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The Mighty Queens Of Freeville: A Story Of Surprising Second Chances



Synopsis

Dear Amy, First my husband told me he didn't love me. Then he said he didn't think he had ever really loved me. Then he left me with a baby to raise by myself. Amy, I don't want to be a single mother. I told myself I'd never be divorced. And now here I am--exactly where I didn't want to be! My daughter and I live in London. We don't really have any friends here. What should we do? Desperate

Dear Desperate, I have an idea. Take your baby, get on a plane, and move back to your dinky hometown in upstate New York--the place you couldn't wait to leave when you were young. Live with your sister in the back bedroom of her tiny bungalow. Cry for five weeks. Nestle in with your quirky family of hometown women--many of them single, like you. Drink lots of coffee and ask them what to do. Do your best to listen to their advice but don't necessarily follow it. Start to work in Washington, DC. Start to date. Make friends. Fail up. Develop a career as a job doula. Teach nursery school and Sunday School. Watch your daughter grow. When she's a teenager, just when you're both getting comfortable, uproot her and move to Chicago to take a job writing a nationally syndicated advice column. Do your best to replace a legend. Date some more. Love fiercely. Laugh with abandon. Grab your second chance--and your third, and your fourth. Send your daughter to college. Cry for five more weeks. Move back again to your dinky hometown and the women who helped raise you. Find love, finally. And take care. Amy

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. I didn't become an advice columnist on purpose, writes Dickinson (author of the

syndicated column Ask Amy) in her chapter titled Failing Up. In the summertime of 2002, after spending months living off of her credit cards between freelance writing jobs, Dickinson sent in an audition column to the Chicago Tribune and became the papers replacement for the late Ann Landers. Here, Dickinson traces her own personal history, as well as the history of her mothers family whose members make up the Mighty Queens of Freeville, N.Y., the small town where Dickinson was raised, and where she raised her own daughter between stints in London; New York City; Washington, D.C.; and Chicago. Dickinson writes with an honesty that is at once folksy and intelligent, and brings to life all of the struggles of raising a child (Dickinson was a single mother) and the challenges and rewards of having a supportive extended family. Im surrounded by people who are not impressed with me, Dickinson humorously laments. They dont care that my syndicated column has twenty-two million readers. Dickinsons irresistible memoir reads like a letter from an upbeat best friend. (Feb.) 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.

When Ann Landers retired as the reigning doyenne of advice-column divas, the Chicago Tribune conducted a nationwide search for her successor, ultimately selecting a relatively unknown NPR contributor and Time magazine columnist. Young and savvy, Dickinson belied the image of a bespectacled matron dispensing timeworn homilies and adages. Offering pithy, no-nonsense counsel, Dickinson quickly charmed legions of fans with her unabashed candor, tension-diffusing wit, and astute reasoning. How this fortysomething single mother came by such wisdom and practicality is lovingly explored in Dickinsonâ€™s joyous memoir, an unabashed homage to the notable women who raised her, unassuming small town that nurtured her, and soul-mate daughter who sustained her through the emotional minefields of divorce, single parenthood, and career uncertainty. Though the Dickinson women might have been unlucky in romantic love, their marital misfortune only served to strengthen their innate resolve and unwavering commitment to family. Buoyant and bright, Dickinson offers a refreshingly open and sincere tribute to lifeâ€™s most important relationships. --Carol Haggas --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I loved this book. Amy Dickinson, a fine writer, gives us a real feel for her roots in her community, and how returning there made her feel more comfortable despite some turmoil in her personal life. I wish I had a family as close as she did...although her ne'er do well father left the family early and makes only sporadic appearances. It's a testimony to adult relationships, including the one that

jumped out when Amy least expected it. Highly recommended.

Columnist Amy Dickinson tells her story in her usual straight-forward, humorous manner. Hear it all, from her childhood, to college, to marriage, and the inevitable baby carriage. Amy sounds like someone you would want to hang out with. If you like heartwarming true stories about a slice of American life, then this book is for you.

Another great book by Amy Dickinson. Compassionate, funny, and tenacious, she proves you can go home, and created a great life for her daughter and herself among the women in her family and assorted kin. A surprise romance at mid-life sweetens the whole thing.

I am not interested in her advice column but enjoy her on NPR which is why I purchased the book. It was interesting, sweet to hear her describe raising her daughter as a single mother to which I can relate and keeping ties to her hometown, a small community.

When Amy's husband asks for a divorce she&Her daughter heal in this wonderful town.A town where she is surrounded by women ,family .These women who have always nurtured&scared for each other no matter what life handed them.

I enjoyed reading this book and also Amy's second book about her life. She has great insights into life and people, and is a genuinely nice person. Book arrived in a timely manner and in very good condition. Thank you!

Great book club book. Good story. I've lent it out to friends 3x already and everyone has enjoyed it. Short or quick read but interesting

Interesting to learn how Amy came about. The abrupt ending, though, left me looking for the rest of the story.

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