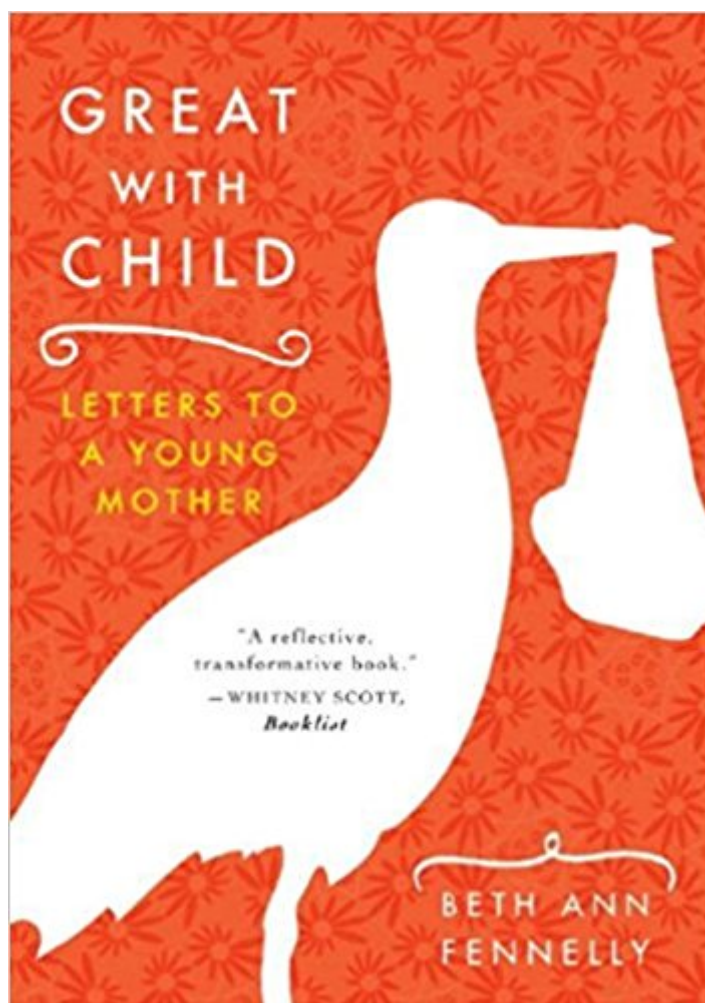


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Great With Child: Letters To A Young Mother



Synopsis

"May be the best book ever to give for a baby shower." —Tampa Tribune Beth Ann Fennelly, writing to a newly pregnant friend, goes beyond the nuts and bolts or sentimentality of other parenting literature, in letters that range in tone from serious to sisterly, from lighthearted to downright funny. Some answer specific questions; others muse about the identity shift a woman encounters when she enters Mommyland. This book invites all mothers to join the grand circle of giving and receiving advice about children.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Poet Fennelly shares, in letters to a formerly pregnant friend, the joys and sorrows of pregnancy and motherhood. Fennelly's letters read like prose, but they're also loaded with information on all aspects of pregnancy—cravings, fear of childbirth, anxieties over health and a changing body—as well as insights on relationships and child rearing. In one letter, she shares a powerful and personal story about how "family secrets...have a way of rotting a family's foundation," and in another she writes about the pleasant surprise of discovering that motherhood "is tremendously sweet, which we all know; it's also tremendously funny, which isn't so well recognized." The letters are arranged chronologically, so the topics ebb and flow according to Fennelly's moods and daily experiences, so the letter celebrating her daughter's victory over potty training is followed by a letter revealing "the erotics of motherhood," which is followed by a treatise on maintaining a tranquil home after baby's arrival. Expecting and new mothers looking for short doses of inspiration will find a year's worth

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Fennelly loved to play school as a child, went on to teach, and originally addressed these letters to a former student. She found them so helpful that she shared them with another woman pregnant for the first time, who in turn sent them to another. These are no hastily written, lowercase, misspelled, emotional e-mails. Fennelly used, as she wrote in the first letter, "the weight of a pen and thick paper under my hand" to lead her "to a slower pace, slower thoughts, to handpicked words." The first recipient was computer-less, anyway, in Alaska, where her husband's fellowship landed her. In subsequent letters, Fennelly shares the experience of attending a Quaker wedding, her own odd dreams during pregnancy, the joy and the literal shittiness of motherhood, and the sweetness and ease of long-term friendships with people seen only occasionally: "We're able to move so quickly to deep levels of conversation. We don't need to fill each other in on backstory." A reflective, transformative book capable of enlightening beyond parenthood. Whitney Scott Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

These days, it seems like every book for expectant mothers is meant to terrify you. From what can go wrong with your baby, to what is wrong with our hospital system, sometimes it can make a woman crazy. This book is the antidote to all of the crazy out there. Ms. Fennelly's prose is wonderful (she is a poet, after all) and it's light, heartwarming reading. She talks with both love and frankness about the changes a baby brings to one's life, and at the end of the book you feel uplifted rather than scared to death.

Wonderful! Not a book of advice, but a heartfelt exchange about what it means to become a mother, and to carry a child. I give it to all my friends when they are expecting. Note - trigger warning - the author discusses a miscarriage she experienced. It is very moving to hear her describe her experience, but just be aware if that is a sensitive topic for you.

I love the prose and thought put into this book. Lovely and thought provoking.

Such a beautiful book. I've read it with each pregnancy and can't recommend it more highly. Read it. Then read it again. Then give it as gifts to any pregnant mama you know. Truly.

This was the best book I read while pregnant. Of course I read a million guides to pregnancy, but her writing gets at the heart of what it means to be a new mom, and I found her inspired writing to be far more honest and valuable than a list of "how-to"s. I now buy this book for all my pregnant friends and they've all enjoyed reading it as much as I did.

I give this book to almost every new mom I know. Short and easy to read in those first sleepless nights home with baby. My mother in law and I read it together and it was a great way to bond over motherhood. Good laughs too! Genuine heart and soul in this epistolary work.

I am a first time expectant mom and found myself overwhelmed and a little freaked out by all of the medical books about pregnancy. Great with Child is a nice relief from all of that. It's a pleasant, easy read that provides a unique perspective on impending motherhood.

Sweetest book to read while preparing for motherhood. Put down all the "how to" and "what to expect" books and give yourself a little break to prepare for all the good parts of motherhood.

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