



You're Wearing That? Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation

by Deborah Tannen



I liked the premise of the book in addressing the most fraught and passionate relationship between a mother and a daughter. The underlying issue could have been addressed more completely, which is how the struggle between us is that we are trying to create the right balance between independence and dependence.

Clearly Tannen is an acclaimed author and linguist at Georgetown University and has written many poignant books. I found this book seemed to repeat the same points.

While the book was dynamic in its subject matter, it was somewhat boring in its content. She does, however, make the point that mothers and daughters scrutinize each other through their critique of each others' hair, weight and clothes and yet long for approval from each other.

If nothing else, this book offers us some comic relief in the examples that many of us can easily relate to.

~ **Dr. Michele Winchester-Vega**



This book offers a humorous, provocative perspective on mother-daughter relations. Tannen dissects scenarios and dialogue between mothers and daughters to help us understand the tug of war one can get stuck in.

Understanding how each of us think aids in improving the mother-daughter connection. This book is a helpful tool for women to use and a great head start for those of "us" mothers with young daughters where the tug of war isn't as challenging — yet. ~ **Dianna Chillo**



This book does a good job of breaking down the dialogue between mothers and daughters and bringing to light the high emotional charge associated with these conversations. Its premise that all mother-daughter conversations are defined by the metamesages (what is implied in their words) is, in my experience, very accurate and humorous at times. Unfortunately, I found the book to be redundant, therefore losing focus. ~ **Susan McVey**



I could relate with the idea of the intense relationship between mothers and daughters and how often "buttons are pushed" both intentionally and unintentionally.

Tannen discusses the unique relationship and states "the mother-daughter relationship continues to hold tremendous power throughout our lives." She shares with the reader how a mother's words can be grossly misinterpreted yet can also provide soothing comfort depending upon the mood and purpose of the conversation.

I was able to relate to many of the examples and enjoyed the humor in which it is presented. However, Tannen is often overly verbose and long-winded. ~ **Suzanne Vizethann**



Oh, the dynamic duo ... while the book was an easy read on a complex issue, I found it boring. She did a good job on the complications of the mother-daughter relationship with the verbal and nonverbal exchanges of the duo, but fell short in developing the issue beyond describing it. Her own experiences with her mother and their role reversal I related to most. ~ **Diane Light-Spiro**