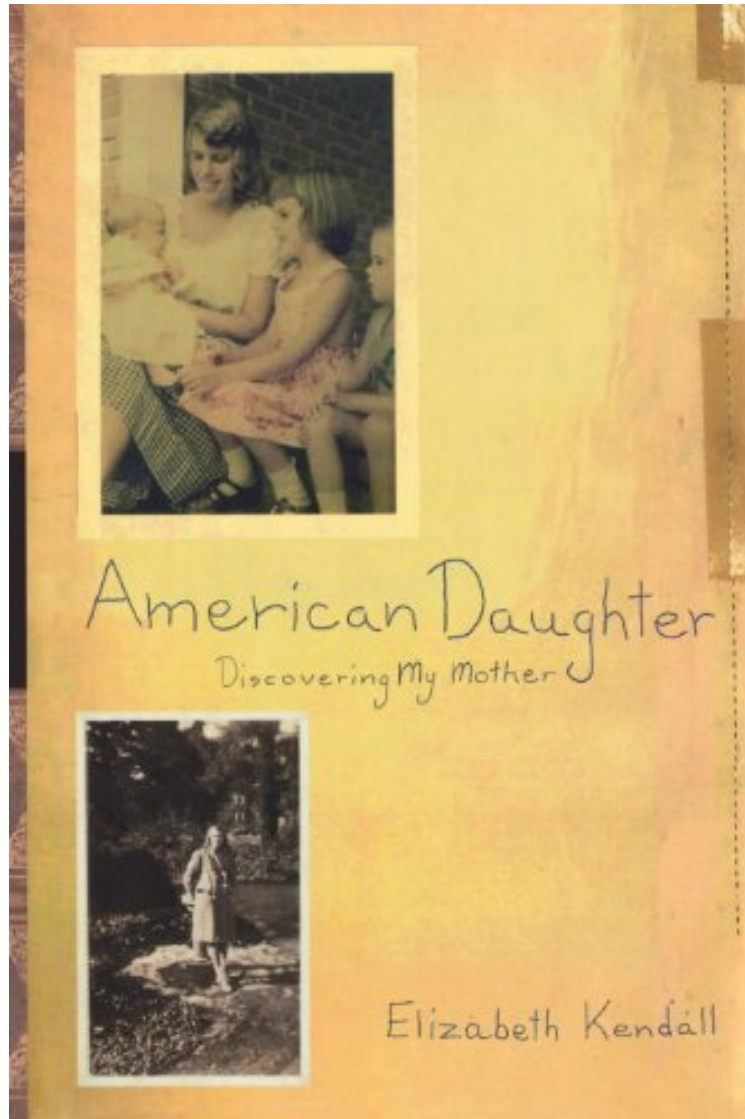


[Download free pdf] American Daughter: Discovering My Mother

American Daughter: Discovering My Mother

Von Elizabeth Kendall

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Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2011-05-18 Erscheinungsdatum: 2011-05-18 File Name: B004YWKK3M | File size: 16.Mb

Von Elizabeth Kendall : American Daughter: Discovering My Mother before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Daughter: Discovering My Mother:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Moving, tender tribute and social chronicleVon T. BargerThis is the most poignant and introspective memoir this reader can recall having read. Kendall tells her personal and family story, intermingled with social and political history of the American 1950's and '60's, from the time she was born in 1947, until April 3, 1969, when, on the way to a spring vacation on the Gulf coast of Alabama, her mother was the only fatality in a car accident in which Kendall herself was

the driver (She and her three brothers and a sister were all injured, but survived.). Kendall's mother, Betty, began her adult life as a young society matron, married at age nineteen to a charming but temperamental and bullying ex-Marine pilot and Harvard graduate (She herself had attended Vassar, but left college to marry, and never finished her degree.). She had six children, but despite the burden she bore at home managing her large family, she evolved into a civic leader and civil rights activist. In the meantime, she and her eldest daughter Elizabeth came to rely on each other as confidantes, companions, and friends. This book is a chronicle of white, middle class American life in the mid-twentieth century, as well as a loving tribute to a mother who was taken much too soon, and is for anyone who has lost a loved one.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Memorable MemoirVon Ein KundeAmerican Daughter is not only a well-written and engaging memoir but it is almost a case history of women in the middle decades of the century. Kendall's mother came of age in the 1940's and Kendall in the 1960's; American Daughter shows the tremendous differences in the lives of women after two eventful decades. In reading this, I became attached to Kendall, her story and the people in it. American Daughter was touching and thought-provoking and WONDERFUL!

