

Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey

By Betty DeGeneres

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"Mom, I'm gay." With three little words, gay children can change their parents' lives forever. Yet at the same times it's a chance for those parents to realize nothing, really, has changed at all; same kid, same life, same bond of enduring love.

Twenty years ago, during a walk on a Mississippi beach, Ellen DeGeneres spoke those simple, powerful words to her mother. That emotional moment eventually brought mother and daughter closer than ever, but not without a struggle. Coming from a republican family with conservative values, Betty needed time and education to understand her daughter's homosexuality -- but her ultimate acceptance would set the stage for a far more public coming out, one that would change history.

In *Love, Ellen,* Betty DeGeneres tells her story; the complicated path to acceptance and the deepening of her friendship with her daughter; the media's scrutiny of their family life; the painful and often inspiring stories she's heard on the road as the first non-gay spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaigns National Coming Out Project.

With a mother's love, clear minded common sense, and hard won wisdom, Betty DeGeneres offers up her own very personal memoir to help parents understand their gay children, and to help sons and daughters who have been rejected by their families feel less alone.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
More than 20 years have passed since Ellen DeGeneres came out to her mother on a beach in Mississippi. Stunned, Betty DeGeneres could only think of her own disappointed expectations. As she put her arms around her daughter, she was struck by the realization that she would never see Ellen's picture on the engagements page of the *Times-Picayune*, her local paper. That Ellen would eventually appear on the front page of the *Picayune* and countless newspapers and magazines around the world is an irony not lost on her mother: "If I had known she was going to grow up to be Ellen DeGeneres," Betty quips, "I would have taken more pictures."

Now the spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project, Betty DeGeneres travels the country explaining how she came to terms with her daughter's sexuality, and how love and acceptance can transform a family. *Love, Ellen* is an extension of her warm and much-admired public speaking, providing insight into her own life as well as Ellen's and arguing for further education, compassion, and the passage of antidiscrimination laws. --*Regina Marler*

From Publishers Weekly
DeGeneres spent most of her life as a hard-working, middle-class woman consumed with her marriages, raising her kids and making a living. That changed in 1997 when her actress/comedian daughter, Ellen DeGeneres, "came out" as a lesbian, both personally and as "Ellen Morgan," her character on the nationally televised sitcom Ellen. The first TV show to feature a major gay character, it precipitated extreme scrutiny of its star's life, prompting Betty to make a series of television appearances in support of her daughter. In this autobiography, DeGeneres details her own life, Ellen's childhood and how she came to terms with her daughter's lesbianism. She writes clearly and honestly about her innocence as a young adult, the problems of her second and third marriages, her breast cancer and her eventual ability to accept herself as "her own person." The only "shocking" revelation is that, allegedly, her third husband made advances on her daughter when Ellen was 17. The elder DeGeneres is now a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights lobbying group, and continues today as an "everymom" helping parents understand and accept their gay children. Little here is particularly unique or interesting, which is, in part, DeGeneres's point: her family and her daughter are average Americans, and homosexuality is a normal variation of sexual identity and activity. While DeGeneres's intentions are good and she's clearly motivated by her love for her daughter, her book is far too long and uninvolving. The most important parts of her message probably would have been better conveyed in a 45-minute speech. Eight-page photo insert not seen by PW. Major ad/promo; 10-city author tour; 22 city satelite tour.
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Review
""Love, Ellen is the story of the extraordinary bond of love between Betty DeGeneres and her daughter, Ellen. It's an intimate look at a celebrated family that lived a very typical American life. And it is the chronicle of a remarkable friendship that grew stronger as mother daughter learned to be more honest with each other, and more honest with themselves."--"Out Front (Colorado)"Touching...Betty DeGeneres has a story worth telling."--"People

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Bell:

The book Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable much more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem with the subject. If you can make studying a book Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey to be your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You can know everything if you like wide open and read a book Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Robert Spann:

This Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey book is not really ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is actually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This specific Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey without we realize teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey having excellent arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

Chrissy Stallings:

The knowledge that you get from Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey could be the more deep you rooting the information that hide into the words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey giving you buzz feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by means of anyone who read that because the author of this book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this kind of Love, Ellen: A Mother/Daughter Journey instantly.

Brenda Nunez:

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