to admire, respect, and adore her mother. There is no question that she always loved her. This book made me look at my parents during my growing-up years. It's not always the mother who is the glue. In my family it was my father, but I think in some families it's not so cut and dried. I imagine some parents are both glue which is probably fine, but it seems that if both parents are glitter it could be a disaster. Or, each parent could be glitter and glue which seems as though it should be okay as long as they are mentally stable. I very much enjoyed this thought provoking book. It's not the kind of book I want to read all the time, but something that makes me think a little bit once in awhile is refreshing.

My book club read this book and it did make for good discussion about parents, children and family relationships. On the negative side, some members of our club thought the characters of the book grew too close too easily. They didn't think the story was quite real. I disagree as I thought people do sometimes grow close quickly. It won't be our selection as best book we read this year!

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