KurzbeschreibungIn this beautifully crafted book, Elizabeth Kendall tells the story of a family, of a passionate attachment between a mother and a daughter and the sudden tragedy that tears it apart. American Daughter is also a brilliant portrait of wellborn women's lives in cities and towns in the post-World War II era, as Kendall evokes how difficult it was to become anything other than an American daughter, which meant being a dependent woman.Occupying a coveted place in St. Louis's privileged high society, Henry and Betty Kendall seemed to be the American dream come true: six children, a sprawling house, a legacy of higher education at Harvard and Vassar. Yet underneath lay the flawed marriage of an idealistic young woman who made her eldest daughter her best friend and turned civil rights into her salvation. Elizabeth maintained the family silence as eccentricities began to appear in her father's behavior, along with whispers of financial difficulties. She accompanied her mother back to Vassar for a summer program on the home and family, then came into her own, away from her family, at the haven of a girls' summer camp and at Radcliffe. From the war-torn 1940s, when young men in uniform, home on leave, went to debutante parties, through the seismic social changes of the 1960s, Kendall tells the intertwined story of her mother and herself, of their powerful bond and how both shaped their lives in response to it. Unrelentingly honest, rich with humor and insights into families and women's lives, American Daughter is both a poignant portrait of American life at the middle of the twentieth century, and a dual coming-of-age story of a mother and a daughter, united by commitment and love, separated by a fatal accident-and by the vastly different birthrights of their generations.From the Hardcover edition.From Kirkus sThe absorbing dual memoir of a daughter, who was born too late to be a housewife and her mother, who was born too soon to be a feminist. Kendall (The Runaway Bride, 1990; Where She Danced, 1979), a dance critic and historian, here tells the story of her parents, her family, and (most importantly) her own attempts to follow in the footsteps, and avoid the missteps, of her foremothers. Born into an upper-middle-class milieu of privilege and expectation in Depression-era St. Louis, Kendall's Vassar-educated mother married a Harvard grad and ex-Marine shortly after the war, and they soon began a family in earnest when Kendall was born in 1947. When the prewar, quasi-aristocratic world that had produced and protected Kendall's parents began to dissolve, Kendall found herself growing up in a realm that provided her with far more in the way of possibilities and considerably less personal identity. As the tale progresses in its fluid advance, the mother senses and creates broader opportunities for herself and other women, the father drifts further away into a personal utopia of detachment, and the maturing narrator alternately outpaces and is outpaced by the mother's strategies for living and loving. Although it takes a chapter or two of opacity to define the characters and outline the setting, the prose of this book (one worthy of a less generic title) soon clears into view as a personal history as brisk and bracing as spring water. With fierce insight, and yet without abandoning the memoir's basic posture, Kendall examines the particulars and generalities of her and her mother's characters representative women of two generations on the brink of radical change. Using the best of her critical and scholarly faculties, Kendall achieves the alchemical: part family chronicle, part social history, and wholly transcendent intellectual memoir. (Author tour) -- Copyright 2000, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.From Library JournalWhen Kendall was a young woman in the spring of 1969, driving south on Highway 61 in southern Missouri with her mother and four siblings, a slick road, a big truck, and a bridge wall resulted in a car crash that killed her mother and changed her life forever. In this memoir, Kendall, a dance critic and historian, writes a recollection that turns into a tribute to her mother. Hers is an intimate, revealing, and heartfelt story of a family, the impact of one woman, and the power of her close relationship with her daughter. While seemingly personal, this account reflects family life in many small towns across America during the 1950s and 1960s. Thus, by sharing her recollections, Kendall has provided a retrospective on that place and time. Women readers will find this coming-of-age narrative especially moving. Highly recommended for all libraries.-Cynde Bloom Lahey, New Canaan Lib., CT Copyright 2000 Reed Business

