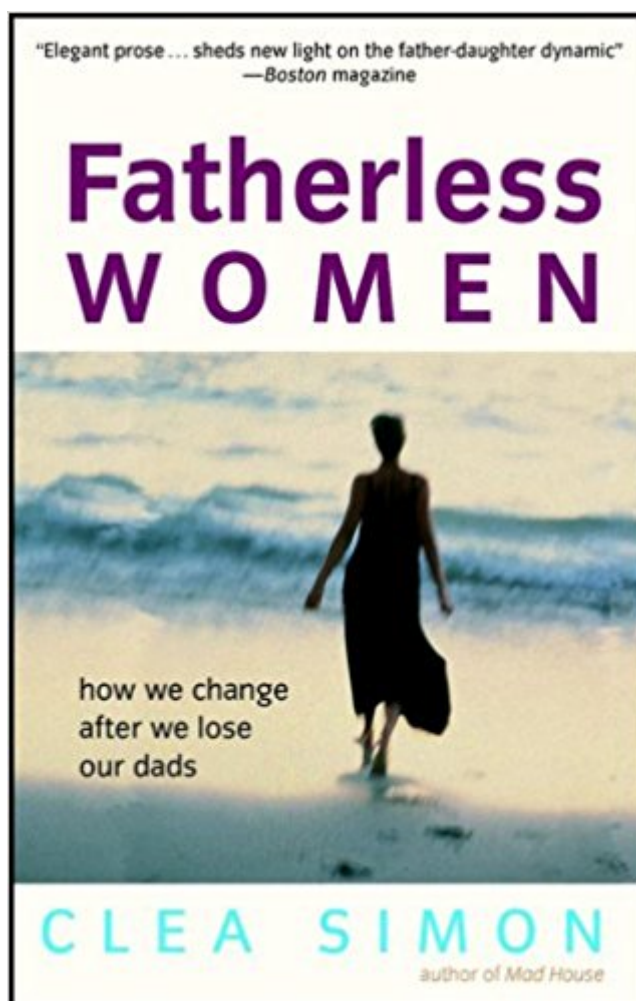


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# Fatherless Women: How We Change After We Lose Our Dads



## Synopsis

Elegant prose ... sheds new light on the father-daughter dynamic-Boston magazinePraise for Fatherless WOMEN""If it can be said about a book on loss, Fatherless Women is a pleasure to read. Clea Simon is a warm, honest, intelligent, and trustworthy guide, not only for grieving women but for the men who support them. Simon's insights about father-daughter relationships are profound.""-Neil Chethik, author of FatherLoss""Clea Simon deepens our understanding of the complicated emotions daughters feel about fathers, both during life and especially after death. This book will help heal rifts and set stuck energies free.""-Beth Witrogen McLeod, author of Caregiving:The Spiritual Journey of Love, Loss, and Renewal""Unusually candid and often provocative . . . Simon's book is immensely thought-provoking about a topic that all of us will face.""-Pauline Boss, Ph.D., author of Ambiguous Loss:Learning to Live with Unresolved GriefThere is a special bond between a father and a daughter, and when that bond is broken by death, a woman's life can change in profound and unexpected ways. Clea Simon, critically acclaimed author of Mad House, explores this crucial meeting point of grief and growth by delving into her own experience and those of other women to paint an illuminating portrait of the father-daughter relationship and its lifelong ramifications. Filled with moving stories of real women, this poignant, comforting, and insightful book paves the way for all women to make peace with the past, with the adults they have become, and to courageously face the question: what happens next?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The bond between father and daughter can be one of the strongest either family member will experience in his or her lifetime. In *Fatherless Women*, Clea Simon, a writer for the Boston Globe, examines challenges daughters face when this relationship is severed by the death of the father. With all but one chapter focusing on women who have lost their fathers after adulthood, *Fatherless Women* traces the father-daughter relationship and how it manifests as a girl grows up, how it affects her, and what that relationship leaves behind when it's gone. Simon describes some of her own experiences and discusses, with an emphasis on pervasive trends, the immediate changes that can take place within one or two years after the death of a father. By delving into every aspect of a woman's life, both personal and professional, Simon covers a multitude of topics, including how women mourn in order to resolve father-daughter issues, changing mother-daughter relationships, trends of family commitment following this loss, challenges marriages face after the loss, refining needs in response to death, and how goals can change after losing a father. The book ends with "The Journey over Time," describing how bereaved daughters often incorporate elements of their fathers into their own lives and families over time. --Rhonda Langdon --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When fathers die, says Simon (Mad House), a Boston Globe journalist, their daughters may experience crucial changes in their lives. Some will feel freed of their father's expectations and strictures. Some will want to have a baby. Some will already have worked out their issues with their dads years earlier and will simply feel grief at the loss of a parent. Some will forge a whole new relationship with their mother, if she's still living. Everything is possible, and may depend on the daughter's sexuality and age, on whether the parents were divorced or unhappy with each other. Or none of these things may happen, or if they do, they may not depend on the aforementioned factors. Such rampant indeterminacy is meant to sound embracing and supportive; instead, it reads like equivocal psychobabble. Despite plenty of valid and judicious observations ("When we lose a parent, we move up a step in the generational hierarchy"), the narrative feels flat and unsubstantiated. Simon writes mostly based on her own experience of her father's death and has also talked to friends and read some popular psychology books on fathers and daughters and on death and grieving. Her friends' experiences are used to illustrate some of the ways paternal death affects daughters, while experts are invoked to give the book some clout. (Oct.)Forecast: Too anecdotal to pass as scholarship, and too dull for popular appeal, this book will need a lot of big-name endorsements before anyone's going to buy it for herself or a grieving girlfriend, the only conceivable market for this strangely unaffected volume. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business

