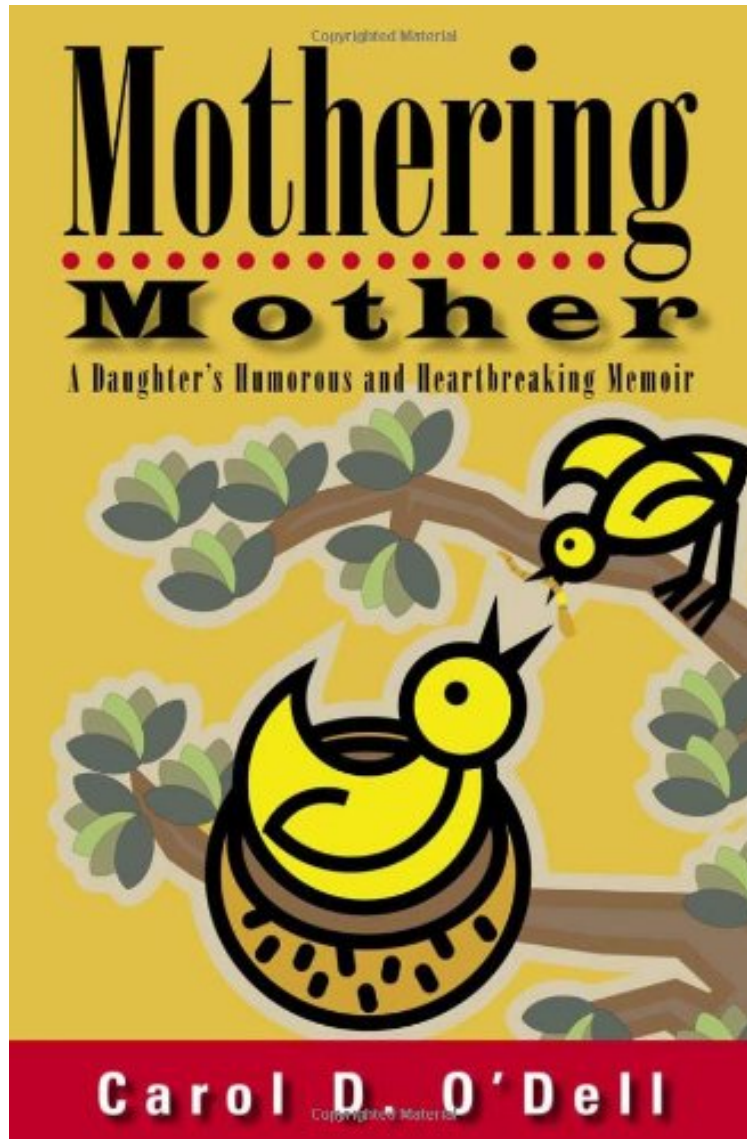


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# Mothering Mother: A Daughter's Humorous and Heartbreaking Memoir

*Carol D. O'Dell*

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**Carol D. O'Dell : Mothering Mother: A Daughter's Humorous and Heartbreaking Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mothering Mother: A Daughter's Humorous and Heartbreaking Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good insight into caregiving and emotions that you are forced to deal with By Donna I really liked the book because it made me laugh out loud a lot but it also brought back memories

(good and bad) for me ....but am I the only one that noticed all of the typos or words missing in places and also repetiveness of things that Carol said not once but sometimes twice ? I also think it went on way too long. I also thought why in the world would you go back to school while dealing with all that she was dealing with !!!???1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. breathe in, breathe out, don't hold your breath. By Old Music MarI have been mom's primary caregiver for 11 years since dad died. With all the ups and downs of her gradual onset dementia and holding my breath at times, not knowing what bad decision she would make next, I watched her go from comfortable financially to destitute, 110 lbs malnourished 80 year old, 1000 miles away from where I lived. That is when I took her in with my husband and two teen sons still at home. As I read this book, I still, at times held my breath, involuntarily till I reached the end of a sentence or paragraph. Breathe in, breathe out, I had to tell myself That's how you survive. Maybe someday when she is gone, I won't have to remind myself to breathe in and out. She still with us, but in care home now, 5 minutes away from my house. Thank you Carol for your humour, inspiration and wisdom, thru my continuing journey. Northern BC, Canada. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book!!! By JanKI am going down this path right now with my mother who is 92. My mother is not living with me because I would not have any help or support and I know it would not work. I applaud Carol O'Dell for being able to do this for her mother. It is still a rough road whether the parent is living in your home or not. My mother is in an adult family home near me and I visit often and have her to my house at least once a week. She is very confused now and has sundowner's very bad. It is so hard to watch as a formally very intelligent woman slowly loses her mind. She still recognizes me most of the time but it will be so sad when she no longer does. Reading this book helps me to feel not so alone. My mother is always, always on my mind and I carry my phone with me everywhere just in case I get a call from one of her aids. It is not a fun or relaxing way to live. I love books like *Mothering Mother* and Carol O'Dell writes with a humorous side to this horrendous disease. There are many books out there explaining exactly how the disease progresses but *Mothering Mother* was like reading a novel and not a medical dictionary. Thank you Carol O'Dell for this wonderful book. I am now *Mothering my Mother*.

Compelling and heartrending, this personal memoir chronicles the author's decision not to put her mother, who has Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, in "one of those homes" and relays the far-reaching consequences this choice has on her entire family. Detailing the challenges of reversing roles and learning to mother one's own mother, this refreshing and entertaining autobiography will help those struggling with their own decisions on elder care in the home. It touches on the importance of relationships such as how they impact our souls and beliefs about ourselves and the quality of life and explores the larger questions of faith, hope, and ultimately death.

From Booklist O'Dell, a member of the "sandwich generation"--made up of boomers taking care of both their own children and their elderly parents--portrays the experience of looking after a mother suffering from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's with brutal honesty and refreshing grace. She peppers the memoir with scenes from her past, including meeting her adoptive parents ("The first time I saw Mama, I was four years old") and the death of her father. With three children and a husband of her own, O'Dell is torn in multiple directions, trying to be mother, daughter, nurse, cook, caregiver, maid, and more to a household of needy people. Mama's neediness is unrelenting, and O'Dell is at once bitter and sorry that her mother cannot be who she was. When the inevitable end comes, O'Dell wonders why she longed for the free time she now finds lonely and empty. A beautiful rendering of a difficult but all-too-common situation, told with plenty of humor, a touch of martyrdom, and much love. Mary Frances Wilkens Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "I loved this book! I not only loved it, I lived it. I laughed, I smiled and shuddered reading this book. O'Dell has captured the essence of every Baby Boomer's struggle to parent our parents." Judy H. Wright, author, *Kids, Chores More*