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As with many books of this sort, there were parts which were spot on when compared to my experience with the loss of my dear father almost four years ago. Those parts helped me by affirming that my experience has been similar to that of many other women. However, as with most books of this sort, there was much that did not apply and to which I could not relate. It would not be my choice in the early stages of loss & grief. At this point - four years down the road - it was a thought provoking read as I approach the fourth anniversary of this loss. This book allows for the introspection that I so needed at this time.

This author is an excellent essayist. I like her non fiction better than her fiction. While my dad died twenty years ago, there are still some unresolved issues. Some of the things this author said helped me with the healing. I know I am not alone; others bear this type of pain. And it goes beyond the loss of one family member. Families change and not always for the better with the loss of a father. I wish the author had put in more about siblings, and how they change. One lone example comes late in the book with interviews with a woman called Bette. As the author says, "Bette's family is real, not ideal." The same could be said for my family. We were far from ideal. The loss of my father opened up deep scars that separated forever my mother, my sister and me. As I read this book, I tried to understand what happened to us. Some answers don't come that easily.

Awful! Blames the woman for everything. I wanted a book about giving over the death of my Dad, this wasn't a good choice. Do yourself a favor and pass on this book!

Just lost my dad, so thought this would help me with the grieving process, to msny scenarios to deal with I was only able to relate to one section.

I lost my dad last year, and this book opened my eyes to some interesting things. I miss my dad so much, but there is hope in the future.

This book is really outstanding. I recommend it to anyone who has just lost their father or for someone who has not gotten a handle on their loss however long ago it was. Clea Simon writes as though she is speaking directly to you. She tells her own painful story and comforts her reader in

doing so. Ms.Simon tells of many other women's experiences of losing their fathers so the reader gets many different perspectives on father/daughter relationships and how these daughters dealt with losing their fathers.Fatherless Women, for me, chronicled all the feelings I had felt, did feel and would feel during the grieving process. I was very comforted by this book. It made me feel I was part of a group so I stopped feeling so alone and isolated. It made me familiar with my feelings so I could give a name to what I am/was going through.Her book is an easy to read, informative, reassuring and very personable account of one of the most difficult things women go through.I would not have been able to begin my healing without this book. I thank you from the depths of my soul, Clea Simon.

As an adult I recently lost my Dad and unexpectedly had immense grief and confusion. This book was so helpful to me understanding what I was feeling and offered great hope of the things to come. Clea Simon explains her own personal findings as well as experiences from other women who have lost their dads, with particular focus on us as adults. She covers a broad range of women and their lives affected by their fathers, and then beyond when we face life without them. I was happy to know that his impact on me would grow, even after he was gone.

"Fatherless Women" explores what for many of us will be a scary, and challenging journey: Growing up from "good girls" to become "smart women." With lots of stories from dozens of women, it shows us how we grieve -- not always what you'd expect! -- and how, if we let ourselves mourn the death of our fathers, we can learn to appreciate them as humans and then understand all the ways they influenced us. With other stories, we're shown how this new insight not only helps us with our sadness and guilt -- it can also free us to be the women we want to be, taking the best of our fathers' legacies to us and dumping the worst (including our own overreactions). An invaluable guide -- and really affirming of my experience since my dad's passing!

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